



ROOTS & BRANCHES

JUNE 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Sometimes, we all need reminding.Where we dropped our keys, where we laid down our eye glasses, that item we left off the grocery list. There are little things we forget all the time throughout our everyday lives. Things that simply slip our mind or get lost in the clutter of life. And then there are big things. And sometimes, we all need reminding. You are loved. You belong. Your work matters. We might know that our spouse (or partner or parent) loves us, but it's nice to hear it verbally spoken sometimes, and be reminded. We might assume that our work makes a difference, but sometimes, it's nice to hear how it makes a difference. We might get included on an invitation to something, but it's good to be reminded that our presence really is desired.

A week or so ago, at the end of May, I was reminded of something in a very tangible way. I was reminded of the deep love and support of Pleasant Green UMC. Let me explain. It was a hot May afternoon. I grabbed a quick bite of lunch after church and in a couple hours put on a cool dress (we were outdoors) and made my way back to church. Typically, when I show up at church, I show up as the pastor, the leader, preparing to lead worship, organize a meeting, facilitate a Bible study. This particular afternoon, I showed up as the guest of honor. A tent was placed by the rose garden. Tables were set and gifts were beginning to pile up. Flowers were beautifully arranged. And, oh, the food was prepared with such thoughtfulness and care. Delicious to the eye and to the taste buds! This church proceeded for the next couple hours to shower me and Charles and share an afternoon of celebrations as we anticipate a wedding in a few months.

I got home later that night and thought about the day, replayed in my mind the faces I saw, looked over the list of gifts I received. I whispered a prayer of thanksgiving. Now, I know church women were just doing what church women do. This occasion was not a new one or even a first one (well, it was for me). We have certainly hosted this type of gathering hundreds of times in the past. But something was different about that particular day for me. I showed up as a guest and not a host. And showing up as a guest gave me a powerful moment of being reminded of something: that who we are as the church matters so much. That the love that we offer to one another holds great power. Sometimes, it's easy to forget this.

Sometimes, we need to be a guest at one another's tables to be reminded of all those times we have poured ourselves out and been left feeling empty – that it wasn't for nothin! That our giving really does make a difference. That the love we show to one another – not just at a wedding shower – but with our cards, our phone calls, our sacrificial giving, our dedication to doing the business of the church, our presence in worship, our sharing life around the table, our serving -- can and will hold us and sustain us when the going gets tough.

Friends, I'm not sure if you have heard it lately. Maybe you have forgotten. If so, I'd like to tell you something: You were beautifully and wonderfully made. Your presence in this world is a gift. The ways that you give and serve and show up at Pleasant Green UMC matters. Your work and your life makes a difference. Maybe you already know all this, but sometimes, we all need reminding.

Love,
Laura



Outdoor Youth Gathering

June Worship

Join us for indoor services each Sunday @ 10:30am! Please wear a mask!

Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	327,037.42
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	99,954.32
YTD Operating Expenses	112,697.31
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-12,742.99
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	18,065.45
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	5,322.46
Current Building Mortgage Balance	224,774.88

Dear Pleasant Green,
How can small hearts hold such an abundance of gratitude? We simply want to express how grateful we are to you for hosting and showering us with love for our upcoming wedding in September. Thank you for the wonderful gifts, the scrumptious food, the lovely flowers and decorations, and of course - the delightful company that shared the afternoon with us. This church holds a special place in both of our hearts and it is a great joy to be sharing this season together at Pleasant Green. Thank you for making it so special.


Love,
Laura and Charles



Register now!
2021 Vacation Bible School!
June 21-25, 9am-12:30pm at PGUMC!

VBS website: <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/ncpgumc>
Child registration: <http://bit.ly/PGVBS21>
Volunteer Registration: <https://forms.gle/h9fx8UCiC3KAF2Lk7>

2021 Pleasant Green Summer Camp!

Monday–Friday, 7:30am-5:45pm at PGUMC
Week # 1: June 21 ~VBS- mornings / Summer Camp- afternoons
Week # 2: July 12 ~ Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp 
Registration forms are on the Church website.
Mark your calendars for summer fun!

***PG Summer Camp Scholarships Needed!**
All donations for scholarships are appreciated! Make checks payable to PGUMC with Summer Camp on the memo line. Thank you!
***Thank you to Lester Watkins, owner of Wallace Auto Electric for keeping the Pleasant Green bus and van running!**

2021 Summer Browning Scholarships

***Applications due to Pastor Laura by June 15th!**

In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, family and friends. Scholarships are offered to entering students and students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a four-year college or university.
Factors considered: Church membership & service, Academic Record, Community Service and Need.
Please call the church office for an application.



Welcome our new Duke Intern!



Greetings Pleasant Green UMC! My name is Kory Tomlinson, and I am very excited to serve this summer as your Duke Divinity intern. I just finished my second year at Duke Divinity and will be starting my third and final year in the fall. I grew up in a small country town called Fries (pronounced Freeze) in the mountains of Virginia. Growing up, I attended a Methodist summer camp, named Camp Dickenson, and fell in love with outdoor recreation ministry. I served at camp for 10 summers and eventually began working full-time year-round. In 2017, I married my wife, Alexandra, and we moved to Durham for her to start at Duke Divinity School. While she was at school, I began to serve as the Minister of Children and Youth at Trinity United Methodist Church, in downtown Durham. I soon felt my call to ministry and started at Duke in the fall of 2019. I love to cook (my first degree is in Culinary Arts), I love board games, and I love being outside with my dog Olive! I look forward to getting to know everyone and I am excited to see how God is working in your community. Thank you all for this opportunity to be with you this summer!

Welcome back, Keli!!

We are excited to announce and welcome Keli Pennington back to PG. Keli will join our staff as Director of Family Ministries. It goes without saying that the pandemic has made ministry challenging and difficult, but even more so for children and youth. We are excited to have Keli to help us reengage ministry with our young people and families. She's no stranger to PG, and we pray blessing upon her as she continues to share her gifts with the church.

Congratulations to Keli on her graduation from Duke Divinity School!



saying farewell..

To my Pleasant Green family,

It is with a bittersweetness in my heart that I write to you. As many of you know, I have recently moved to be closer to my dad who has been suffering with ongoing health problems for some time now. My dad is single, and I am an only child. My move was brought about by the need to be closer to him as I now have to help him with more things than in previous years. I have come to the conclusion that the best thing for me at this time is to resign as the Choir Director and Organist at Pleasant Green. I have enjoyed getting to know you all and being a part of the great family here at our church. I will be forever grateful for the welcome I received when I arrived at Pleasant Green, the love and support that has continually surrounded me, and the life long bonds that have formed with you all.

I look forward to continuing through the summer at Pleasant Green and to visiting in the future! Thank you and God's peace,

Aaron

Carsten Bryant has faithfully devoted himself to youth ministry over the past year alongside Pleasant Green, Hillsborough UMC, and Union Grove. It was a challenging time to step into this kind of ministry, but Carsten did so with grace and endurance. Each week, middle and high school students gathered on Zoom and just recently, they began meeting outside at Eno House in Hillsborough. There was rarely a week when Carsten did not provide this time and space to strengthen relationships with God and each other. In June, Carsten will end his time here in Orange County and return to his home state of South Carolina to accept an appointment as Pastor of Trinity UMC in Blithewood. We give thanks for his leadership and pray God's blessings upon Carsten and his family in this upcoming transition.

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Changes in Leadership

Bishop Fairley to Lead the NC Conference

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has approved episcopal supervision recommendations for the Southeastern Jurisdiction due to the retirement of four bishops.

After much prayer and discernment, the bishops have approved Bishop Leonard Fairley as resident bishop of the North Carolina Conference (Raleigh area), in addition to his role as resident bishop of the Kentucky Conference (Louisville Area).

"We are delighted and grateful that Bishop Fairley will lead the NC Conference. He will know many of us as he arrives, knows our context, and he is indeed "one of us," says Gray Southern and Emily Innes, who serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

As we welcome Bishop Fairley back to North Carolina, let us pray for him, his leadership, his family, and our conference.



Loving God, we praise you for being our Shepherd. We praise you too for the gift of Bishop Leonard Fairley, who will come among us again to guide us as our bishop. Strengthen him to serve you and us. Encourage him with your Spirit. Guide him to lead us to grow together in unity, love, and service. Inspire him to offer us your truth. Care for him as we seek to care for one another, serve the world, and offer Christ to all. Give us wisdom and grace to follow your leading power and sustain us with Bishop Fairley to honor you with our lives, lives you have redeemed and made new in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Ward Announces Retirement

Dear United Methodist friends in Christ,

I give thanks to you all, using the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians, for partnership in ministry from the first day until now. Called to ordained ministry, I was set apart for this life of itinerant clergy leadership 42 years ago at the North Carolina Annual Conference Session in Fayetteville. Little do any in the company of clergy know of all that will unfold from that day forward!

I would like you all to know that I have requested retirement, effective September 1, 2021. Your welcome nine years ago to episcopal leadership here in North Carolina was a gift beyond measure.

Mike and I are deeply grateful for the journey together across these nine years. We will continue to live in Raleigh and will pray with you for our new episcopal leader, yet to be discerned and announced through the ongoing discernment of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops.

With gratitude to God for the life we share in Christ's ministry,

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Indoor Service 10:30am <i>Anna LaBarre Janice Nicholson</i>	7	1 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm	2 Bible Study 10:30am	3	4 <i>Tish Bracey Terry Fisher Megan Stocking Avery Vukmer</i>	5 Common Thread Ministry 9:30am <i>Daniel Bass Ceil Matthews</i>
13 Indoor Service 10:30am <i>Jane Booth</i>	14 Praise Band Practice 7pm	8 <i>Slade O'Briant Jeff Witt</i>	9 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Richard Cassidy Kyle Ward Mitch Carter</i>	10	11 <i>D.J. Martin Patsy Stranger Bailey Anderson</i>	12 <i>Don Bennett Niki McCay</i>
20 Father's Day Indoor Service 10:30am Graduation Sunday VBS decorating <i>Lily Frank Lisa Punt Carnago</i>	21 Praise Band Practice 7pm <i>Doug Bell Victoria Harris</i>	15 <i>June Turner</i>	16 Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Ministry 6:30pm <i>Laura Rittenhouse</i>	17 Circle of Faith 6:30pm	18 <i>Evan Lang Sheri Allison Zoey Best</i>	19 Juneteenth <i>Gretchen Hutt</i>
27 Indoor Service 10:30am Praise Band <i>Jonathan Minor</i>	28 John Wesley's Birthday (1703)	22	23	24 <i>Mei Lynne Ray</i>	25 <i>Mike Allison Alyssa Braddy</i>	26 <i>Frank Pruett Hannah Bell</i>
		Vacation Bible School / Summer Camp				
		29 <i>Meredith Hunter McCarter</i>	30 Bible Study 10:30am Blood Drive 10am-3pm <i>Russell Nichols</i>			

Happy 50th Anniversary! Jim & Becky Crawford June 19th



2021 FALL STEW!
Saturday, November 6.
Mark your calendars and plan to help if you can! More info to come!
Billy & Mindy Walker stiring stew in 1981

Wednesday Bible Study is Back!

After taking a break in the month of May, we will be reconvening on June 2nd at 10:30am IN PERSON at the church. Whether you are a long-time attendee or a newcomer, whether you are looking for community or hoping to deepen your knowledge of scripture and your own faith, you are invited to join us! We will be studying the book of Acts together. The book of Acts is a timely and a timeless story of the work of God's people (the church) learning to live faithfully in a complex and changing world. Acts chronicles the lives of the apostles in the decades immediately following Christ's ascension to heaven. The central character is the spirit of God. We hope you will consider joining us on this journey as we discover the in-breaking of God working, moving, and creating a new beginning in every day and every moment.

Read & Seed Patch 6/1

Reading *The Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman
Meeting Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30pm at Firefly Farm -4911 Hunt Road, Hillsborough. Zoom is also available- <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814> / ID: 998 0110 9814 For more information contact Cindy at pmfcs@yahoo.com.

Common Thread Ministry 6/5

Common Thread Ministry will meet on June 5th at 9:30 AM. This session will be only for those who sew. Please come and help us catch up to those who have cut, pinned and pressed! For questions, contact Gloria Perry at 919-971-0924.

Blood Drive 6/30

Wednesday, June 30th (10am-3pm) To sign up, contact the Church office at pgumc@ncrbiz.com or 919-383-5764 or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

From the Prayer Ministry

[As Jesus said,] Just as the Father has loved Me,
I have also loved you; abide in My love.

John 15:9

A Father's Love

A friend and colleague of one of the members of the Prayer Ministry recently wrote a book entitled, *Loving Yourself to Life*. The Author is Lillie A. Hill, a Certified Health Coach, Registered Nurse, and Educator. In this book, Hill's acknowledgements and gratitude include that for her husband, Odell, whom she thanks for being a leader in their household and a prayer warrior.

What a wonderful way to acknowledge fathers, fathers-at-heart, and their special day for the rest of us! We have much to be grateful for. Our heavenly Father created Jesus, a model for love and

caregiving. God also created fathers in His image, giving fathers the opportunity for strength, leadership, love, compassion, among many other gifts. They are scientific, outdoor lovers, comedians, listeners, caregivers, providers, sharing their own personalities and talents with their children. There is not enough room in this newsletter to write how much we feel for our fathers. Perhaps the following prayer will convey some of our love. You will find it at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/fathers_day_prayer.html. They have given permission to republish this prayer, provided that the citation is included.

Father's Day Prayer

Lord, thank you for all fathers.

For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.

For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.

For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.

For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.

For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.

For the father uncles, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews.

For all granddads, who love and support their precious grandchildren.

For the foster dads that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones.

For the Sunday dads who care for our children and lead them in faith.

For the dads who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.

Thank you, Lord for all our beautiful fathers. Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers.

May you bless them now and on their special day. Amen.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm by free telephone conference. We may meet in person in the church parking lot; weather permitting. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 16th at 6:30 pm. You may also contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com for more information. Please join us! We would love to have you.

Celebrating Mother's Day!



Remembering Our Why

Why train? Like an athlete, you practice with hopes to be at your optimal performance to win the game. Like a Soldier, you learn specialty skills, mental toughness and be physically fit to get the job done. Everyone must do their part as if their very life depended upon it. After all, you never know when you might go to war and fight like you trained. Like a chef, you must know techniques to properly cook. One missed step/ingredient could ruin the whole recipe. A person told me that it all begins with the seasonings to bring out the flavor. It takes practice to perfect a recipe. Like a marching band, you rehearse to become familiar with the music until you eventually remember it by heart. As you practice moves on the football field, you learn to synchronize playing your instrument and marching by making patterns which are only revealed to the viewers (football fans) in the stands at halftime on the field. Same applies to Christians, our lives are on display for the world to see. Do we reflect what we believe? Are we bringing glory to God? Remember, we are his image bearers who are made for his purpose.

Why worship? Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for us by dying on the cross for us. We serve a faithful God who is committed to his creation. It is our job as Christians to make his name known and bring glory to his name. How do we do this? We put into practice what we have learned and share the Good News with others (like the woman at the well).

Why bother? We have been on uncharted waters. We have navigated through a new season. What lessons have we learned? God is... What can we take away from our experiences? We practice to put skills to use and not store it away for a rainy day. What is the new normal? One thing remains true, we must stay in community as iron sharpens iron. Remember, you are not on this journey alone. We are a community. In Hebrews 10:25 we are reminded to never forsake the gathering of the saints. We must be lifelong learners by continually studying the word, praying, and fellowshiping with one another. As we practice these spiritual disciplines, we are able to perform the Great Commission; to go and make disciples. It is not an easy road but if we practice, God will give us the divine enablement to bear good fruit.

From Andrea Harris

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!



Will Walker
Orange High Graduate
Attending Pitt Community College this fall and playing Baseball!



Bailey Anderson
Northern High Graduate
Attending ECU this fall for Nursing!



Corbyn Poe
Northern High Graduate
Attending UNCW next year!



Ian Casker
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Cyber Intelligence and Security!



Megan Carter
Liberty University Graduate

Parents and grandparents, please share your children and grandchildren's summer plans! Pictures welcome!



Meals on Wheels Orange County, NC, is in need of volunteers to help set-up and deliver meals in northern Orange County. MOWOCNC is currently delivering frozen meal boxes containing 5 frozen meals once per week. As we move past COVID, we are planning on returning to hot meal delivery. Our goal is to deliver hot meals M-F. In order to do so, we must expand our volunteer base from coverage of one delivery day to five. As we recruit and train more volunteers, additional delivery days will be added. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.mowocnc.org or call Heather Harris, Volunteer Coordinator, at 919-942-2948 ext. 3.



OCIM has reported that their food Pantry is overflowing with groceries! Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full and helping make this happen!

OCIM would appreciate any monetary donations toward MEALS ON WHEELS or OCIM operating expenses in lieu of food donations for now.



Families Moving Forward Donations Needed:

New single & double sheets, comforters & pillows, Diapers sizes 1,2,3,4, Toothpaste, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Small bottles of dish soap, Brooms, Dust pans, Bleach, Clorox disinfectant wipes, Low-sugar juice boxes, Vitamin Water zero, Gatorade zero, Sugar-free water bottle packs.

Thank you for your donation!

On behalf of Families Moving Forward residents, staff and Board of Directors, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the donation of tissues, cleaning supplies, and towels that you contributed in May. Your support for the families that are experiencing homelessness in our community is sincerely appreciated.

From Families Moving Forward

The United Methodist Women’s “Christmas in July” Mission Project

“Back to School” items needed for classrooms! The school supplies are donated to Orange County Elementary, Middle & High Schools. Please leave in the Narthex.



- Baby wipes
- Disinfecting wipes
- Antibacterial liquid hand soap
- Kleenex
- Ziploc sandwich size bags
- Ziploc gallon bags
- Band-aids
- Fiskars Kid size scissors
- Dry erase markers (thin and regular)
- Black sharpies (regular size)
- Crayons
- Highlighters
- #2 yellow pencils
- Pencil bags /boxes
- Large erasers/pencil top erasers
- Boxes of Crayola markers
- Boxes of washable Crayola markers
- Crayola watercolor paints (2 rows)
- Glue sticks (no rose art)
- Sticky notes (post-its)
- Multi-color packs of construction paper
- 2-pocket plastic folders
- Black & white Composition books
- Index cards 3x5
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Clear contact paper
- 3-ring binders
- Book bags (no wheels)

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers needed



Habitat for Humanity Orange County will be constructing two houses in the Hillsborough area this summer. Each team can have 6 to 8 volunteers and must be sixteen or older. The work will be mostly outside on Saturdays from 9:00AM to 3:30PM.

If you are interested in being a part of a team from PG please contact Pastor Laura or Jim Perry.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is open at 672 N Churton St., Hillsborough to shop, donate & volunteer!

Common Thread Ministry



Mental Health Corner

This year has been one of unimaginable trauma, loss, grief and isolation. It has taken a great toll on our physical and mental health. Studies have shown that anxiety, depression, stress-related symptoms and thoughts of suicide are nearly double that of pre-pandemic rates. After a full year, we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We are gradually stepping back into social settings; getting back to in-person learning and worshipping; going shopping; and watching live sporting events. This return to “normal” is feeling good. However, just as our physical bodies require time and care for healing, our mental and emotional selves require the same. We will continue to see the impacts of this pandemic long after it is “over”; and it is important to have trustworthy resources for help and support on the healing journey.

Feeling anxious? Restless? Depressed? Experiencing unusual sensations, voices, visions? You are not alone.

If you are bothered by any of these feelings and want help to deal with them; here is a list of resources from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) North Carolina. For more information: <https://naminc.org/>.

Feeling suicidal or in extreme distress?

*Call your local public safety office and ask for a CIT officer (Crisis Intervention Trained)

*Call the National Suicide Hotline, open 24 hours - 7 days a week: 1-800-273-8255 or text NAMI to 741-741

Other options:

*In Orange County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-967-8844

*In Durham County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-797-1865

*All other counties: <http://crisissolutionsnc.org/> and look up your county

Want referral or resource information for therapists, guidance to SSI Disability income or guardianship information, and other questions? Just want to talk about your experiences with someone with mental health issues?

*NAMI North Carolina Helpline is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Call 1-800-451-9682 / Text 919-999-6527 / Email: helpline@naminc.org

Want to learn more about yours or a loved-one’s condition? There is a free class or support group for that! Currently, all classes and support groups are offered virtually, on-line. Here is a complete current listing of all classes and support groups: <https://naminc.org/programs/virtual-programs/>

For a person with a mental health condition:

*A series of 6- classes is called Peer-to-Peer classes

*Ongoing support groups are called Connection Recovery Support Groups

For a family member or friend of someone with a mental health condition:

*A series of 8-week classes are called Family-to-Family classes

*Ongoing support tgroups are called Family Support Groups.

Carry the Cross patiently, and with perfect submission, and in the end it will carry you.
-Thomas A Kempis



Pleasant Green

United Methodist Church

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PleasantGreenUMC.org
pgumc@ncrrbiz.com
(919) 383-5764

Pastor: Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org
(919) 383-2339

Director of Family Ministries:
Keli Pennington
keli.pennington@duke.edu

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE: www.PleasantGreenUMC.org

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977

ENVELOPE: Mail or slip under office door

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and giving trends are changing with new generations. Thank you for your generosity!

DOWNLOAD THE PGUMC APP

APP STORE: Search "Pleasant Green UMC"

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreenapp" To: 77977

Download and Explore! It's free! One of the features we're excited to share through this app is a 'Daily Prayer'. A place where you can click for a Bible verse, prayer, and thought of the day. Inspiration for the whole family right at your fingertips.



Blood Drive at PGUMC

June 30th (10am-3pm)

To sign up, contact the Church office at

pgumc@ncrrbiz.com / 919-383-5764

or go to redcrossblood.org

(sponsor code: Pleasant Green)



Support PGUMC when you purchase through amazon smile. They donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible items to the "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church" charitable organization. We hope you'll consider this as we continue to find creative and generous ways to share resources together. Already have an Amazon Prime account? Go to smile.amazon.com and use your existing login. Pleasant Green's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>

**PLEASE
RECYCLE**

