



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org



## ***Roots & Branches***

February 2015

### **Membership Care and Accountability**

By Pastor Jesse Brunson

One of the hallmarks of John and Charles Wesley's student days at Oxford University was the establishment of the Holy Clubs. The clubs were opportunities for the students of like Christian virtues to meet and share their struggles, temptations and joys and pray for one another. These early days of the Holy Clubs would lead to small organizations such as bands, societies, and class meetings.

The rules for the bands and societies were drawn up on December 25, 1738. They agreed to meet for several expressed reasons:

1. To meet once a week, at least.
2. To come punctually at the hour appointed, without some extraordinary reason.
3. To begin exactly at the hour, with singing or prayer.
4. To speak to each other in order, freely and plainly, with the true state of our souls.
5. To share our faults we committed in thought, word, or deed and the temptations we felt, since our last meeting.
6. To end every meeting with prayer as suited to the state of each person present.

Of course this arrangement was agreed upon by each person in the club and no one felt put upon to share such deep feelings and cares.

As members of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church we are charged to pray for one another and bear each other's burden. In writing to the church the Apostle James urges the members ***to confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much.*** (James 5:16-17) Also Paul writes to the church at Galatia encouraging them ***to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*** (Galatians 6:2)

My friends, as part of the body of Christ we are called upon to help each other to be faithful to our vows of membership and to be accountable to our Christian witness. The vows we made to God standing before his people when we promised to serve God and his church with our gifts, talents, presence and witness; have not been forgotten. But many of us have not been faithful to that promise. Maybe we have wandered away to another congregation and no longer want to be affiliated with Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. Possibly we have moved away and commuting is not reasonable. Maybe we are sick and physical worship on location is not an option.

We want you to know that we love you here at Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. If you have not been attending for whatever reason; we want you to know we will be reaching out to you through our membership committee. We covenant to pray with you and help bear your burdens as we seek to serve God more faithfully in 2015.

Grace and Peace; *Jesse*



### **Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 18 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Chapel**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time when Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of 40 days of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The service helps us to realize that both sin and death have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During the service, Pastor Jesse will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins. The palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service are burned to produce ashes. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

— Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

## ***Join a Sunday School Class!***

**Clyde Walker Class:** Continues the study of the book of Revelation

**Seekers Class:** Continues the Lectionary study

**Green Room Class:** Continues Romans

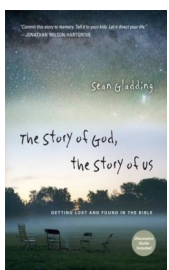
**Women's Class:** *The Best Yes* by Lysa TerKeurst the first Sunday in January.



**Are you living with the stress of an overwhelmed schedule and aching with the sadness of an underwhelmed soul?** Lysa TerKeurst is learning that there is a big difference between saying yes to everyone and saying yes to God. In *The Best Yes* she will help you:

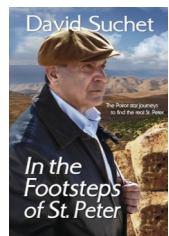
- \* Cure the disease to please with a biblical understanding of the command to love.
- \* Escape the guilt of disappointing others by learning the secret of the small no.
- \* Overcome the agony of hard choices by embracing a wisdom based decision-making process.
- \* Rise above the rush of endless demands and discover your best yes today.

**Hearts & Hands Class:** *The Story of God, the Story of Us* by Sean Gladding



"The ever present ache of exile rises above the comforting sounds of the river, as the image of the house of the LORD in ruins breaks the peace. . . . Despite the warmth of the fire, he feels a chill. He wraps his cloak around him and looks into the eager faces of his people, then closes his eyes. 'Picture this scene . . .'" Before the Bible was a book, it was flesh and blood. In this book, you can travel with Sean Gladding between the lines of the Scriptures to listen in on the conversations of people wrestling with the Story of God for the first time. You'll encounter a tale that is at once familiar and surprising. The Story of God, the Story of Us can be read alone but is especially rich shared with a group. As much as the Bible is a story about God, it's also a story about you--and all of us--as we encounter God in a new way.

**Seekers' Class:** *In the Footsteps of St. Peter*

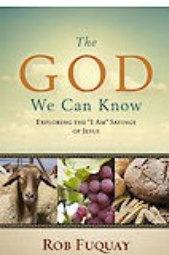


Join beloved television actor David Suchet as he traces the footsteps of one of the most important figures in early Christianity, the man we know as St. Peter.

Suchet travels from Peter's humble Galilean birthplace to Jerusalem, where a terrified Peter denies his beloved friend and teacher on the eve of the crucifixion. Encounter Peter's miraculous post-resurrection transformation, discover the role Peter played in keeping the early church from splintering, and explore the question, what happened to Peter after he mysteriously vanished from the biblical account?

## ***Lenten Studies***

**Pastor Jesse's Class and Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay



The God We Can Know is a 7week study designed to explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Perfect for Lent, this series will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?"

One by one, Jesus's statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I am." These significant, yet ordinary images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.

The DVD, filmed on location in the Holy Land, allows you to travel with Rob Fuquay and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity, and in what context he spoke each "I Am." The book, DVD/study guide combo, and online support work together to provide one of the most meaningful, transforming initiatives your church can provide for the entire congregation.

## **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 and to also have a representative on our church FOOD FOR ALL committee.***

**Sign up in the Narthex.**



# pleasant green youth group



## February Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons

Sunday School 10 am

**ELEVATE at 5:00 - 7:30 pm ~ February 8, 15 & 22**

**February 1 ~ Souper Bowl Sunday ~ Youth will collect after 8:30 & 11:00 Services**

**February 27—28 ~ World Vision 30 Hour Famine 6pm—6pm Lock-In at church**

**Upcoming Mission Trip to Louisville, KY - June 14 - 19... for current 6-12 graders**

100% free! All you need is spending money. Details forthcoming... contact Richard Cassidy.

*The members of the youth group are searching for yards to rake, windows to clean, gutters to clean, and all kinds of outdoor work. We will also do tasks around the church, if needed. Sign up on the youth web page or check out the Youth Yard Work box in the Narthex at Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. All jobs are free and done with love. We do accept donations to the Youth Group for other service projects and youth trips. Sign up:*



## **Elevate Food Drive for OCIM!**

**There is a collection box in the youth room. We love your donations!**



## **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.*

**The Pleasant Green Youth have raised \$24,900 for 30 Hour Famine from 2003—2014!**

***Please join with the youth in this great cause.  
Let's help make the world different!***

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.

## **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.



***On February 1, Souper Bowl Sunday, our youth will be collecting donations (in soup pots) at the sanctuary doors after worship. All in attendance are encouraged to drop \$1 (or more) in the pot on their way out. You may also bring food for OCIM food cart.***

Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.8 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. That's a total of more than \$90 million collected since the movement began in 1990! This year's goal is to empower 275,000 young people to collect \$11 million for charities in their communities. Help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in America!



## **Mission / Vision Statement**

**Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.**



From the Prayer Team...



### Love in Our Hearts for All who are Serving Pleasant Green

As we approach Valentine's Day, we often think of love, affection, and relationship between two people who care deeply for each other. This caring may be between a husband and wife; or flow between a father and his son, a sister and sister; a friend and friend. But there is another way to look at love. Many in our church show their love, affection, and relationship with Jesus and us through their service. All we have to do is look at the 2014 and 2015 Connectional Table rosters to know that there are too many people to count! Our church family brothers and sisters give their time, energy, inspiration and love through serving as our Pastor, leading the Connectional Table, leading and serving on committees, greeting us on Sunday mornings, keeping the rose garden beautiful, fixing our water supply, opening up the church when we need it, preaching, teaching, looking after children, keeping our finances straight, keeping Pleasant Green straight on The Way, making sure we have working audio-visual equipment, representing us in the District and Conference, preparing the altar, singing in the choir, playing the organ, playing in the band, supporting our mission work, going on missions, developing fund-raisers, providing food for the needy, visiting those who are sick and lonely, praying....you get the picture.

This is agape love; shown through living the life of a Disciple, whether or not that is the intent. God so loves us and has filled his servants' hearts with this love; love that is shared through service to Pleasant Green and our ministries here.

*Oh, Heavenly Father, we are SO glad that you love us! Thank you for showing us your love through abundant blessings. We are grateful for the love you have placed in each of our hearts; so that we may be a blessing to others, as you bless us. Thank you for nudging us to show your love in so many ways here at Pleasant Green. We have faith and trust that you will continue to grow our love for you, for each other, and the community in the weeks and years to come. We know through your promises that all we need to do is ask for how you want us to show that love through your ministries and you will answer. We praise you for your wondrous works here at Pleasant green; and look with excited hope to the future. Amen.*

### **February Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The February meeting date falls on Ash Wednesday; with our church service starting at 7:00 pm. Consequently, the Prayer Ministry Team will start its meeting earlier than usual on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet from 6:00 to 6:50. Come join us as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten Season through prayer; anticipating Jesus' ultimate display of love through his sacrifice on the cross.

### **Kid's Connect**

**Saturday, March 21**

**Kids Day at the Food Bank**

**9am-1:30pm**



- During Kids Day, volunteers will tour the distribution center and participate in an age-appropriate food sorting project. Kids Day is a great opportunity for families and groups of all sizes!

**PGUMC Kid's  
Worship  
Volunteers Are  
Needed!**



**Sign up in the Narthex.**

*from the Eleanor Walker Circle...*

### **Backpack Ministry**



Last fall the family with 7 children, that we had been supporting moved out of Orange County. We were assigned another family in need. The head of this family is a single Dad, who works in a fast food restaurant in Hillsborough, and has 6 children. A girl 5 years old, a boy 7 years old, 2 boys in middle school ages 12 and 14, and 2 girls in high school ages 15 and 17. There are many ways to support our backpack family. Prayers, monetary gifts designated for the backpack program, gift cards for milk and juice from Food Lion or Walmart and food. Enough food for the weekend is delivered every Thursday. 2 Breakfasts - Cereal, breakfast bars, pop tarts, grits or oatmeal (we have plenty of oatmeal right now). 2 Lunches - Peanut butter and jelly, canned pasta like beefaroni, soup and crackers, chili, etc. 2 Dinners - Canned chicken, rice mixture, tuna and tuna helper, macaroni and cheese, ham, vegetables, Chicken and dumplings, spaghetti & sauce, beef stew, etc. Snacks - Rice crispie treats, granola bars, fruit snacks, ramen noodles, pudding, gelatin, fruit, cookies, etc.

**Check out the Backpack cart in the Narthex loaded with food for the weekend!**

**Thank you for your continued support in this most important ministry.**

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*  
Matthew 25:40

## 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 gift reminds them that they are loved. The butterflies remind them of resurrection in Christ. We will continue this wonderful ministry on Saturday, February 21 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall! We will need hands to measure, cut, pin and sew. All are invited to participate!

Below is a list of items needed on February 21.

If you plan to bring any of the items below please email Gloria Perry at [jperryiii@frontier.com](mailto:jperryiii@frontier.com) or call 919-471-0566.

~ Sewing Machines with white cotton thread- 3 or 4

~ Irons-2 at least one without steam

~ Ironing boards - 2 / Straight pins / Scissors

~ Cutting Boards with measurements

(the heavy plastic-type work best)-3 or 4

~ Rotary cutters-3 or 4 / Tape measures

*Work stations will set up on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Each station will have printed instructions. All levels of skill will be needed, even if you don't use a sewing machine, there will be tasks for you.*

**2015**

**UMW**

**Officers**

Ceil Matthews—President  
Gloria Perry—Vice President  
Susan Adams—Secretary  
Evelyn Morris—Treasurer



### *All Women are invited to join a UMW circle.*

#### **Eleanor Walker Circle - 1st Monday at 7:30 pm**

*Call Mary Ann Hamm at 381-6473*

#### **Virgie Riley Circle**

*Call Charlotte Overaker 383-2775*

#### **The Circle of Faith**

*Call Martha Walker at 383-6047  
or George Ann McCay at 477-9692*

## Many Thanks To...



### **Jeff & Vic Witt**

**for repairing the  
termite damage to the  
end of the building  
downstairs.**

### **Gary Burke & Matt Matthews**

**for repairing &  
installing lights and  
replacing light bulbs.**



## Corporate Prayer

Read Acts 12:1-17

How amazing is corporate prayer? Peter was thrown in prison for being a part of the way (a believer of Christ). John had just been killed. King Herod made sure Peter wouldn't escape and placed him in prison under heavy guard and chains. But an angel appeared and loosed the chains that bound him. Then the angel instructed him to get up and he escaped without a scratch. Next, Peter appears at the door of Mary's home, where they (the church) were praying for Peter's deliverance.

We must be of one mind and believe The Lord will deliver, when we pray. The Lord is able to loose any chains that bind, us like sickness/disease, unhealthy relationships, and bad bosses, etc. In other words, set the captive free. Never under estimate what God can do, when we make our request known to God through prayer as the body of Christ. Your deliverance may occur in the midst of prayer. Don't underestimate corporate prayer. Do you have any prayer requests today?

*Andrea Harris*

## Pleasant Green United Methodist Women ~ Seven Star Unit for 2014

2014 was a busy year for Pleasant Green's UMW mission activity. Because of the great success of our major fundraisers, we were able meet our pledge to World Wide Missions of \$4,800 through the Corridor District UMW. An additional \$825 was sent to the District for other special mission giving. Our UMW generously gave another \$7,122 in support of mission ministries at Pleasant Green and the surrounding community. Some of these include PGUMC's Afterschool Scholarships, PGUMC's Graduates' Scholarship Gifts, El Salvador Mission Trip, UMYF Mission Trip, Methodist Home for Children, Eno Fire Department, Central Elementary's Backpack Ministry, Urban Ministries, OCIM, and PGUMC's VBS, Upper Room Devotionals and the new Fellowship Hall projector.

We are proud to announce that we achieved a Seven Star Unit status for 2014 and even prouder that one of our members also achieved a Seven Star Member status. Congratulations to Ceil Matthews for this honor.

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**PGUMC Summer Camp**  
**June 22—August 7**

**Vacation Bible School**      **Musical Week**  
**July 13—17**                      **July 27—31**

**Pleasant Green Play Group**



Hannah & Harper, daughters of  
 Carlisle Marbrey Upchurch &  
 Daisy, daughter of Anna LaBarre

Pleasant Green is now  
 hosting a toddler play  
 group (and Mommy  
 conversation time)! The  
 group is meeting on  
 Wednesdays, 9:45 -  
 11:00 a.m. ... or until  
 lunchtime!

For more information,  
 please contact  
 Anna LaBarre  
 (919) 619-4652 or  
[annalabarre@gmail.com](mailto:annalabarre@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**A Walk for Hunger ~ April 26**



**El Salvador**  
**2015 Mission Trip**



Last year's El Salvador Mission Team performed construction, held Bible School and distributed 60 bags of food. The construction work was on a new church that El Salvador Methodist Conference is building. Bible School was held in a Community Center in the area where the church is being built. We averaged 60 children a day. One day we had 80 children. Because of your support, we were able to provide the funds to send one child to kindergarten.

None of this would have been possible without the prayers and support of the members of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. The people of Ahuachapán and your El Salvador Mission Team Thank You for your continued prayers and support. We look forward to our 2015 Mission Trip. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jim Perry or Kathryn Dempsey ([jperryiii@frontier.com](mailto:jperryiii@frontier.com)/ [missionkat@gmail.com](mailto:missionkat@gmail.com)).

**Pleasant Green UMC Achieves Rainbow Covenant Status for 2014**

The North Carolina United Methodist Conference recognizes its member churches that go the "extra mile" by giving to "Advance Special" areas of missions. The first requirement for being a Rainbow Covenant Church is to go the "first mile" by paying its apportionments in full. The other requirement is to make contributions to all five lanes of missions. The congregation of Pleasant Green has met both requirements for 2014 Rainbow Covenant Status. We achieved the "first mile of giving" by paying, in full, our NC Conference Connectional Offerings totaling \$41,299. The "second mile" was achieved by participating in all five lanes of missions giving. Below is a summary of the \$2,040 in additional gifts sent to the NC Conference Treasurer.

LANE 1 – PERSONS IN MISSION - Mary Zigbue

LANE 2 – CONFERENCE ADVANCE MISSIONS

~ NC Storms Disaster Response

~ Methodist Retirement Homes

~ Methodist Home for Children

LANE 3 – NATIONAL MISSIONS

~ Society of St. Andrew

LANE 4 – WORLD MISSIONS ~ Moscow Seminary

LANE 5 – UMCOR ~ International Disaster Response

~ Liberia

*For more information concerning the NC Conference mission endeavors and the Rainbow Covenant, go to [www.nccmission.org](http://www.nccmission.org) and click RAINBOW COVENANT.*

**News from Mary Zigbue,  
 Global Ministries Missionary**

Warm greetings from Liberia, where I arrived on November 7. I am humbled to be your missionary assigned to serve in a special six-month role to assist the UMC of Liberia Ebola response effort. Though diagnoses of Ebola continue daily, the national health authorities note a substantial decrease in its spread and prevalence.

**Methodist Home  
 for Children Sunday Offering  
 February 15th**

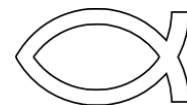


***Help make a difference in the world...one child at a time. Your special offering will help clothe, feed and provide for children in our care as well as provide support to our foster and adoptive parents who offer safe and loving homes for children all over NC. Make checks payable to PGUMC.***





## Chrismon Workshops



Two Chrismon workshops are planned at Pleasant Green on  
Saturdays, January 31 and February 7 from 9am - 12pm  
Andrea Lewis will be here to guide us in making beautiful new Chrismons for our  
2015 Chrismon Tree. Chrismon is the compound of Christ and monogram.

You may sign up in the Narthex or call the church office.

### 2015 Moravian Love Feast



#### Special Music

Julie Glaub & Mark Weems  
Bailey Anderson



#### Servers

Al & Wanda Edens,  
John & Kathy  
DuLaney, Gretchen  
Hutt & Mike Martin,  
Susan Burke,  
Mary Ann Hamm  
Buns  
Becky Brogden  
Coffee  
George Ann McCay



### *Pleasant Green Mail...*



I would like to thank my Pleasant Green Church Family for all the prayers, condolences and support in the passing of my son, John. I know I am blessed to belong to this group of people.

*Love, Mary Westmoreland*

### ***Your Help is Needed!***



#### **Dumpling Dough Rolling**

**Sunday, February 22**  
***After the 11:00 Service***  
***~ bring a sandwich***  
***and help make dough***

**Saturday, February 28**  
***Youth group***

**Monday, March 2**  
***7 pm—Eleanor Walker Circle***

**Monday, March 3**  
***6:30 pm***

***All are welcome!***

***All  
invited!  
  
Bring a  
rolling  
pin &  
join the  
fun!***

### **Tom Carr's GRIT Hall of Fame**

***The Eighth Annual Induction Ceremony***

***Pleasant Green UMC***

***February 24 at 7:00 pm***

***Got Grit?***



***G - Getting Along With Others  
R - Responsibility I - Integrity T - Tenacity***

Tom Carr is an author, a marathon runner and retired Cameron Park Elementary School Counselor. His goal continues to be a preventive one: to create and implement programs that steer kids toward the kind of behavior and choices that would help them succeed. He founded the Got Grit? organization to honor hardworking students. Teachers nominate students from 3rd -12th grades for a variety of reasons: a sudden breakthrough in math after years of struggling, a gesture of kindness, completing a grade despite health problems, putting in a serious effort every day at practice, even if the student is not a star athlete. Tom says, "I tell them you can't change other people, but you can change yourself. And when you change, they change."

*\* The PG Summer Campers love Mr. Carr and have looked forward to his coming each summer for the past 20 years.*



Pleasant Green United Methodist Church  
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**Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339**

**Church E-mail:** [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com)

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**COMING IN MARCH!**



**PINE STRAW SALE**

2015 Pleasant Green UMM  
Building & Grounds Fundraiser

**BRUNSWICK STEW & CHICKEN DUMPLINGS DINNER**

**Saturday, March 7 4—7 pm at Pleasant Green UMC**

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

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



**Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 pm**

**GENEALOGY PRESENTATION**

Are you curious about your Family Tree?

*Invite friends & family to a free presentation:*

**Genealogy 101: Having Fun with Online Research**

*Dave Strausfeld, a professional family historian, will give a slide presentation demonstrating how searches are done on websites such as Ancestry.com, and he will also explain basic principles of genealogy. By the end of the 40-minute presentation, you will be able to log onto your computer and find some information about your family history that you did not know before.*

**[www.familyhistoryscribe.com](http://www.familyhistoryscribe.com)**

**FREE TAX HELP**

**February 2—April 15**

**[www.orangecountyvita.org](http://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 moder-  
ate income. Free tax prepara-  
tion and e-filing are provided  
by trained IRS-certified tax  
volunteers.*