



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

November 2015



### **Faith is Real**

**By Dr. Jesse Brunson, Pastor**

In the very beginning of Hebrews Chapter 11 the writer says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The apostle began his preaching by telling the Hebrew church the great ones of faith made it by having faith in God.

Therefore faith is a must for God's people to be victorious in their struggle to live a faithful life. For faith is a willing, but struggling, trust in the revealed intentions of God; it is a reliance on God and on his truths, on his promises. Such faith may be as small as a mustard seed, hesitant, uneasy, filled with doubts and yet determined to hold onto confidence, a conviction, in the revealed will of God. Such faith makes a person acceptable to God.

We need faith in God everyday to continue looking up even when things are not going well. For real faith is not based on feelings and situations in our lives; it is much more. Faith is not just confidence in ourselves; it is confidence in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For if Jesus Christ did not get up from the grave and if he is not sitting at the right hand of the Father interceding for us; our faith is in vain and our living is in vain. For until we know that our Lord is real and alive and he can make a difference, our hope and faith is worth nothing.

Share your faith with people you meet and invite them to come to worship with you. Invite them to come to Sunday School with you. Invite them to come to Bible study with you. Invite them to fellowship with you at a men's meeting, a youth meeting, a women's meeting. When was the last time you invited someone to church? Think about that and see if it has been too long.

Share with others what good things the Lord has done for you. This is called witnessing. Be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ wherever you are, for where you are, there are people who need to hear the good news of the Lord.

Be faithful yourself. Be in worship. Be in Sunday School. Be in Bible Study. Be active in the ministries of the church. Be involved in the work of the Lord at Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. After all, you call Pleasant Green your church, so be its member, faithful to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, faithful to Pleasant Green. Share your faith! This is being a Disciple of Christ.

When we put our faith in the living God we can have our lives on display for the world to see. We can be an example and be listed among the faithful persons such as Moses, Abraham and Sarah, and hear our Lord say "well done thy good and faithful servant; enter into the house of the Lord."

Be Faithful-Faith is real!

Pastor Jesse

*From OCIM ...*

We are sending out a plea for help. The food pantry is looking quite bare right now. In the past three days, the pantry has assisted 52 households. We know the holidays will bring in a great deal of donations, but until then we are asking for extra help to get through the next few months. The items the pantry needs most are:

**Canned Meat and Stew / Peanut Butter & Jelly / Soup / Pinto Beans and Pork & Beans  
Pasta Sauce / Canned Pasta / Rice / Cereal / Saltine Crackers / Macaroni & Cheese  
"Kid" Snacks / Toilet Tissue / Bath Soap / Powder Laundry Detergent / Toothpaste**



*From Project Bountiful Home Team...*

## **Did you Like Unbinding the Gospel? You will like Project Bountiful Even More!**

Project Bountiful (PB) is an exciting plan of the NC UMC Conference, Duke Endowment and the Academy for Leadership Excellence, designed as a "renewal and revitalization three-year initiative to assist 48 rural churches and communities across the North Carolina Conference to connect with the rural community and their spiritual abundance. Church Teams will discover how to listen to their communities and to design ministry that is vision-driven, deeply intentional, highly relational, strategically relevant and always contextual. They [we] will explore best practices, form partnerships within our communities and be guided in managing conflict." It is supported by a Duke Endowment grant and a financial and resource commitment from the member churches.

Pastor Jesse was sitting in his study one day thinking about how to build on *Unbinding the Gospel*, which the church studied last spring. *Unbinding the Gospel* is a book by Martha Grace Reece which helped us understand how important sharing our faith really is, and gave us concrete strategies to feel more empowered to tell our stories. Pleasant Green needed a way to put this guidance into practice....so, the phone rang, with a voice on the other end asking if Pleasant Green UMC would like to participate in Project Bountiful. Thankfully, Pastor Jesse said, "Yes!"

There are a series of 5 two-day retreats. The expectation is that 3 people from each church will participate at each retreat. Pastor Jesse, Andrea Harris and Gail Pruett will attend most of them together; with other PGUMC members filling in from time to time. The first retreat was held in September at Jonesboro UMC in Sanford. There was much worship, prayer, self-reflection and education to get us started.

Back at church, a Home Team has been formed to pray about, identify and lead how God wants Pleasant Green as a whole congregation to participate in this project. This team met in October to begin. Home Team members are Gail Pruett, Anna LaBarre, Dave Cook, Gloria Perry, Jesse Brunson, Ali DeLeo, Doris Brunson and Debbie Freeman. Let Gail at [pruettg@frontier.com](mailto:pruettg@frontier.com) or 919-696-7283 know if you would like to be a member of this Team.

In between Home Team meetings, we have been blessed with Rich Greenway as our Coach. Rich will meet with us bi-monthly to guide us through the process and help us stay accountable to our growth in Discipleship and Project Bountiful planning.

Our first task is to develop a mural that illustrates our church history from the beginning to the present. Please share your stories, opinions, pictures and light-weight objects with Andrea, Gloria or Gail to contribute!

### **Things to do for Project Bountiful:**

***Let Gail Pruett know if you want to participate on the Home Team.***

***Share your stories, opinions, pictures and light-weight objects with Andrea Harris, Gloria Perry or Gail Pruett to add to the mural.***

***If you have artistic abilities, let these three people know if you want to help construct the mural; which needs to be done by November 10<sup>th</sup>.***

### **Sing Handel's "Messiah" this holiday season!**

The Mebane Community Choir is open to anyone who wants to join. No need to audition, and you don't need your own music. Rehearsals are Sunday afternoons beginning November 8 from 2 to 3:30. A final rehearsal will be Saturday, December 5 from 10 to noon, and the concert is Sunday December 6 at 3 p.m.

Rehearsals and performance are at Mebane Presbyterian Church, 402 South Fifth Street, Mebane.

*Terri Leonard or Kathy DuLaney can answer questions if you're interested.*



From the Prayer Team...

## Praying during the month of Thanks-giving

There are many types of prayers and many ways to categorize types of prayers. Anne Lamotte wrote a book called Help, Thanks, Wow: The three essential prayers. In MYF many many years ago, I was introduced to the concept of ACTS – prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Alden Solovy in his book Jewish Prayers of Hope and Healing says there are four classic voices of prayer: praise, petition, gratitude and forgiveness. He goes on to say the “simple, less theological names” of those types of prayers are Wow, Gimme, Thanks, and Oops!

It was interesting to note that thanks or thanksgiving or gratitude appear on all of those lists. Throughout history many have identified an attitude of gratitude as being essential. The medieval German theologian Meister Eckhart wrote “If the only prayer you say in your life is ‘thank you,’ it will be enough.” The Roman philosopher Cicero said “a thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.” Swiss theologian Karl Barth claimed that “joy is the simplest form of gratitude.” And the Dalai Lama wrote that “when we practice gratefulness there is a sense of respect toward others.” Even scientists have praised the value of gratitude. Dr. Hans Selye, known for his studies about the effect of stress on our lives identified vengeance and bitterness as the two emotions most detrimental to our health, with gratitude being the most nourishing attitude.

During November, we Americans set aside a day for Thanks-giving. But one day, even one long weekend, is not enough. If you feel that your prayer habits are enriching your life, then give thanks for that. If you think your prayer life is anemic, ask yourself if you are giving enough time and attention to expressing gratitude to God for all the blessings in your life. If you are someone who prays mostly on Sunday morning or during times of crisis, experiment with beginning and ending each day with a prayer of thanksgiving. Even if you are going through a very difficult time, there will be something for which you are grateful. During times of mourning, many people find comfort in remembering with gratitude the good times they had with their loved one. During times of illness, people anticipate what lies ahead after recovery and be thankful that there are people with whom they want to spend time and places they want to go.

Some people have suggested that a spirit of gratitude could change your life. Oprah Winfrey has said that when we express gratitude for what we have – good and bad – we open the door for more good things to come into our life. If that sounds too new-age for you, think about what mystery-writer G. K. Chesterton wrote: “When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.”

There is a song in the Faith We Sing book that we occasionally sing:

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ His Son.***

May you have a blessed Thanks-Giving this month and for the rest of your life! *Janice Nicholson*

## November Prayer Ministry Meeting

The November meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church activities, church and extended family members, and local, national and global issues. We are also planning ways to include shut-ins in our prayer life and ways to visit those in need. 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. Remember to fill out the yellow prayer cards found in the pews to request prayer for those in need.

## Common Thread

### ***A Ministry to Comfort the Dying***

"Common Thread" is a ministry of compassion whose goal is to provide happy, colorful butterfly pillowcases to those dying in hospice, nursing homes and in their own homes.



***The next Common Thread workday is Saturday, November 21 at 9:30am.***

***We will need hands to measure, cut, pin and sew! Please come!***



# pleasant green youth group



## November Youth Calendar

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

Contact Ali DeLeo for more information:  
202-744-6440 or [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)



**ELEVATE at 5:00pm - 7:30 pm ~ November 1, 22 & 29**

**Pilgrimage ~ November 13- 15**

*Annual United Methodist Youth Conference*

All Eastern UMC youth groups come together on this weekend to worship!

- **Nov 13-15 (Fri – Sun)** Pilgrimage - We have 14 signed up to go! There are more spots, if you're not signed up ...
- **Nov 22 (Sun)** Youth are Leading Worship / **Nov. 29 (Sun)**—1st Sunday in Advent—"The Meaning of Advent"
- **Dec 5 (Sat)** 9am Chrismon Tree Decorating & rehearsal for Chrismon Service
- **Dec 6 (Sun)** Youth present Chrismons at the 11:00 Worship Service / Elevate—"A Christmas Carol" movie
- **Dec 8 (Tues)** Food For All (Youth Ministry is Leading)
- **Dec 13 (Sun)** Caroling 4–6 pm / Christmas & Cookie Making Party at Ali's House ~ 6 - 8pm

### **PG Youth visit the Compassion Project**

*Experience another world without leaving yours!*

Through over 1,700 square feet of interactive exhibit space, visitors step inside daily life in a developing country – visiting homes, markets and schools – without getting on a plane. Through the use of an iPod and headset, each tour is guided by a child whose story starts in poverty but ends in hope.



**Pleasant Green's next Kids Connect will meet during the Sunday school time on Nov. 22, 29th and Dec. 6th**

**from 10–10:45 am to make crafts for the Mission Market.**

**This is a great way for the children to donate their time to the Mission team!**

*Our goal is to provide fun service-learning opportunities for children.*



### **Help Us Fill Shoeboxes for Impoverished Children!**

The Afterschool children are continuing the shoebox ministry of "Operation Christmas Child." These boxes will

be delivered to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse. Please help us fill more shoeboxes by bringing supplies for children ages 5-14 and dropping them off in the container in the narthex by Sunday, Nov. 1st.

**Cash donations of \$7a box also needed**

*Please help us give these children a special Christmas.*



### **PGUMC Kid's 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](mailto:andrea.harris68@yahoo.com) or  
[Michelle Baker - mbaker1778@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle Baker - mbaker1778@gmail.com)





**ACTIVATE LOVE. TRANSFORM LIVES.  
CHANGE THE WORLD.**

UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY

Give to any of the more than 800 Advance projects and missionaries around the world on UMC #GivingTuesday • Dec. 1, 2015



[www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give)

On December 1, United Methodists will once again come together to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on UMC #GivingTuesday. And once again, every gift made online thru The Advance at [www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give) on Dec. 1, 2015 will be matched up to \$1 million.\*

See more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/giving-tuesday#sthash.8t9QCNJm.dpuf>

*To My Church Family,*

Words cannot express the gratitude for all the food, thoughts and prayers you all sent to us during Bill's illness and passing. Thank you so very much. *Vannie Carter & Family*



*Dear Christian Friends,*

My daughter, April, shared with me the letter you sent her informing her of your promise to pray for our family re: the Eternal Homegoing of our husband, father & grandfather, Jim . I cannot express in words how much this means to me and what a comfort it is to know you are uplifting us in prayer. This truly is a ministry and I know it must have come from God, Himself. Thanks to all of you for hearing the "still, small voice" on our behalf. *Sincerely, Joyce Perry*

*To the congregation of PGUMC,*

Last Sunday, I attended the 10th anniversary celebration of The Shepherd's House UMC. I entered downstairs so I could look at everything, and things look much the same. The bathrooms have been renovated and look great. I think they still have problems with dampness, as some of the paint was bubbling on the walls on the second floor. The old Sunday school room on the 2nd floor has been transformed into an after-school room, with computers for the kids. The sound system is still on the 3rd floor balcony. The 1st-floor space where Shepherd's House used to worship is now occupied by an Hispanic church. If you've never driven past to see the awesome playground that was placed a couple of years ago on the vacant lots on Cherry Grove, you should. John Gumbo is the pastor of Shepherd's House, as the former pastor, Chris Chikoore, moved to Texas. Chris and his wife, Marjorie, were back for the worship service. Amanda (the deacon our last year there) is still at Shepherd's House; she is married and has 2 children.

The sanctuary looks essentially the same. At the beginning of the service, I was asked to come to the front of the church, and Pastor John told the story of Carr-Shepherd's House to the congregation (translated into Spanish, since it was a joint worship service with the Hispanic congregation), and CARR was given a long, standing, and tearful ovation by the entire congregation. The sanctuary was three-quarters full, and the service was in English and Spanish. The congregation itself was black, white, and Hispanic; African, American, and who knows what Hispanic countries. As Pastor John said, this church is not African, or American, or Hispanic; it is GOD'S CHURCH. Just thought you all might want to know how it's going. The ripples from Carr's gift of itself continue to spread across eternity. Blessings, *Cheryl Lawrence*

**\*Carr UMC gave their church building to Shepherd's House and moved their worship services to PGUMC's Chapel for several years. We were happy when former Carr UMC members join our church family in June 2010.**



**542.8 pounds of food, given in memory of  
Max Mitchell, was delivered to OCIM on  
Tuesday, October 13**

**by Jim Perry & Mike Brogden.**

**Many of those pounds were  
Peanut Butter & Jelly for "Max's kids."**

Hi PGUMC!



I just wanted to send a quick update to the church family about how things are going in Australia so that everyone can stay connected. Laura and I have been living in the city of Melbourne, which is in the southern portion of Australia and is the second largest city in the country. Most people think of Australia as being made up of desert with kangaroos everywhere, and while this is certainly the case in parts of Australia, it's far from what we've been experiencing so far! Melbourne is a lively and fun city with a lot of people our age who are also traveling, it's been a great place to call home for the past few months.

When we moved here in August, Australia was at the end of their winter season, so the temperature was in the 50s for the first few weeks. Now, however, it's spring time and it's becoming warm enough to go to the many nearby beaches. It is interesting to think that Christmas will actually be in the middle of summer! That also means that I'll get two summers this year, which I'm looking forward to.

Laura and I both got jobs when we first moved here and we've been saving money for more travels to other places in Australia. We've been having a blast in Melbourne but we also recently traveled the Great Ocean Road which I've attached pictures of as well. This is one of the most scenic drives in the world and we experienced everything from beautiful beaches to dense rainforests. We also encountered plenty of koalas, kangaroos, and even emus on this trip. Next, we plan on going to Sydney in a few weeks which is about an hour and half plane ride from Melbourne. Since Sydney is the largest city in Australia, there are lots of famous tourist attractions, such as the opera house, so our friends there are going to show us around the area.

Australians are, for the most part, extremely relaxed, welcoming, and outgoing, so it's been a relatively easy transition as far as moving countries goes. The food here is great, albeit in smaller portions, however there is never a time that I don't miss a PGUMC luncheon with casseroles and chicken biscuits. The love and support that I've received from the church family has made a huge difference in my life and continues to do so, and for that I will always be thankful. I'll continue to send updates every so often and in the meantime I hope all is well at the church.

Sincerely, *Christopher Martin*



### Annual Fruitcake Pilgrimage to Bear Creek

From the Scotts' garage in Bear Creek, **Southern Supreme** has grown to an internationally known mail-order gourmet food company.



**Please join us on Tuesday, November 10!**

*We leave on the bus at 8:30 am and stop for lunch on the way back! Sign up in the Narthex.*



**Jeremy, Rachel & Eliza Jane Benton**  
Stopped by the church for a visit on October 16

### UMW Auction ~ A Great Success !

Thank you for donating, creating works of art, bidding, bringing food, setting up, cleaning up, and any other tasks that needed to be done. Special thanks to Jim Crawford, our auctioneer, and to the Eleanor Walker Circle for heading up the planning and preparation.



Also thanks to Matt Matthews, winner of the Amish Quilt! He gave the quilt back to be auctioned.

Evelyn Morris is the proud new owner!



# Advent at Pleasant Green

## Adventicipation!

Saturday, December 5

Advent Decorating  
begins

at 9:00am

Come and bring family & friends and your favorite breakfast snack!

**Order Poinsettias**  
to be placed in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. Deadline to order and pay is December 6. Sign up sheets for Poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones, are in the Narthex. The cost is \$7.00.



Make checks with Poinsettia on the memo line to PGUMW and place in the offering plate.

## Lessons and Carols

A special Advent Worship Service



Sunday, December 6 at 8:30 am

Join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am.

A Chrismon service by the youth will be included in the 11am service.

## Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins

Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm

Join us as we spread the joy of the season!



## Blood Drive

December 6

9 am — 1 pm

Sign up in the Narthex to give life!



American Red Cross

## **Pleasant Green Mission Market**

Saturday, December 12 - Fellowship Hall 9:00 am

Come early for best selection!

Please sign up to bring your favorite homemade cookies or baked goods. We will have a wonderful variety of cookies, cakes, pies, breads, and candies as well as handcrafted items—jewelry, ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers and other gifts.

Bags, boxes & bows will be available.

It is a fun time—so tell your friends! Come take care of your holiday baking needs!



United Methodist Women's Christmas Dinner

December 14— 6:30 p.m.

ALL women of the church are invited!

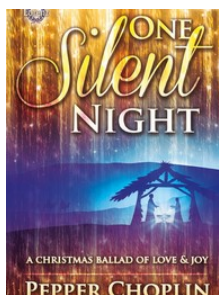
Please bring a dessert.



## Candle Burning for Missions

Give a donation to burn a candle in memory or honor.

Sign up on the UMW bulletin board by December 6.



**Chancel Choir Cantata**  
11:00 am ~ Sunday, December 20

## **One Silent Night**

By Pepper Choplin

One Silent Night long ago, a birth story began that forever changed the world.

Lying in a crude manger was a new-born babe, who would become the Source of our Christian faith and our abiding hope.

Weaving familiar carols and songs throughout original music, this timeless tale emerges in a deeply moving presentation that will lift one's faith and deepen one's understanding of the profound significance of that *One Silent Night*.

~ ~ ~ No 8:30 am Service ~ ~ ~

## Christmas Concert & Children's Nativity

December 20 at 6 pm

All are welcome to participate in the Concert!



Children—all ages are invited to take part in the Children's Christmas Play. Sign up in the Narthex.



Stay after the Christmas Play to drink hot chocolate and roast marshmallows around a bonfire!



Christmas Eve Communion  
Candlelight Service - 5:30pm



Please bring gifts of food for OCIM on the Sunday before Christmas, Christmas Eve, Sunday after Christmas and Epiphany Sunday.





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



**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
 Durham, NC 27705  
 Permit No. 5

**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)


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

**Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry-**  
**Alison DeLeo: [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)**


Address Service Requested

 Please recycle this newsletter. 

**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.*



**PGUMC**  
Mission Market



*Your Help is needed for the*  
**MISSION MARKET on December 12!**  
*All proceeds will go to our mission fund both local and global.*


\*All invited to help make Chocolate Covered Cherries at 6pm on **Thursday, December 10.**  
 \*Please donate your favorite homemade baked goods, canned goods, local produce, crafts, etc.!

*To be a part of this, please contact:*  
**Wendy at [wendy\\_anderson@dpsnc.net](mailto:wendy_anderson@dpsnc.net)**  
**or Kathryn at [missionkat@gmail.com](mailto:missionkat@gmail.com)**



**UMM's Brunswick Stew**  
**By the Quart Only**  
**Saturday, November 7**  
*Sign up in the Narthex to pre-order Brunswick Stew by the quart. (\$9)*  
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
**Your help is needed!**  
**Friday, November 6 at 6 pm**  
*The Potato Peeling Party in the multi-purpose room*  
**Saturday, November 7**  
**7:00 am - 8:00 pm**  
*Cutting meat, opening cans, etc. and stirring, quaring & selling stew.*

**Blood Drive**  
**December 6**  
**9 am — 1 pm**



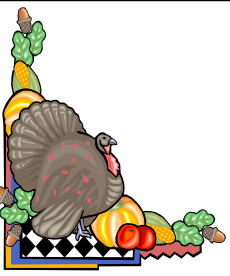
**American Red Cross**

*Sign up in the Narthex or on line to give life!*

**Eno Fire Department BBQ Dinner**  
 ~ **Saturday, November 14** ~

**BBQ plates available for eat-in or take-out**  
**11:00 am until...**





**Thanksgiving Covered-Dish Dinner**

**Pleasant Green Community Center**  
**Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm**

Everyone is invited to join in the fun, food and fellowship!

