



Roots & Branches

March 2016



He Lives

Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson

Holy Week

March 20

Palm Sunday



March 24

Maundy Thursday



7:00 pm—Communion Service

Commemorating the
Last Supper

March 25

Good Friday



7:00 pm—Service

remembering
the passion and
death of Christ

March 27

Easter Sunday



6:30 am—Sunrise Service

*at the cross in the graveyard
followed by breakfast in the
Fellowship Hall*

8:30 am Service

9:30 am—Food & Fellowship

10am—Sunday School



10:30am

Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am Service

"I serve a risen Savior; he's in the world today.

*I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy,
I hear his voice of cheer; and just the time I need him, he's always near.*

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know he lives. He lives within my heart!" (Alfred H. Ackley)

Mr. Alfred H. Ackley reminds us in the beautiful Easter hymn, "He Lives" that Jesus was resurrected from the grave and lives among us. This is the foundation of our faith. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very Christian doctrine that the church celebrates. The resurrection of Jesus is why we gather in celebration in sanctuaries all over the world on Sunday, especially on Easter Sunday, to remind ourselves that he is not in the tomb, but that he lives.

The Apostle Paul instructs the church of Corinth; *"Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:12-14)

Jesus gave the world his life. He gave his life freely. It was a life of total commitment to God. All his strength, mind, body and soul; he committed to bring salvation to the world.

He died a martyr's death to achieve that goal. However, it did not end in the grave. It didn't end on the cross. Good Friday embodies the darkest hour in history. It is a darker day than slavery of Africans. It is a darker day than the holocaust of the Jewish people. It is a darker day than September 11, 2001, the day terrorist attacked America. For on that day, the day we call Good Friday, the Son of God was crucified. On that day human beings tried to kill God. It was on that day, Good Friday, that humankind tried to eliminate God's involvement in the history of his people.

However, the world failed in their attempt to eliminate God, for God is still sovereign. God is still in charge. God is still the Creator, and God is still Almighty. Therefore the nails could not hold him. No, the cross could not condemn him and surely the grave could not keep him. Jesus Christ lives today!

This is why, as Easter people, we can sing the hymn:

"Up from the grave he arose;

With a mighty triumph over his foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain,

and he lives forever with his saints to reign.

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose."



From the Prayer Team...

Praying for Our Accountability to God during Lent

Matthew 12:36 *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

Romans 14:12 *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God*

The Prayer Team hopes that everyone is participating in the church-wide devotional, *A Journey through Lent*, written by Ali along with Pastor Jesse and church members. A lot can be learned when reading and reflecting on the daily scripture and hymns throughout this Holy season; which prepares us for a closer relationship with God. If you don't have a copy of this booklet, it's not too late! Pick one up on the table outside the sanctuary.

Another preparation we often make during Lent is to fast, "give up something," participate more actively in a ministry; or, with God's help, change something about ourselves that is not pleasing to Him. Any of these promises encourages us to give our lives to God so that he can form us and mold us into a person more like His Son. For this positive change to happen, we need to follow through with our promise. This is not like a New Year's resolution, where many of us have high hopes in the beginning to become more organized, lose weight, start exercising or keep better control of our finances; then, quickly lose interest and forget our plans. Instead, Lent is a time to lean heavily on God to show us what he wants us to do; then, lean on him again to help us keep our promise. God's promises to us are that he will never leave us, that he listens to our prayers, that he loves us and that he wants the best for us. Since God is always faithful to his promises, with His help, we can be accountable and faithful to Him.

Let us pray for God's strength to be accountable....

Dear Faithful God who always keeps His Promises,

Help us keep our promises to you. We have good intentions; but, are weak, short-sighted, impulsive and self-centered. We often think we don't need to finish what we started, or that you won't notice if we don't follow through. Help us change that thinking and be accountable to you. We can't do it by ourselves.

With your strength and perseverance, we can become closer to the person you created us to be. Amen

The March 2016 meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church activities, church and extended family members; and, local, national and global issues. We will also talk about how the beginnings of visitation to those who are home-bound went. Come join us! In the meantime, check out the Prayer Ministry bulletin board above the prayer letters table in the hallway, leading to the Fellowship Hall. Sign the prayer letters under the bulletin board. Signing a letter means you commit to pray for that person at least once during the week. Did you know that even though you don't know the person, he or she is so grateful that you care!

Remember to fill out the yellow prayer cards found in the pews to request prayer for those in need.

NC United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries



*CAMPS CHESTNUT RIDGE,
DON LEE & ROCKFISH*

are vital partners in faith formation.

This year, respond to God's transformation invitation to "Come away with me." Send a child to camp! Sharing the love of Jesus Christ at your three beautiful camp and retreat sites is truly a blessing. Providing places apart to help transform lives and establish lifestyles of caring through discipleship is unique and essential in faith development for many. Camps provide a place where one can hear God's voice like no other time or place in life. www.ncumcamps.org



The Hearts & Hands Class

invites all to join them on

Sunday, March 13, as they volunteer at the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner. The group will be leaving the church at 8:30 to transporting the residents to Worship.

Contact Van McCay with questions: 919-477-9692.

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.

pleasant green youth group



March Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons / Sunday School 10 am

Contact Ali DeLeo for more information: 202-744-6440 or alideleo@gmail.com

Youth News & Upcoming Events

ELEVATE ~ Sundays 5:00–7:30pm ~ March 6 & 13

To sign up for dinner, please let Ali know or go to the doodle poll at <http://doodle.com/poll/ssknxhec9ifqri49>

Saturday, March 5 ~ Mulch & Mission @ The Cassidy's 10am-3pm

Saturday, March 19 ~ Movie Matinee/Nite (TBD)

**Friday, May 6 ~ Relay for Life Orange County – see Ryan Montgomery for more details
(ryanm921@gmail.com)**

World Vision

30 Hour Famine

In the next few weeks our youth will raise money for the 30 Hour Famine, as well as be educating themselves about the world outside of their own, in which more than 870 million people are hungry. They will end their fundraising time by actually going hungry themselves for 30 hours and during that time also participate in a service project.

Hosted by World Vision, an international Christian humanitarian organization that serves children and families in nearly 100 countries, the 30 Hour Famine seeks to raise awareness and support to end world hunger. Our youth will also stand in solidarity with the more than 26,000 children around the world who die from hunger and preventable diseases each day.

The Pleasant Green Youth have raised \$29,000 for 30 Hour Famine from 2003—2015!

Please join with the youth in this great cause.

Let's help make the world different!

Ways you can participate with our Youth:

Pray for the youth and leaders throughout the event, that they might not only have endurance, but also their eyes might be opened in new ways and their hands moved to service.

Donate financial support by sponsoring one of our youth participants.

Just think, every dollar you donate provides another day of food and care for a child in need.



The Youth collected \$ 251.00 on Sunday, February 7 for OCIM at the **Souper Bowl of Caring** fundraiser!



From Ali...

It is with joy (and some bitter-sweetness) that I share my plans to travel this summer and serve the Methodist Church of South Africa. Though I will miss being with you, it is a great honor to be chosen to serve there. I am working on some ways to stay connected with the you all while I am away (thank you, Internet!) I look forward to sharing more with everyone when I return. Pastor Jesse, SPRC, Wendy & Gloria, and I are working hard to make sure things are well-covered and go as smoothly as is possible while I am away. If you would like to help with leadership while I am gone, please let me know - I would love for this to be an opportunity in which we can grow in both depth and breadth of leadership!

(My last Sunday worship will be May 15th, Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday. I will be returning in mid-August.)

Connectional Table Update

The first Connectional Table meeting of 2016 was held on February 6th. We started with a fantastic breakfast (thank you ladies!) and a little Pleasant Green UMC trivia to get our brain gears churning! We heard an update from each committee, with highlights from 2015 and major projects planned for 2016. (The most timely updates to share with the congregation: first, from the Mission Team--there is still space available to go on the 2016 El Salvador Mission trip! A meeting is scheduled on March 6th following the 11:00 service. Also more folks are needed to go to Robeson County, and mission leaders are needed as well. Contact Kathryn Dempsey if you feel called to serve in this way. Ceil Matthews and Jim Crawford reminded us that the next stew is March 5th, and all hands are needed on deck!)

This year we organized for planning a little differently. Pastor Jesse guided us in the "Nurture, Outreach and Witness" structure, abbreviated N.O.W., from the United Methodist Discipline. We divided into teams-- the "**Nurture Team**" (which included Education, Sunday School/Bible Study, Worship and Membership); the "**Outreach Team**" (which included outreach/hospitality/fellowship, Youth, Children, Mission, Food For All and OCIM); and the "**Witness Team**" (which included UMM, UMW, Prayer Team, Project Bountiful, Finance and the Trustees).

Within each team, we were asked to develop 1-2 short- or long-term projects/events (in addition to what we're currently doing) that will reflect Pleasant Green's newly revised vision and mission:

Vision: Pleasant Green is a nurturing congregation, connecting to the community for the equipping of disciples for service to the world.

Mission: Pleasant Green is called to love God, nurture ourselves and one another, and extend God's love to the world.

(The Vision and Mission statements were constructed by the Project Bountiful Team and presented to the congregation and Connectional Table for review and feedback.)

Here are the 2016 events, projects and ideas from each team's brainstorm:

Nurture Team:

Facilitate another church-wide book study--*Unbinding the Church* (building on *Unbinding the Gospel*), beginning April 5th & 6th over 8 weeks (Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning groups)
Offer Disciple I (year-long study) beginning in the fall--Ali will lead.

Outreach Team:

Create a new Pleasant Green Facebook page (will look more like a business page) (instead of the current "group" page). (Ask those most currently active on the PG group page if they would be facilitators on new page.) * See Below
Update church brochure. Offer the new brochure, a calendar of upcoming events as well as free tickets to March 5th sit-down stew dinner to new community members and neighbors.

Witness Team:

Develop and schedule a "training" for expanded nursery ministry. (Expansion of the nursery ministry is currently in the works through Christian Education. The nursery will be open and caretakers available during the Sunday school hour to accommodate and welcome young families. The call to nurture the youngest of disciples as well as position ourselves for growth are driving this ministry.)

Explore the option to live-stream Sunday morning church services for those that aren't able to come that morning.

Looking ahead, 2016 is going to be a great year at Pleasant Green! We have challenged ourselves to find more ways to equip more disciples for service to the world and grow as disciples ourselves, all aligned with our vision and mission. The ball is already rolling on several of the above ideas. However, to follow through with all of them (in addition to what we're already doing), we need all hands and hearts on deck!



New Pleasant Green Facebook page!

It can be found by searching "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church." The correct page has the green logo (profile picture) and the outside of the church (cover photo).

It can also be accessed directly through this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pleasantgreenumc/?fref=ts>

Easter Lilies

*To purchase
Easter Lilies for the
sanctuary in honor or
memory of a loved one,
please sign up in the Narthex*



GOD IS IN THE NURSERY

Where is God on Sunday morning? Of course, God is everywhere. We know that God is enthroned in the praises of his people. (Psalm 22:3) When we gather to worship – God is with us.

We know that God is there when we pray. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20) When we pray – God is with us.

We know that God is there when his Word is read, preached, loved and obeyed. The Lord says, "I am watching over my word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12) When the Bible speaks – God is with us.

We know that God is everywhere. "Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:24) "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3) No matter where we go – God is with us.

But did you know that God is back in the church nursery? "And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37) When you welcome a child in the name of Jesus you welcome Jesus himself. When we minister to children – God is with us.

If you wonder why so many people are blessed by serving in the church nursery. Now you know – God is there.

by Tony Kummer (*Gospel Driven Children's Ministries*)



*Where Is God
On Sunday Morning?*

A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Each day, you will be offered a hymn, a scripture passage, a prayer, or a spiritual practice to experience your relationship with God in a new way! We are especially grateful to the wonderful members of Pleasant Green UMC who stretched themselves spiritually by writing a reflection – their offerings are truly gifts and graces from God.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. On each Sunday, you will find the Lectionary Gospel text for "Year C" of Lent – reprinted for your personal reflection.

We would love to hear how these devotionals have been inspiring (or challenging) to you. Please reach out to us – or the person who wrote the reflection – if you want to continue the discussion.

It is a joy to journey with each of you all year round, but especially during this holy season of Lent. *Pastor Jesse & Ali*

Sunday School Nursery Is Now Available!

The last class room on the right on the Sunday School Hall is now a nursery for Sunday School and worship services.

The Pre-School class has moved to the first room on the left, with the 3 - 5 grade class in the next room. The adult Sunday School Class meeting in the Youth room has relocated to the multi-purpose room. The Middle School / High School Sunday School Class now meets in the Youth room down stairs.

Mission Dresses

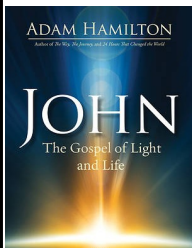
A UMW group from Chapel Hill will come to Pleasant Green on Saturday, February 27th at 9:30am to teach us how to turn simple t-shirts into dresses to share on mission trips. Two follow up sessions will be planned. We will set up an assembly line, so volunteers can complete one task to help generate many dresses.

For 2/27, only 20 shirts of assorted colors to match. are needed. Please see the material swatches in Narthex.

Future Material Donations Needed:
washed girls cotton t-shirt sizes S or M (clean, gently used shirts are welcome)
complementing cotton fabric 1/2 yard x 36"
(or gift card for fabric) /colored thread

Can't sew? Helping hands of all abilities are welcome!

Join a Sunday School Class for a Lenten Study



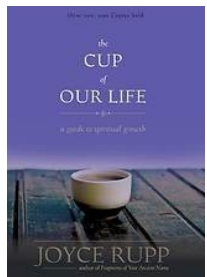
Seekers Class / Wednesday Bible Study-

John and The Gospel of Light

by Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." You can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. It follows the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

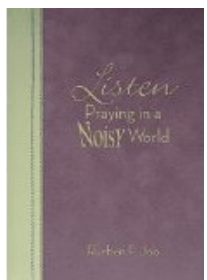
Womens Class - *Cup of Our Life* -by Joyce Rupp



Joyce Rupp's bestselling contemporary classic has sold over 200,000 copies. This new edition continues a fifteen-year tradition, helping individuals and groups pray.

Joyce Rupp illustrates how the ordinary cups used each day can become sacred vessels that connect readers with life and bring them into closer union with the Divine. The cup is a rich symbol of life, with its emptiness and fullness, its brokenness and flaws, and its many blessings.

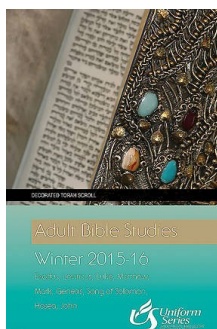
Hearts & Hands Class - *Listen: Praying in Noisy World*



by Reuben Job

We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos.

Listen, is a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. Focusing on listening and prayer as a two-way conversation, the experience will assist in building and deepening personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.



Clyde Walker Class - Adult International Series: Lent Focus

Used by hundreds of thousands of people weekly, this popular adult curriculum is based on the Uniform Series, which enables Christians across the globe to study the same Scriptures and topics on the same Sundays throughout the year.

Mark Your Calendar
for Summer Fun!

PGUMC Summer Camp

June 20 - July 29

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24



Musical Week

July 18-22

Kids Connect

Saturday, March 12

1:00pm

Brookdale Assisted Living



The children will tell the Egg Story, make Easter crafts to share, hand out bookmarks & crosses to the residents.

We will have a snack at church when we return and be ready for pickup at 4pm.

Permission slip is needed for child to participate.

GOALS:

Children will experience service in the community.

Children will learn to interact with others.

Parents will get a few hours of free time!



PGUMC
Kids Own Worship
Volunteers
Needed!

Two volunteers, a leader and assistant leader, are needed for each Sunday at 11am. Everyone has an important role in our children's Christian education and spiritual growth.

If you are available to help please contact:
andrea.harris68@yahoo.com or
Michelle Baker - mbaker1778@gmail.com



“Be There” on March 6
The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Each year United Methodists worldwide join together on the fourth Sunday of Lent in observing the One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering is vital to the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** and its humanitarian ministries. It enables United Methodists to respond immediately to disasters.

UMCOR is all of us. UMCOR brings relief when a catastrophe strikes.
Your gifts answer Jesus’ call to “be there” for others.

UMCOR Mission Statement: *Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.*



On Sunday,
 January 31
 we welcomed
 Laura Huffman and
 son, Thomas into our
 Pleasant Green Church
 Family. Thomas is a
 member of our
 2016
 Confirmation Class.

Raise an Eco-Palm branch Palm Sunday at Pleasant Green to support this UMCOR social and environmental justice project.

US palm sales total more than \$4.5 million every year. Through the Eco-Palm Project, harvesters in Guatemala and Mexico are receiving fair wages for their labor. The work empowers women by providing jobs, increased income to help send their children to school, and opportunities for leadership positions. Palm harvesters also incorporate environmentally sound harvesting techniques for a better ecosystem.



News from Jeff Hall (former Duke Intern now serving in Texas)



Maria and I are adopting three wonderful children: Carnell (6) and his sisters, Harmony (4) and Faith (3). Carnell is in kindergarten and loves maps and writing music. The girls are in preschool; Harmony loves to do gymnastics, and Faith sings every chance she gets. They are teaching Maria and me a lot about patience, grace, forgiveness, joy, and love. Each day is a new adventure in becoming a forever family! Peace, *Jeff*

Dear Pleasant Green Community,

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your thoughts, prayers, food and kind words during the last few months as Ian has been in a sling and during his post-operative period. He is progressing slowly with PT and we are hopeful that he will have greater than 95% complete function in his right shoulder. The delivered meals were greatly appreciated by Ian, he was getting tired of mom's cooking. Words cannot truly express the gratitude for our family here at church. With much love, *Lydia Mis & Ian Caskeer*

To the Congregation of Pleasant Green,

I want to thank you for the Christian love you all have shown for our family by praying for us. I know, as we have faced the biggest challenge in our lives, it has helped us so much. It is such a comfort to know that you care about us and love us. I know Tricia is very happy! God bless you all, *Pat Christie*

To those who have been praying for Matthew Smith,

After 9 months, Matt had his LAST chemo session!!! He went back to work full time yesterday! He is feeling very well now and is ready to get on with his life and career. Please pray that PET scan in March scan is clear!! Our family is so grateful for having all of you as such wonderful loving and caring friends and prayer warriors. God has truly blessed Matt with healing and we give HIM all the glory and praise for that. Thank you again--and please don't quit praying! *Pam (Matthew Smith's mother)*

Dear Pleasant Green Church Family,

Our family has felt so much love with your thoughts, prayers, cards and food for Kelly & Brandon during this difficult time of 4 month old Maya's heart surgery and 12 day hospital stay. It is wonderful to have sweet Maya back home with a healthy heart and gaining weight. Thank you for being such a caring and loving church family. Love, *Ronnie & Jo Anna*

Dinner Fundraiser

BBQ Pork & Chicken

**Pleasant Green Community Center
 March 19 at 6:00 pm**

Music by the Thursday Night Band

Fundraiser for babies, Bryson & Maya

Bryson, son of Laura & Adam Holmes
(grandson of Doug & Susan Bell)

At 2 months old, Bryson was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis. (the sutures of a his skull were fused together prematurely and without surgical correction, his brain would not have had enough room to grow) On October 12 Bryson (3 months old) had endoscopic cranial surgery to open up his completely fused metopic suture. With minimal swelling he was able to go home after three days. Two weeks after surgery, Bryson received his first helmet to guide his skull to the proper shape. He will be in a helmet for six months to a year post surgery. Insurance covers the cost for only one helmet. Since Bryson is an infant and growing every day he will require two, possibly three helmets at \$2600 each.

Maya, daughter of Kelly & Brandon Lee
(granddaughter of Ronnie & Jo Anna Walker Brown)

At birth, Maya was diagnosed with a Complete AV Canal heart defect. She had a long 4 months of balancing heart medication with weight gain, while trying to avoid the slightest illness in preparation for surgery. On January 26 Maya had open heart surgery to repair the 3 holes in her heart, coming home with a healthy heart 12 days later.



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

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Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339

Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry-
Alison DeLeo: alideleo@gmail.com

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.



PINE STRAW
SALE
Coming Soon!

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

BRUNSWICK STEW & CHICKEN DUMPLINGS DINNER

Saturday, March 5 ~ 4 - 7 pm at Pleasant Green UMC

Brunswick Stew by the quart - \$9 ~ Eat-in & Take-out Dinners - \$9

This dinner is sponsored by the United Methodist Women but help is needed from all our church family so please mark your calendar!

YOU can help make this a successful fundraiser - Please sign up to help in the Narthex!

Proceeds from this fundraiser and fellowship event are used for local and district missions.



Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project



Coffee - decaf & regular ground - \$8 per bag

Chocolate Bars - \$2.50

Dark Chocolate with Almonds ~ Caramel Crunch

Mint ~ Orange ~ Dark Chocolate—65% and 80%

Milk Chocolate with hazelnut ~ Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch

This fair trade economic model provides opportunities for churches to support a system that nurtures rather than diminishes God's vision of abundant life. UMCOR's partner is the employee owned fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

FREE TAX HELP FROM VITA thru April 15

www.orangecountyvita.org You can now make your appointment online.

VITA is a free tax service for clients of any age or county of residence with low to moderate income.