



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

June 2019



I spent my birthday weekend riding through the country roads of Eastern North Carolina on a bike. I went through cotton fields and tobacco fields, saw the sunshine and the rain fall, received the hospitality of churches and businesses that welcomed over 1,000 riders to their rural town. At some point on that Saturday afternoon with a 15 mph headwind in my face, my heart starting thinking and my mind started feeling. I was pondering a really obvious reality: that you can only go so fast on a bike. In other words, everything slows down when you're pedaling on a bike. You notice things because you are going 15 mph instead of 60 mph. The roadside isn't a blur and you are paying attention – to everything. To the cracks in the road - to the traffic around you - to the trees on the roadside - to the clouds overhead. I think this is why riding is somewhat of a spiritual discipline for me – because it makes me pay attention. Isn't that what the spiritual life is all about? Paying attention to God, to each other, to the nudging of the Holy Spirit in our lives? To those places in our lives that bring us joy and cause us sorrow?

Sometimes I catch myself. I catch myself going 60 mph and when that happens I don't always pay enough attention. At one point on that weekend ride, we passed a piece of land that had "plantation" in its title. The trees were massive and I gently rode down those crooked roads and got really curious about what stories lie untold in the dirt. What kinds of things have those trees witnessed? Turns out, slowing down also stirs up compassionate curiosity. I let a prayer of confession and thanksgiving ring through my heart.

Slowing down is a discipline. It requires deep intentionality. Sometimes we slow our bodies down but our minds are still racing. Sometimes we are busy bodies with empty minds and hearts. One Sunday night, as I was passing by the church, I stopped and took a few moments of solitude to walk around the rose garden. *I mean, I actually opened the gate, walked inside it, leaned down close enough to sniff the buds and see the bugs.* It's a place I come everyday and pass all the time, and yet I had not noticed that the roses were blooming. It was only a week or so later when I was outside early one morning and someone was in the rose garden trimming the bushes. I took a moment to recall the day I moved to Pleasant Green and how much I remembered the fresh flowers in the parsonage. I shared with her how life giving it was and how I learned so much about this community in the simple act of kindness and in the simplicity of a bright, living bloom in a big empty house on a chaotic moving day. It was a gift. My only regret is, *I should have told you two years ago. And, thank you.*

It's summertime. For some people that means a change in routine. Some schedules slow down and others get filled with summer activities and vacations. Regardless of where you find yourself in this season, my prayer is that you find it within yourself to pay attention – to God and the world around you. I invite you to ask yourself, "what is my practice of paying attention?" My hope is that in the hustle and bustle of summertime, or doctors appointments, or life in general that you will notice God in your midst and in the face of your neighbor. We'll be worshipping this summer at 10:30am on Sunday's. At 9:30, we'll be together in the fellowship Hall, *paying attention* to our call to love our neighbors. As always, there are numerous other ways to be a part of our life together in community at Pleasant Green; and as always, I hope you know that there is a place for you at the table. And next time you're around, be sure to stop and smell the roses. 😊

Shalom,
Laura

from the Prayer Ministry...

Let us pray for our Administrative Council...

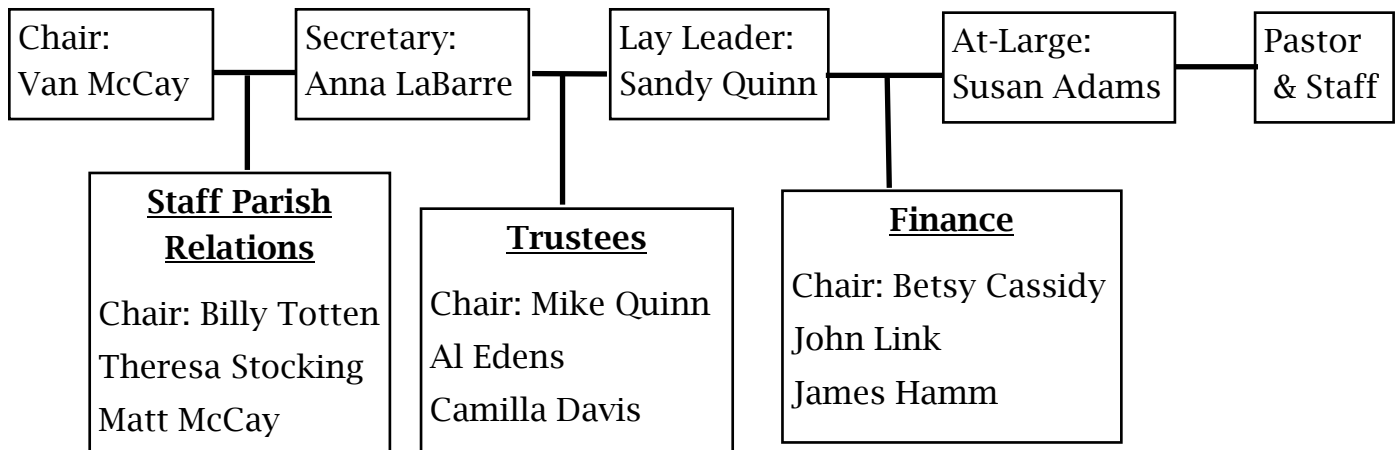
This article is the second in praying for our church ministries.

1 Corinthians 12: 4, 5 (KJV) – (4-5) “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.”

2 Corinthians 9:12 (KJV) – “For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.”

As Paul writes in his letters to the Corinthians, there are many gifts, but one Spirit, one Lord. As we continue the prayer series on praying for our different ministries, let us take Paul’s words to heart.

The newly re-constructed Administrative Council at Pleasant Green has an abundance of God-given talents to guide our church. Included in this Council are Pastor Laura and the staff - Aaron, Richard, Jo Anna and Evelyn. In addition, look below to see how our Council is organized and who is leading us.



The four areas of Administration are each represented by this council and all members function in the capacity of: Nominations, SPRC, Trustees and Finance.

This group of dedicated men and women plans programs to develop us and nurture us, provides effective pastoring and lay leadership, provides mechanisms for adequate financial support and meeting legal church obligations, establishes and maintains relationships within our conference, oversees the church documents, and seeks ways to embed our lives with spiritual formation. The group sets the tone and direction for what we are to accomplish as God’s people at Pleasant Green.

Let us pray for each member of the Council and for the group as a whole. Let us pray that through their service they may thrive through the changes that are taking place, grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, be open to his guidance and leading; and make decisions that are pleasing to Him.

Let us pray...*Oh, Gracious God, the God of loving and compassionate power and authority, the ultimate administrator of all earthly things, we ask you to bless each person on the Administrative Council at Pleasant Green. Help them to use the gifts and talents you have given them to please you. Let each one be open to your guidance and leading and work as one to accomplish the tasks you have given to them. Help them see their ministry as sacred, as it supports you and your desires for this community. Help them make a clear and lasting covenant with you, both personally and as a group, as you lead them to do. Please bless their families, as their families share our Council members with the church and with you. Gracious God, we ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Join the Prayer Ministry as we pray for our church, our nation, the world; and, for all of the people you have entrusted to us that need prayer. Our June Prayer Ministry meeting is on Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed! No formal prayer experience is necessary!

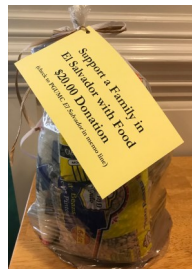


El Salvador Mission Trip July 20 - 27

We are partnering with Raeford UMC again this year. They are sending 4 members, including their pastor, Brian Wingo. They are busy hosting fundraisers to help meet the budget. **PGUMC is sending 13!**

No monetary value can be placed on spreading God's word, loving our neighbors and building relationships.

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Taco Luncheon, we raised \$1239.00.



Support a Family in Ahuachapan, El Salvador!

With a donation of \$20 you can supply a family with rice, beans, sugar, oil, salt, soup, coffee and spaghetti.

Write checks to PGUMC with El Salvador Food on the memo line.



Keli Pennington

Pleasant Greeners Lunch on May 22.

We welcomed our new Interns at



Michael Larbi



Circle of Faith makes teachers appreciation bags for Pathways Elementary.

Pleasant Green Family News

NEW MEMBERS—Dwayne and Cathy Marlowe have lived in Hillsborough the last 12 years, coming to this area for employment at Duke University. Dwayne is an OIT manager and Cathy a nurse in cardiology. They have one son and 4 grandchildren. Prior to moving to Hillsborough they lived in southern Virginia. They have a labradoodle named Abby. In their free time they like to bike, hike, run, travel and pretty much anything outdoors. They are Virginia Tech fans—Go Hokies!!



Vacationing in Italy!

We really enjoy being members at PGUMC because of all the nice friendships, beautiful sounding choir, talented Praise Band and thought provoking and uplifting sermons.

CONGRATULATIONS !

to
Anna Freeman
and
Brad Hughes

They were married on March 16!



Thank You Richard And Betsy!

Richard & Betsy Cassidy were honored with a gift certificate & applause on YOUTH SUNDAY for giving their time this year to lead our church YOUTH Ministry.

Summer Calendar!

June 9 - End of the year cook-out
at the Cassidys - 5:00 pm

June 16 - 21 ~ Youth Mission Trip
To Charleston, SC

July 14 - 15 ~ Youth Retreat

Pleasant Green youth - Sara Witt & Millie Nichols - have been selected to dance in the New York Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. They need help raising the funds for this "once in a lifetime trip." Please contact them if you have home or yard jobs: Sara 919-383-8691 or Millie 919-698-3770.

YOUTH SUNDAY - Mother's Day - May 12



Our YOUTH 's Mission Projects School Year 2018-19

- 96 letters to military personnel
- 98 flood buckets & 25 hygiene kits for flood victims
- \$1376 to OCIM – Halloween Carnival & Souper Bowl Sunday
- 6500+ meals packed for Rise Against Hunger
- Adopted Hillsborough family with 6 kids for Christmas
- Church Work: windows, vacuuming, baseboards, mulch
- \$5300 to fight world hunger (30 Hour Famine)
- \$1700 to OCIM – A Walk For Hunger – Winner of Silver Sneaker Award (2nd Place)
- Over \$4800 raised through Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society (2nd Place)

Relay for Life - May 18



3 Torches in memory of Lesley Weaver



Lots of proud Mothers were in the congregation!



*On Sunday, May 5
our interns
Kelsey Carter
& Dylan Parson
were honored
with a reception.*

Trustees Report to Pleasant Green UMC Congregation

Greetings from the Trustees,

We have had a very productive beginning to 2019 within our Church. A number of major issues have been remediated as well as some value-added items have been added to our building.

As you all know, we had a meltdown of our sanctuary lighting system late last year. We had to have the entire system replaced and we were able to upgrade to a modern system that includes not only the ability to dim the lights, but we now have dual on/off controls, one by the sanctuary doors as well as one on the wall by the Choir area. We also have touch screen controls in the sound room. Soon to incorporate WIFI access for the lights also. Fortunately, our insurance company has paid the entire cost with the exception of our deductible.

We had a few electrical concerns with our older power panels that supply power to the Chapel's heat pumps. We had to have some of the old breakers replaced due to age, wear and heat problems.

We had a heat pump that supplied HVAC for the Parlor die. That system has been replaced by Durham Mechanical as the supplier and installer. They are setting up a payment plan for us, so we do not have to shell out all \$6000+ all at once. Thanks to Russell Nichols for his generosity.

For the value-added item; We currently have installed network equipment to enhance our WIFI access throughout PGUMC, both upstairs and downstairs. Due to the ever-increasing usage of our WIFI, our original system was quite saturated. On Sundays especially. For an interesting anecdote..... During the hours of 9:00am through 12:30pm, and between 5:00pm and 8:00pm on Sundays, our WIFI usage goes up 85%. Now we have balanced it out with access points in both hallways upstairs as well as the hallway downstairs. If you have any questions regarding access, please see Mike Quinn.

Finally, I would like to thank the Cassidy men for all their help with running network cabling downstairs. They had to crawl around in the ceiling and deal with all the normal dirt, dust and drywall and the ceiling tile mess.

So far, the pending items have been addressed. Thank you for all of your support. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to the Trustees - Camilla Davis, Al Edens, or Mike Quinn.

Mike Quinn

Mark Your Summer Calendar!



Vacation Bible School

July 8 — 12

9:00 am — 12:30 pm

TO MARS and BEYOND

Register at: <http://bit.ly/PGVBS19>

Volunteers are needed for VBS

Questions? Call Wendy at 919-630-1939



PGUMC SUMMER CAMP

June 24 - July 26

(Closed July 4th week)

Rising 1st graders - Rising 6th graders

~ 7:30 am - 5:45 pm ~

**Registration forms are in the Narthex
or on the church website.**



Pleasant Green Summer Camp 2019

There are not many things that grow and thrive for 28 years! One of our longest running mission projects at Pleasant Green UMC is the Afterschool and Summer Camp Program. At the time it began, there were plenty of day-cares for little children but elementary school age children were frequently known as "latchkey" kids and left on their own after school or during summer vacation while parents worked. Pleasant Green Afterschool was started to fill that gap and the need was great. Currently we receive children from our church family, the Pleasant Green community and three Orange County schools, some of whom are recommended by their school counselors or other County personnel. Some of these children would be unable to participate were it not for generous scholarship support by our congregation. Summer Camp begins June 24. The cost is \$165 per week. There will be 4 weeks of Camp this year and campers will participate in Vacation Bible School and Drama Camp with Wayne Leonard, in addition to outings to various places of interest in the community. We hope our church will once again feel led to help support the activities, transportation, materials and scholarships for Summer Camp 2019.



Honor your parents, grandparents, loving caregivers by making a donation to support a Summer Camper with a contribution in any amount. Helping to provide the means to support Summer Camp is an affirmation of the high standard of care we all want for all children.



The church received notes from the couple who were involved in an accident with the rock wall in front of the church on the night of our Chicken Dumpling / Stew Dinner on March 2.

Hi Good People!

Thank you for your prayers and concern. Mike is home from the hospital and is doing well. We want to come to a service when Mike gets his new van.

My best to all, *Sandi Norton*

I will always remember your quick response, care and concerns you provided me in such a tragic time. *Mike*

Rainbow Covenant Churches Recognized

Nine churches in the Corridor District will receive certificates of recognition for their “second-mile” giving in 2018. These churches participated in the “Rainbow Covenant” program of missional giving in the North Carolina Annual Conference, which designates funds for missions in five areas or “lanes” of giving. The “first-mile” of giving in the program is payment in full of the apportionment. Additionally, churches are encouraged to give to projects in these categories: conference, national, world, persons in mission and to UMCOR. One hundred percent of funds contributed go toward the designated mission project. These nine churches gave to forty-five different projects, with NC Storm Relief leading the way in contributions. Thanks to these faith communities: Bethany (Durham); Carr (Mebane); Epworth (Durham); First Graham (Graham); Mt. Sylvan (Durham); Pleasant Green (Durham); New Sharon (Hillsborough); Prospect (Yanceyville); Warren’s Grove (Roxboro) The churches with the highest per-member contributions, all above \$23.00 per member, were Graham First, Mt. Sylvan, Pleasant Green, and Epworth.

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates!

The Graduates and their families will be honored at a luncheon on Sunday, June 2 after Worship.

High School

Rick Cassidy ~ Ryan Montgomery
Ashley Riley ~ Isayara Valverde-Vindas
Davis Whitfield ~ Will Witt



College
Megan Stocking



Summer Sunday School



Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for a church-wide Sunday School study: “The Art of Neighboring.” We have heard what Jesus’ greatest commandment is—loving God and loving neighbors. What if Jesus meant for us to take that commandment literally? What would it look like if we challenged ourselves to love and connect with neighbors within our geographical reach? Building relationships with neighbors leads to better communities, better churches, and... a better world. Come join this thought-provoking yet practical conversation with the hopes that we will continue in the work of making disciples for the transformation of not only our lives, but also our communities and world.




**Worship
at the
Eno
May 19th**




Mark your Calendar!

Summer Choir Practice Schedule
Beginning Sunday, June 2 the choir gathers in the choir room at 9:50am to practice.

Eleanor Walker Circle
7:00 pm – June 3 



Sunday, June 9 ~ Pentecost 
Confirmation Class joins PGUMC
Covered Dish Lunch to honor new members
Bring a dish or two and welcome our newest members!


6:00 pm ~ Monday, June 10 ~ dinner provided
Administrative Council Meeting

 **Common Thread plans a PIE Fundraiser on Fathers Day - June 16th**
Bring your favorite pie (sweet or not) for the fundraiser, buy one to take home!

Circle of Faith ~ June 18
6:30 pm at Gatewood 


Prayer Team Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday June 19th 

 **Pleasant Greeners Lunch**
Noon Wednesday, June 26th
Lunch provided by Summer Camp!
All are invited to join us for food & fun! 
Please sign up in the Narthex.

 Come enjoy the music of our **PRAISE BAND** the last Sunday of each month!

 **Sip & Paint Fundraiser**
Anyone can do this! The instructor provides a drawing of the church on white canvas with the exact paint colors and instructions to make a lovely painting suitable for framing! ~ **Saturday, June 15 ~ 9 am - 11 am** in the Fellowship Hall ~ Cost: \$40.00 per person with \$10 per participant donated back to PGUMC – to help substitute the canceled pine straw fund raiser. Class size is limited to 20.
Come have fun and be creative!
To sign up email: cathymarlowe@nc.rr.com

FOOD FOR ALL
This ministry for the Homeless & Working Poor of Orange County Needs YOU!
Groups within the church are encouraged to sponsor a FOOD FOR ALL night once a year.

 **American Red Cross**
Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, July 14
9 am – 1 pm
To save a life or 2 please sign up in the Narthex! Or call the church office.

 **Our Rose Garden**
We are blessed with a beautiful Rose Garden, a great resource to bring beauty and a remembrance of Pleasant Green to the sick, shut-ins or for yourself!
Feel free to cut roses but please remember the following: Take a container of water to the garden and cut roses at a 45 degree angle just above a leaf on the stem that has five leaflets. It is important to cut roses correctly, as new growth forms at the place of cutting.
Help is always welcome to keep our roses looking beautiful, please contact the church office if you would like to help.
Thanks to the Cassidys for the freshly painted fence surrounding our rose garden!



Pleasant Green United Methodist Church
 3005 Pleasant Green Road
 Durham, NC 27705
 (919) 383-5764

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Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org

Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339

lthompson@nccumc.org


Interim Director of Youth Ministry-Richard Cassidy

richard.l.cassidy@gsk.com

 Please recycle this newsletter. 

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is provided free of charge to the Pleasant Green congregation by the United Methodist Women. You may pick up a copy in the Narthex.

On Hillsborough's LAST FRIDAYS – come by and see us at the Orange County United Methodist Churches booth!



Red Cross Blood Drive


Sunday, July 14

9 am – 1 pm

*To save a life or 2
 please sign up in the Narthex!
 Or call the church office.*

The PGUMW Cookbook

Special sections include:



Old favorites from the first PGUMC Cookbook published in 1980 and the Brunswick Stew recipe! The cookbook includes 433 recipes and pages of church as well as UMW history with pictures.

\$16 each

Purchase cookbooks for Graduation & Wedding presents to support UMW missions!



**Join us at
 PGUMC
 Summer Worship**

**We will have ONE service only at
 10:30 am**

Sunday, May 26 - Sunday, September 1


Memorial Day - Labor Day

9:15 - Gathering and Breakfast

9:30 - Sunday School

*Join a church-wide study of the
 “Art of Neighboring”*


10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary



Father's Day - June 17th

Remember that special guy with a Summer Camp donation!

Do YOU have flowers growing in your yard to share? Please call the church office if you have (or will have) flowers to provide for a Sunday, arranged by you or others!



**Many Thanks to Lester Watkins,
 owner of Wallace's Auto Electric**

*for keeping our bus and van
 running safely!*

