



Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

PleasantGreenUMC.org



Roots & Branches

April 2015

Good News From The Graveyard

by Pastor Jesse Brunson

When our children were in middle school, they were really having a tough time with their math and Doris found a retired masters degree math teacher to work with them. He felt that he could help children that needed extra help, so he arranged his time to work with a select number of students. We were blessed that he chose to work with our children, because he was an outstanding teacher.

However, he had an interesting sense of humor. One day he was taking Wayne and Margaret to get some ice cream and he asked them, as he drove pass a graveyard, “how many dead people do you think are in that graveyard?” Now being a math teacher they felt this was a math question and they began to make some reasonable answers. And he said no, that is the wrong answer. Wayne is that your final answer, Margaret is that your final answer? Then he said “all of the people in the grave yard are dead.”

Some would suggest to us that Jesus was not really dead, but the scripture reminds us that he gave up the ghost. It is recorded in the scripture that he received the sponge of wine vinegar and spoke the words, “it is finished” and bowed his head and gave up the ghost. In using the word ghost, Jesus was saying in the Greek and Aramaic language, “I am releasing my wind, the breath of God.”

We can conclude that at this moment Jesus was giving up that part of himself that is non-physical, his inner being. In other words, he was allowing his physical body to die. He was giving up his life and commending his spirit into the care of God.

In the worship Service of Death and Resurrection, these words are recorded “into your hands, O merciful Savior we commend your servant.” It is this understanding of the soul and the spirit that we as Christians believe. We believe that our spirit returns to God that gave it. With Jesus it was his spirit that returned to God, and his body was entombed in the grave. When the women went to the grave that day he, was not there.

Surely it was a burden for the women to arise that morning and go anoint his body. They had witnessed his brutal execution and now many that followed him were hiding out in fear they might be next. But those brave women got up before day and went with a spirit of devotion to anoint his body for the burial.

John tells us that Mary Magdalene had gone there to anoint his body and noticed that the stone had been rolled away. Mary came and told Simon Peter and John, and they started racing towards the grave. This was good news because, as they ran towards the grave, they remembered His words; “destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” They thought about that statement and asked themselves the question “could it be that Jesus is still alive?” Or better still “is it possible that Jesus has arisen from the dead just like he said he would?” Yes, it is good news from the grave.

This life is brief and full of sorrows. And if our existence ends with the grave, what is the use? This is what Paul meant when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:19, “If in this life we have no hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” But the hope that Jesus gives goes beyond the grave, and His resurrection is the proof of it.

This is good news my brothers and sisters. Yes, there is hope from the graveyard; and there is hope for all who are troubled with life. We can say Hallelujah Christ is raised.

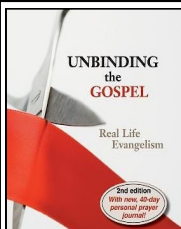
The hymn, “Up from the Grave He Arose” expresses it well and offers good news.

“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.”

Blessings; Jesse



Pleasant Green is *Unbinding the Gospel!*

The theme of the first 2015 Connectional Table meeting on January 24th, was "Connecting in Ministry". At this meeting, Pastor Brunson brought *Unbinding the Gospel* to the group, and we decided to embark on an 8-week study, to learn how to better connect with one another (as members of PGUMC), how to better connect with the community and how to better reach those who do not yet know Jesus Christ. We are really talking about effective "faith sharing" or "evangelism".

When and Where: We will continue to meet in small group discussions through April 23.

**Sundays: 9:45 am ~ Chapel Tuesdays: 6:30 pm ~ Parlor
Thursdays: 10:00 am ~ Parlor**

Please mark your calendars for April 26th.

We will meet as a whole group on April 26th after the 11:00 a.m. service for a covered dish lunch to discuss our small group findings and talk about moving forward, implementing the strategies in the book.

Please bring a dish to share.

Cross in the graveyard falls...



The cross still stands in the February 26 snow fall.



Fundraisers for the El Salvador Mission Trip ~ July 22 - 30 ~



Change for Christ

Take a bottle to collect your spare change for the next several months.

Return the bottle to us when it gets full.
Your spare change can make a BIG difference!

2015 I ♥ EL SALVADOR
Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

The El Salvador Mission Team



appreciates your generosity! Please take an envelope from the tree in the Narthex, donate the amount on the envelope and place in the offering plate.



~~~~~  
**Saturday, April 18 ~ BBQ Chicken Dinner**  
**(chicken half, potatoes, green beans & bread)**

**Tickets will be on sale 3/29—4/13**

**take-out only - 4:00pm pick-up**

**For more information contact:**

**Jim Perry [jperryiii@frontier.com](mailto:jperryiii@frontier.com)**

**Kathryn Dempsey: [missionkat@gmail.com](mailto:missionkat@gmail.com)**

## April 25—World Malaria Day

So, what exactly are we fighting?

**Malaria** is caused by a parasite, which is transmitted through the bite of mosquitos. This deadly pest flies and feeds at night (which is why bed nets are an effective prevention tool).

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA** is an effort of the people of The United Methodist Church. Please give—  
Advance Special # 3021190

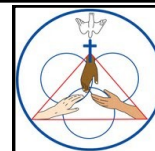


## Robeson County Mission Trip

If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to Robeson County, please attend a meeting in the parlor on Sunday, April 12 following the 11 am Service.

*If you have questions please contact Kathryn Dempsey at [missionkat@gmail.com](mailto:missionkat@gmail.com) or 919-644-2695.*

The Robeson County Church and Community Center is God's people at work together, reaching out in love to meet our neighbors' needs.





**From the PGUMC Board of Trustees...**

Dear Congregation,

This is a follow up from the last communication letter concerning the mold issue in the basement areas. There are two issues that need to be addressed, water intrusion from the foundation (outside) and the condensation issue with the air handling units (inside). The professional remediation team has made considerable progress towards eradicating the mold issues. The remediation process and the clarification testing should be finished by the 31st of March. Once, the remediation team is finished, we can continue towards completion of the basement areas.

The foundation (outside) restoration will begin soon after.

Thank you for your patience!

Thanks to all the men who came and helped remove the shrubbery at the back of the church in preparation for repairing the foundation to correct the water intrusion.



**April Showers**

**All Invited!**

**Sunday, April 12**

**3:00 - 4:30pm**

**Wedding Shower  
Heather Newberry  
& Joel Leonard**



**Sunday, April 19**

**3:00 - 4:30pm**

**Wedding Shower  
Lorianna Whitford  
& Zach Hofns**

*from SPRC...*

**Education & Youth Minister  
Coordinator**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is seeking applications for the position of Education and Youth Ministry Coordinator. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Van McCay (SPRC Chair) at [vmccay@nc.rr.com](mailto:vmccay@nc.rr.com) or Dr. Jesse Brunson at [drjbrunson@aol.com](mailto:drjbrunson@aol.com)

**Orange Congregations In Mission  
Did You Know?**



**Samaritan Relief Ministry**

Through its Samaritan Relief Ministry, OCIM provides emergency food, clothes, shelter and financial assistance for utilities, rent and medication to the citizens of northern Orange County.

In 2014, the Samaritan Relief Ministry:

Assisted 10,948 individuals / Served 4,379 households  
Served 4,568 children / Served 526 new households  
Served 288 individuals ages 65 and over  
Helped 8,946 individuals for food only  
Helped 266 households with rent and utilities

**A Walk  
for  
Hunger  
April 26**



**Connect Food Bank Day ~ April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**To help all grow in  
knowing and loving God."**

**9:00 - Bible Story**

**9:25 - Board Church Van for Food Bank**

**10-12:00 - Kid's Day at Food Bank\***

**12:05 - Board van for return trip**

**12:30 - 1:15 - Lunch at PGUMC**

-Sub sandwich bar / Fruits & Veggies

**1:30 - Parent pick-up**

**\* CLOSED-TOED shoes required/ bring at least 2 cans of food**



***Children will experience service  
in the community.***

Our goal is to incorporate fun faith-based activities with service to our community. For this event, we will visit the Durham Food Bank. This is a wonderful way for them to learn about the Food Bank and the issue of hunger in our community.

***Children will learn to interact with others.***

During our visit, the children will tour the Food Bank and participate in an age-appropriate food sorting project. They will work with others to help re-package bulk food items into family-size portions.

***Parents will get a few hours of free time!***

Enjoy a quiet morning, take a nap, or just relax while we have your children!!





Brunswick  
Stew  
&  
Chicken  
Dumpling  
Dinner



Thanks to all  
who helped make  
this a great time  
of fellowship  
and a successful  
UMW fundraiser  
for MISSIONS!







## Good Friday and Easter

Let us pray for open hearts, minds and souls for each of us at Pleasant Green and for neighbors in our community in relation to these life-changing events:

*Our Most Precious and Holy God, we are so grateful that you gave us your Son to cover our sins and show us the Way so that we may have a closer relationship with you. Help us accept the deep sacrifice that Jesus made for us on that Friday so long ago. If it were not for His willingness to give His life, we would not know You as we do today. Thank you for bringing Jesus to life, as a living, compassionate, loving being, so that we may have a pure example of a life that is pleasing to you. Help us to celebrate His life with joy and reverence, not only on Easter Morning, but every day. And, help us to share that joy with our friends, families and neighbors, so that they also may receive your blessings and know who gives them. Let these requests be in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## **April Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The April meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Come join us as we prepare our hearts for Jesus' final sacrifice on Good Friday and the joy of Easter through prayer. We are also planning an exciting workshop on April 18th and other activities to strengthen our prayer lives.



### **PRAYER WORKSHOP AT PGUMC!**

**A prayer and living-focused workshop with Steve Taylor, Outreach Team Coordinator, NC Conference, United Methodist Church**

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

**8:30 am - 9:00 am Sign in / Breakfast**

**9:00 am - 2:00 pm Program**

***Hosted by the Prayer Ministry***

**All who are interested in prayer and its impact on living are welcome!**

**For more information, contact Gail Pruett, [pruettg@frontier.com](mailto:pruettg@frontier.com) or 919-696-7283**

Dear friends at Pleasant Green,



Kathy and I are very grateful for the outpouring of sympathy during our time of grief. My brother's passing was unexpected even though he had been in a nursing home for some time. Our drive to Dallas was uneventful, and the funeral was a beautiful celebration of my brother's life. Thank you for your thoughts, your cards, and your prayers.

*John and Kathy DuLaney*

Dear Pleasant Green,

Our family would like to thank Pleasant Green for all the support and prayers we have received the past 3 years. We have been blessed by many heartfelt goodies boxes, a hospice pillowcase, flowers, prayer letters, and mostly donations to Paralyzed Veterans of American in memory of Steve Minas. We also offer our thanks to Mindy Walker for her hard work and dedication to providing funding for paralyzed veterans.

My father was a man of strong faith and he would want Pleasant Green to continue to serve God by reaching out to help others. We can honor his memory and honor God by continuing our faithful service.

**Many thanks from the Steve Minas family in Boerne, Texas**

*George Ann McCay*

**The men delivered Pine Straw on March 21st.**

**To order Pine Straw, call the church office 919-383-5764.**



# pleasant green youth group



## April Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons

Sunday School 10 am



**ELEVATE at 5:00 - 7:30 pm ~ April 12, 19, 26**

**Upcoming Mission Trip to Birmingham, AL - 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: [pleasantgreenyouthyardwork.weebly.com](http://pleasantgreenyouthyardwork.weebly.com)



**Elevate Food Drive for OCIM!**

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

Thanks to the youth for their help with the Brunswick Stew Dinner!

*Rolling  
Dumplings  
can be fun!*



Youth Projects during 30 Hour Famine



Shopping for OCIM Food Pantry in honor of Max Mitchell



Stuffing Easter Eggs





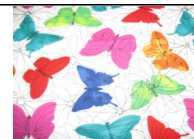


Rachel Deboney Benton and daughter, Eliza Jane, stopped by PGUMC for a visit on March 9th. Jeremy is Chaplain at ECU and was on a mission trip. Rachel works with the youth at First Presbyterian Church in Kinston.

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

### Common Thread Ministry

30 Pillow Cases were dedicated at worship!



Pleasant Green is now hosting a **toddler play group** (and Mommy conversation time)! The group is meeting on **Wednesdays, 9:45 - 11:00 am** ... or until lunchtime! For more information, please contact Anna LaBarre (919) 619-4652 or [annalabarre@gmail.com](mailto:annalabarre@gmail.com)



### Hillsborough Relay for Life—May 1

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer and remember loved ones lost. Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer in 1985 into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the U S, along with additional communities in 20 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon. The Orange County Relay for Life will be at the Efland Ruritan Club.(3106 Highway 70 West)

#### Wayne Leonard's link to donate:

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/parkpacers>

#### Pleasant Green Youth Team's link to donate:

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/umc>

Please support one of these teams by:

(1) Joining: It costs nothing to register. Being part of a team shows your support to this great cause that affects everyone in one way or another. Survivors and caregivers especially are encouraged to join and be a part of this event.

(2) Sponsoring a team member. If you'd rather not join, you can sponsor someone who is a team member. Each donation gets the team closer to its fundraising goal.

(3) Dedicating a personalized luminaria in honor, memory, or support of a loved one. You can assign your donation dollars to a team or participant. Forms are online and in the Narthex.

This year's Relay for Life is Friday, May, 1 at the Efland Ruritan Club. Opening ceremony is at 6:00.

***There will be lots of entertainment including Frankie Faucet and the Drips.***



### Pleasant Green Youth raise \$4500 for 30 Hour Famine!

*The youth ended their fundraising time by going hungry themselves for 30 hours while participating in service projects for the church and buying food for OCIM.*

**Fourteen youth along with Richard & Betsy Cassidy participated in 30 Hour Famine.**





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

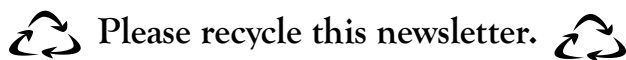
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Durham, NC 27705  
Permit No. 5

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

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

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

Address Service Requested



**BRUNSWICK STEW**  
still available!  
\$9 per quart

**FREE TAX HELP**  
Through April 15  
[www.orangecountyvita.org](http://www.orangecountyvita.org)  
*Service provided by trained  
IRS-certified tax volunteers.*

**Mark Your Calendar !**  
**PGUMC SUMMER CAMP**

**June 22 - August 7**

**7:30 am - 5:45 pm**

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

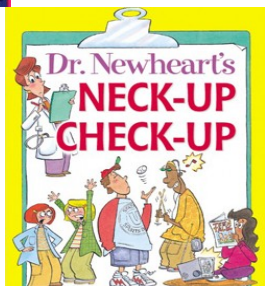


**V B S**

**July 13 - 17**

**Musical**

**July 27 - 31**



**PINE STRAW SALE**

**\$5.50 per bale**

**Pine Straw available for pick-up  
at church or delivery**

*Order forms are available at church or call 919-383-5764.*



***Easter Sunday at Pleasant Green***

**9:30 — 10:45 am**

***Eggstravaganza***

***Food & Fun!  
Crafts &  
Activities!***

***Hear the  
Easter  
Story!***

***Easter Egg  
Hunt!***

***bring your  
basket!***

