



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org



## ***Roots & Branches***

**May 2015**

### **Pentecost: A Season of Excitement!**

Dr. Jesse Brunson

The disciples were all together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound like that of a rushing mighty wind. Accompanying this wind were tongues of fire. Those gathered had these firey tongues rest upon them.

This event was the day that God empowered the church to declare the gospel to all men. These tongues moved the worshippers to express their devotion to God in continuous praise. One could say this season the church celebrates as Pentecost is characterized by great joy and excitement. This year we will celebrate The Day of Pentecost on the Fourth Sunday of May.

There is another season which is symbolic of excitement and joy; Summer. Summer is a season of the calendar year which is observed with vacations, family reunions, cookouts, and just good outdoors fun and excitement.

Surely we cannot compare Pentecost excitement with the excitement of the summer season fun. Yet we can, as God's people, understand that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and all those who dwell within it. If this is true, then we can rejoice in God's creation, and celebrate with joy the occasions when we get together with family and friends.

As we plan for our vacations, family reunions, vacation bible school, and neighborhood cookouts, let us make sure we rejoice in the goodness of the Lord and praise him for empowering the church to be the church.

We can use God's powerful spirit to share with those family and friends that do not know him, rather than just celebrate his goodness within the confines of a church building. Let us do as the hymn writer declares "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine...everywhere I go."

*Happy Pentecost. Praise the Lord! Pastor Jesse*

### **Did you know that the church has a birthday?**

For forty days after Easter, Jesus appeared to the disciples to explain his death and resurrection. Then Jesus ascended to heaven. But before he went, he told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them with power from heaven. For the next nine days the disciples prayed and on the tenth day, the Holy Spirit arrived in the form of a powerful wind that filled the whole house. Then, for a moment, separate little tongues of fire were seen above everyone's head. They felt the warmth and life that Jesus had always brought to them and they knew that the Holy Spirit had come to live in them forever. They were bursting with joy and went outside to tell others of their experience. On this day the church was born. Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter.



## ***Congratulations to our Graduates!***

### **High School**

**Megan Stocking**

### **College**

**Evan Lang**

**Davis Leonard**

**Christopher Martin**

**Callie Totten**

*Graduate Luncheon TBA*



## **Mother's Day Offering for United Methodist Retirement Homes**

*Croasdaile—Durham Cypress Glen—Greenville*

*Wesley Pines—Lumberton Quail Haven—Pinehurst*

UMRH provides financial aid to residents who no longer have the resources to fully pay for the services and care provided to them. In order to gain a better understanding of this ministry, consider one resident recipient of benevolence support whom we will call Mary Jane. She has a medical condition that has made her disabled and unable to care for herself. She has lived in a room at one of the UMRH healthcare centers for more than twenty-three years. Although Mary Jane has no biological family, she does have a very close family who love her dearly. That family is the staff of the healthcare center. Her small income and UMRH benevolence support cover the cost of her care.

## **Summer Browning 2015 Scholarships**



In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, other family members and friends. Scholarships are offered to entering students and students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a four-year college or university.

Factors considered: Church membership & service ~ Academic Record ~ Community Service ~ Need

***Applications are available in the Church Office, please return by May 30.***



## **You Are Invited!**



**Sunday, May 3 ~ Celebration of Jerry Riley's  
90th Birthday following the 11 am Service**

**Friday, May 8 ~ Fundraiser at PG Community Center  
6:30 pm - BBQ Dinner by Billy Walker  
Entertainment by the Thursday Night Band**

**Sunday, May 10 ~ Reception for our Duke Divinity  
School Intern, Josiah Daniels following the 11 am Service**

## **Mark Your Calendar !**

### **PGUMC SUMMER CAMP**

**June 22 - August 7**

**7:30 am - 5:45 pm for rising 1st graders & up**

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

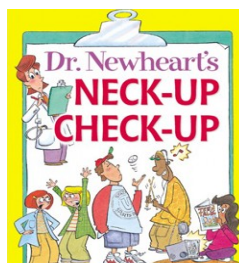


### **V B S**

**July 13 - 17**

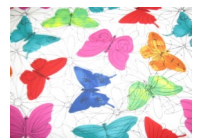
### **Musical**

**July 27 - 31**



## ***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, May 9 at 9am**.*

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

# pleasant green youth group



## May Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons

Sunday School 10 am

**ELEVATE at 5:00 - 7:30 pm ~ May 3, 10, 17, 31**

**May 1 - 2 ~ Relay for Life! ~ Give for the American Cancer Society**

After Relay for Life participation, the youth will go to Cassidy's house for a sleepover, and then wrap up with breakfast at Elmo's Dinner

### Youth Announcements

**May 10 is Youth Sunday!**

**Come support our youth as they lead the 11:00 am Worship!**

**The youth will provide dinner for their mothers at 6:15 pm.**

*Pass It On (UMH # 572)*

What a wondrous time is spring,  
when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing,  
the flowers start their blooming.

That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;  
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

*by Kurt Kaiser 1969*

**Pleasant Green Youth Mission Trip to Birmingham, AL - June 14 - 19...**



## 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 W) Opening ceremony is at 6:00pm.

**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.

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



## **Praise the Lord!**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live I will praise the Lord;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Psalm 146: 1-2.

There is a small 93 page book called *Wonderful Names of Our Wonderful Lord*, printed in 2002 by Barbour Publishing. This gem was written by Charles E. Hurlburt and T.C. Horton. It is an abridged version of a larger volume. In it, there are different names and phrases for God that can stir our imagination and wonder: My Glory and The Lifter Up of My Head (Psalm 3:3); The Light of the Morning (2 Samuel 23:4); The Rock of My Salvation (2 Samuel 22:47); and Our Lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22) are just a few.

Usually, this article focuses on a need or group of people to pray for. We intercede for those who find it difficult to pray for themselves. While we continue to have an abundance of needs, as individuals and as a church, that deserve to be lifted to God, let us do that in our meetings and church services this month. For now, let us praise the God who answers our prayers. He truly has wonderful names that signify His mighty power, compassion and glory. Let us raise our voices in praise!

*Oh, Great God of our lives, you are our creator and sustainer. You are our rock, our solid foundation. You are our path and our way. You lift up our heads, our hearts and our souls. You light up our darkness so that there is morning, even in the midst of mourning. You are the source of great comfort and peace. You are our strength and hope. You are our commander, leader and king. You are our fire and our refiner. You purify us. You heal us. You refresh us. As you are our potter, let us be your clay. As you shape us to be the people you want us to be, let us continuously exalt you and put you above all else. We pray these praises, to your honor and glory, in the name of your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

### **May Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The May meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 20th<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We have much to be thankful for as God answers our prayers and looks after those we lift up to Him.

### ***Pleasant Green Mail...***



Dear Pleasant Green Family,

We have been attending Pleasant Green Church since Sandy, Billy and I moved here in 1992. I have seen the love and kindness our Church family has shown to one another and I am always in awe of the love that we all share. When I fell in December and was laid up for so long, I was on the receiving end of your kindness. There really are no words to describe how grateful I am for the outpouring of love I received and how secure I felt and still feel with such a wonderful family around me. All of you offering to help, wanting to cook, cart me around, and even delivering books to keep me entertained. I will never forget all of the prayers, encouragement, and even a strong word once in a while to "Pull Yourself Up and Get Going." I also know now what it's like to be discouraged and get a prayer letter in the mail. It made my whole day! I hope I can be as kind and loving to all of you as you have been to me. Simply saying thank you just doesn't get it here. So I will say, "All my best and heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of you for all you do and all you are".

Yours in Christ, *Mike Quinn*

To My Pleasant Green Family,

Thank you all for the prayers, cards and calls following my recent surgery. I felt your love and support before surgery and now as I recover. TC and I feel so blessed by having such a loving church family. *Susan Adams*

Dear Pleasant Green Church Family,

My Family and I would like to thank you for the many acts of kindness shown during my illness and surgery. The calls, cards, food, visits and prayers were all deeply appreciated. This support truly made a heavy load lighter. Looking forward to soon being back in church.

*In Christian love, Jean Nichols*

Dear Pleasant Green Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts. Thanks for all the meals that were prepared and brought to me, they were all great.

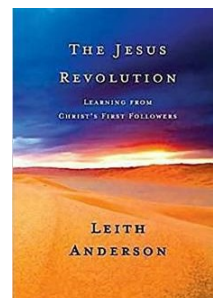
*Garry Wilson*



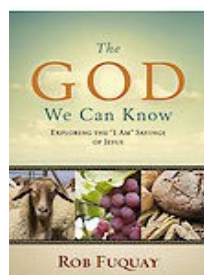
## Join a Sunday School Class!

### **Clyde Walker Class: *The Jesus Revolution: Learning from Christ's First Followers* - Leith Anderson**

The story of Jesus cannot be contained in a history of 33 years on an ancient strip of land along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. The group of 120 followers Jesus empowered transformed the world with the good news of redemption and reconciliation he preached. In this journey through the book of Acts, discover the leaps of faith taken by the early church to spread the news of the miracles they'd witnessed and the message they'd received. Their story carries us—his current followers—into our future. Their devotion and perseverance challenges us to step out in faith and make a difference in Jesus' name. We can experience Jesus' presence and power as the early church did, and be part of the ongoing movement to change the world with his revolutionary message.



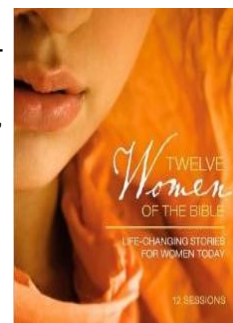
### **Pastor Jesse's Class: *The God We Can Know* - Rob Fuquay**



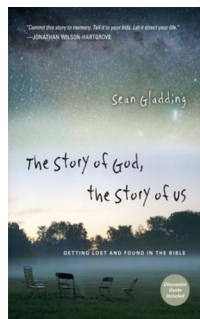
The God We Can Know is designed to explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Perfect for Lent, this series will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?" One by one, Jesus's statements grab our imagination, reveal 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, in the Holy Land, allows you to see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity.

### **Women's Class: *Twelve Women of the Bible* - Lysa TerKuerst**

This 12-session small group Bible study looks at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. Each session focuses on one biblical character (Rebekah, Abigail, Hannah, Gomer, Leah, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, Martha, The Woman at the Well, Mary the mother of Jesus, and The Syrophenecian Woman). You'll learn about the triumphs and failures of Mary Magdalene, Rebekah, Hannah, and nine other women, studying their lives and learning how to apply biblical lessons to their own modern-day struggles. You'll also discover lessons from each of these women that will help you persevere through the circumstances you are facing today.



### **Hearts & Hands Class: *The Story of God, the Story of Us* - 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.

## Join the Wednesday Morning 10:30 Bible Study

We live in a skeptical age. In this thoughtful eight week study Bishop Scott Jones, author of *The Wesleyan Way*, partners with his son Rev. Arthur Jones, to address hard questions that all of us face when considering faith, religion, and the church.

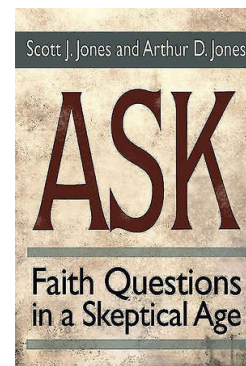
The questions include: Can only one religion be true? / Why is there suffering and evil?

How can I believe in science and creation? / How can I believe in a God I can't prove?

Can I trust the Old Testament? / Are marriage, sex, and family life religious issues?

Was Jesus' resurrection real? / Why do Christians disagree about so many things?

The message is strong and clear: Don't let your questions stop you from accepting God's invitation to faith. Engage your doubt, and you may find you are closer to God on the other side.



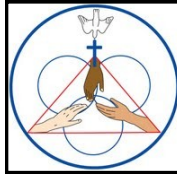
## Robeson County Mission Trip September 20 - 24

Also, we will be taking day mission trips to Nashville, NC, less than a 2 hour drive.  
More details later...

If you are interested in participating in a NC mission trips, please contact Kathryn Dempsey at [missionkat@gmail.com](mailto:missionkat@gmail.com) or 919-644-2695.

For our Robeson trip, we will try and take some of the various kits they need (school /toiletry) and foods.

**Share the Word! Keep that light shining!**



from Bishop Hope Morgan Ward...

I would like to announce to the Annual Conference several changes in leadership, effective June 2015.

- ♦ Rev. Carol Goehring will be Superintendent of the Corridor District.
- ♦ Mr. Steve Taylor will be Director of Connectional Ministries.
- ♦ Rev. Donna Banks, Corridor District Superintendent, will be appointed as pastor of a local church.



## 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!

**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.



For more information contact:

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

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



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**TO ALL THE GUYS WHO WORKED 2 SATURDAYS THRU RAIN & SHINE  
TO DIG OUT THE FOUNDATION AND WATERPROOF THE BASEMENT!!!**





## PLEASANT GREEN'S EASTER PEOPLE



Thanks  
to  
Jim Crawford,  
Garry Wilson  
& Gary Burke  
for putting  
our cross  
back up!



Kid's  
Connect  
at the  
Food  
Bank







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

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

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.



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

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



### **Eno River Dances**

**On Saturday,  
May 16, come see**

a site-specific dance performance at  
Eno River State Park. Five local and  
two visiting artists will present seven  
performances along the Buckquarter  
Creek Trail from 11am - 1:30pm, and  
a movement finale at 2pm at  
Few's Ford Access.

All donations received will go to help  
the Eno River Association's Rebuild  
and Recover Efforts.

Please **RSVP** for your guided hike to:  
<http://enoriverdances.eventbrite.com>

You may hike the trail without a  
reservation, but you will only be  
guaranteed to see 3 out of 7 dances.  
No reservations needed for the finale.

***\*Pleasant Green UMC's parking  
lot will be used for this event.***



### **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.*

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

**SUNDAY, June 7 ~ 9 AM—1 PM**

*You can give someone a second chance  
at life; a second chance to be with  
their loved ones.*

*A 24 hour number is available for eligibility  
questions. 1-866-562-7156*

**Sign up in the Narthex or on line.**