



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org



## ***Roots & Branches***

**August 2015**

**Say Thank You and You are Welcome**

**Dr. Jesse Brunson**

In Philippians Chapter 4, the Apostle Paul writes to the Philippi church to encourage them in the faith and to give thanks for their enduring commitment. This congregation was beloved of Paul; such love is expressed as he shares his heartfelt thoughts in the opening paragraphs in this letter.

He says, ***I give my thanks to God every time I remember you. He goes on to explain, in all my prayers for all of you.*** In this Paul was clearly telling the Philippian Church how special they were to him and to God.

This church was special to Paul because it was the first church he founded in the Macedonia territory. In the book of Acts we are reminded that Paul, on his first missionary journey, was instructed in a vision of a man pleading with him to ***come over to Macedonia and help us.***

So Paul set sail from Troas down to Philippi, the leading city in Macedonia. The bible says, on the first Sabbath day his ministry team went outside the gate to the river in a place of prayer. There they preached to the women gathered. It was in that place that Paul had his first convert, whose name was Lydia. She opened her heart to the word of God and she and her family were baptized.

In this letter Paul writes to this wonderful congregation to thank them and encourage them. This letter is filled with references of thanksgiving for this community of the faithful. Paul offers thanksgiving for the history he shares with them, saying that in the early days of his preaching no church shared with him in giving and receiving. He says, ***even when I was in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs more than once.***

One day a little child and her mother went shopping in the grocery market. A stock clerk was doing a beautiful display of oranges. So when they got close to the clerk, he gave the little girl a big, beautiful orange. The mother said to the girl, 'now what do you say to the nice man?' The little girl held up the orange to the man and said, 'peel it for me.' This illustration indicates that human kindness in saying 'thank you' or 'you are welcome' has been lost.

When someone holds a door for you, is it not human kindness being displayed? ,Would not the proper response be 'thank you' and in return the person holding the door says 'you are welcome?' We take so much for granted in this life, but when we understand the grace of God and His abundant love, we can express that gratitude as Paul did with the Philippian Church, "thank you.' And the church responds back, 'you are welcome ,Paul.'

Blessings of Thank You and Peace, *Pastor Jesse*

### **Pleasant Green Sunday School Promotion and Celebration Day!**

**Sunday, August 2, 2015**

**9:30 AM Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for a celebration of Sunday School. All ages are encouraged to attend. If you have not yet joined a Sunday School class, this is an opportunity to explore the classes to see what we have to offer to you in our Christian Education classes.

***Sunday School is available for ages 3----unlimited!***

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for light breakfast refreshments and a short celebration/promotion ceremony. If your child will be promoted to another class, this is an opportunity to visit the class with him/her and become comfortable with the new teacher.

***We hope to see you there!***

From the Prayer Team...

### **A Season of Listening, Watchful Waiting and Reflection**



*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 There is a season for everything....*

While spending some quiet time in prayer, recently, one of the Prayer Ministry members received an insight about our church as a whole; as a corporate group. It seems that we are in a period of listening, watchful waiting and reflection. This is a quiet time; a little bit slower paced, as we listen for God's guidance and direction for our church. He may want us to continue as we have been or lead us into something new. We have been introduced to *Unbinding the Gospel* and *Project Bountiful*. As we listen and wait for the Holy Spirit to show us how to put action to these words, we can pray, read, meditate and discuss.

For those of us actively involved in the Summer Camp, the El Salvador mission trip and several other active ministries here, you may be saying, "Whoa! This time is anything but quiet and reflective. We are so busy and tired!" We know you are busy and are consumed with the long hours, active planning and fatigue. We are excited and grateful that you are reaching out to the local and global community to show God's love. Even during a winter, when the earth is still, there is preparation and activity for new growth and energy. There is always greenery, even when the earth is covered with snow. Your ministries show us that God is actively working through us, even though He is bidding us to slow down to listen in other areas.

Whether we are active or waiting, we can pray:

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving each of us a unique love of different seasons. This time, we are praying about seasons of quiet and activity; we are praying Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, instead of changes in climate and weather. Please bless those of us who are active now by bringing your compassion and Word to your children of all ages and cultures. And, please bless our leaders and followers who are quiet; listening and waiting on behalf of your church. Help us to be patient, discerning and faithful. While we wait, help us to fulfill our covenant with you personally, as we continue to talk with you, serve you, give you our tithes and worship you. We pray these things, Lord, in your Son's Holy Name, Amen.*

#### **August Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The August meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church, church and extended family members, and, local, national and global issues. Come join us!

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

Dear Pleasant Green Family,  
Words cannot begin to express how meaningful and humbling your prayer letters, prayers, warm thoughts, and wishes have been to me during my recent illness and hospital stay. Please continue to pray for me as I continue to recover.  
Sincerely yours, *John Boulton*



#### ***from Mary Zigbuo, Global Ministries Missionary serving in Liberia***

Warm greetings from Liberia where I am completing a special six-month Ebola response and health strengthening support assignment. Over the past months, I've had the privilege of serving alongside my Liberian colleagues towards our collective goal of responding to the Ebola crisis while also ensuring the continuous operation and ongoing development of our healthcare system.

I've supported four UMCOR International Disaster Response Ebola interventions, traveling throughout the country. I am a witness of the United Methodist Church of Liberia's relevant, resourceful, Christ-centered ministries of education, healthcare, social justice, agriculture and other remarkable ministries aimed at improving the quality of life for God's people throughout Liberia.

Thank you for your prayerful, material and financial support that strengthened UMC Liberia's efforts to respond to Ebola, while at the same time provide quality, affordable healthcare for rural, subsistence farming families.

There are many lessons learned during the Ebola crisis that resulted in some positive behavior changes among families: Hand washing throughout the day, meal sharing discouraged, body preparation for burial, and awareness of Ebola symptoms. And, many more long-term changes that will be integrated into the habits and customs of individuals, institutions and communities, thus providing a conducive environment for promoting a healthy society.

## **Encouragement to Join the Prayer Ministry**

***Come join us! Here is reassurance that you that you have all that you need to pray with us.***

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Encouragement</b>
I don't know how to pray.	Prayer is talking to God about what is on your heart. Just as you would talk to a family member or friend, you can talk to God in the same way. No special words or approaches are needed.
I don't like to pray out loud.	We have had members who pray silently during our meetings. Your presence gives strength, meaning and support. You also help us live God's word, "When two or more people are gathered in my name..."
I don't know who or what to pray for.	There may be meetings where you don't know what to say. No person or situation may come to your mind. As you are with us and let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit, eventually, you will be able to add prayers. Truly!
What is expected of me if I participate in the prayer ministry?	Ideally, it is helpful if you come to the monthly meetings, agree to contact prayer requestors, pray at home at least once a week for the people on our prayer list; and, help out with various projects from time to time. It is okay to do all or some of these things.
You mentioned calling prayer requestors. I don't like to call people.	We do try to reach out to our prayer requestors (the people who have requested prayer for others) to see if the person we are praying for needs continued prayer or not. There are other ways to get this information; such as seeing the person in church or sending a quick email. If you are not able to reach out at all; there are other ways to contribute to this ministry.
When do you meet?	Our meetings are on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Some of us may need to leave early to practice with the choir, attend Tai Chi class or some other activity...that is fine.
What do you do during meetings?	Our typical agenda includes an opening prayer to praise God and to guide us through the meeting; discussing people on the prayer list to see which people still need prayer and which of our prayers God has answered; planning for any projects we are led to do; and, praying for all of the people and situations we are led to pray for.
I don't know how much time I can give to the prayer ministry.	We have had people come and go from participating in the monthly meetings. As family, health and other issues need attention; some prayer ministry members withdraw for a while, then come back to us. And, as mentioned above, it is possible to contribute fully to all of our prayer ministry activities or just some of them.
Who do I contact if I have questions?	Our current members are: Pastor Jesse, Nell Andrews, Cindy Fox, Ginger Link, Ceil Matthews, Matt Matthews, Janice Nicholson, Gloria Perry, Gail Pruett. Please talk to any one of us. The facilitator is Gail. Feel free to contact her at <a href="mailto:pruettg@frontier.com">pruettg@frontier.com</a> or 919-696-7283.

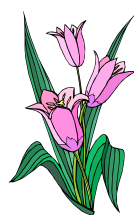
The Prayer Ministry would like to thank members who served with us and needed to leave the ministry. We appreciate Al and Wanda Edens and Gary Burke.

## Ali DeLeo begins as Director of Youth Ministry on August 16!

Ali DeLeo was born and raised in Dover, Delaware. Discipled throughout her childhood and youth at Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover, some of Ali's earliest memories of understanding of God's grace and presence were in the midst of joyous occasions like playing sports, time at the beach, Sunday worship, UMYF, and at Camp Pecometh. Ali attended Duke University on an athletic scholarship, graduating with a degree in Psychology with minors in Emergency Medicine and Religion. She earned Masters and Doctoral degrees in physical therapy, and became a clinician and professor at George Washington University School of Medicine. In addition to her vocational responsibilities, Ali served as the Director of Youth and Children's Theatre at Church Hill Theatre near Chestertown, MD.

Ali began discerning a call to leave healthcare and teaching to enter ministry while worshipping and serving at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington, DC – a vibrant church poised at the intersection of power and poverty just four blocks from Congress. In addition to worship responsibilities, Ali served as the Coordinator of Missions, which include unhoused (homeless) ministries, eco-green ministry, reconciling ministry, local & regional missions, and world missions. She also helped develop children and youth ministries at CHUMC. Drawn into life in the church, Ali both witnessed and participated in Christ's radical hospitality and was awakened to the power of the Holy Spirit afresh in her life. Relationships with unhoused friends who live on the margins expanded her vision of God's love, showed her the power of the Gospel to transform lives, and affirmed her call to ministry. As Ali continued her journey, she recognized that God was calling her out of one life and into a new one – to proclaim God's love, redemption, and healing in a broken world that so desperately needs the good news of the resurrection.

Last fall, Ali was honored to return to Duke to start a Masters of Divinity degree. In addition to her love of all things "Blue Devil," Ali enjoys Broadway musicals, running and playing with her dog, Violet. This summer, she served as a ministry intern at North UMC in Indianapolis, Indiana. She gives thanks to God for the opportunity to learn, grow, and serve at Pleasant Green UMC as the Youth Formation Director beginning in August.



***Do YOU have flowers growing in your yard to share? Please call the church office if you have (or will have) flowers to provide for a Sunday, arranged by you or others.***

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



In Charlotte. I have begun working with the Urban Ministry Center as an Outreach and Engagement Specialist. My job is to help chronically homeless individuals get connected to permanent supportive housing. We work with addicts, the battered, and those who are just down on their luck. We also educate the community on the issues that lead to homelessness.

*Josiah Daniels*

## **How is God calling you into his service?**

**Please speak with a member of Lay Leadership (Nominations and Leader Development Team) as to how you would like to serve your church in 2016.**

Pastor Jesse Brunson-Chair	383-2339
Sandy Quinn – Lay Leader	382-8442
Janice Nicholson	682-8857
Steve Collins	309-0345
Charlotte Overaker	383-2775
Patsy Stranger	471-8370
Van McCay	477-9662
Lisa Best	732-4035
Gretchen Hutt	383-3398
Millie Hunter	732-4779
Billy Totten	471-4455

### **Nominations & Leader Development**

*This Committee identifies and recommends to the charge conference Christian spiritual leaders to serve as officers and members of the church council and other committees as is required. This Committee also serves to develop, deploy, evaluate and monitor the connectional ministries of the church that are engaged in the mission of forming disciples and transforming the community. This committee is composed of not more than nine persons in addition to the pastor and lay leader. The pastor serves as chairperson.*

**Committee budget requests for 2016 are needed!**  
**Please give requests to Betsy Cassidy or Evelyn Morris.**

**Rev. Carol Goehring, Corridor District Superintendent**  
**Rev. Jessie Larkins, Assistant Corridor District Superintendent**

*from the DS...*

The boxes are unpacked and our home in the South Durham area is feeling more settled. Now, where did I put the hammer? We may not have the pictures hung just yet, but I am glad to be here among you!

My appointment to the Corridor District places me back in the area of my birth and years in school. It is an appointment that will challenge me and stretch my faith, at times, as have all my other places of service in the United Methodist Church. And I find strength in God, who has called me, equipped me and inspired my understanding of what God wants from me in this place. I believe God has given me these priorities for my time among you: to provide support and encouragement for the clergy, to develop healthy congregations, and to connect with the community in ways that reflect the love of Jesus Christ.

Every place of ministry has in some way prepared me for my serving with you in the Corridor District. My own journey of 37 years in ministry helps me to know and understand the challenges facing our clergy, and to know resources and strategies for supporting them in their ministries. For the last few years, especially, I have been privileged to learn what it takes to be a vital and vibrant church, regardless of size or location. Applying effective strategies for increasing vitality in a congregation is a team effort.

Please let me know how we can begin a conversation about the health of your church. And our strength as a church cannot be felt apart from our engagement with the people around us who long for community, or hope, or healing, or one of the many things the people of faith are uniquely gifted to offer. In earlier appointments, I have relished the opportunity to tutor in a local school, and to host currently homeless guests of a church through Interfaith Hospitality Network. I have no green thumb, but I have enjoyed working alongside others in community gardens, marveling at the ordered life of God's creation.

As your District Superintendent I pray for you, lay and clergy members, and for the communities in which you live and serve. If you have a particular prayer need, or if you long for an attentive ear, my contact information is given below.

We are blessed to have the Rev. Jessie Larkins as our ADS. Jessie and I will work together, welcoming the support and company of our Lay Leader, Martha Caves, as we visit among you. It may be helpful to know how Jessie and I will approach the work of the district, spiritually and administratively. Both of us enjoy preaching, teaching and training of leaders and committees or teams in the local church. We hope that you'll invite us both into your communities to lead among you. We are committed to the missional priorities of the NC Conference, and we hope to provide care and support for our pastors, those appointed to a local church and those in extension ministries, and those discerning a call or the context for ministry they believe God intends for them.

**Our contact information:** *Please know that these District phone numbers route directly to our cell phones in addition to giving you access to the wealth of administrative support available at the District Office.*

Carol Goehring – [cgoehring@nccumc.org](mailto:cgoehring@nccumc.org);  
919-799-9435, ext 383  
Jessie Larkins – [jlarkins@nccumc.org](mailto:jlarkins@nccumc.org);  
919-779-9435, ext 393

*from the ADS...*

It is an interesting and exciting time to be the church! It is a challenging time to be in pastoral ministry! These are some of the lessons that I've learned over the last 8 years of pastoral ministry, serving as an associate and solo pastor in suburban, rural, and urban appointments.

I am excited to help churches ask hard questions as they discern where God is calling them into ministry in the 21st century. As a young adult, I grieve with all of you the exodus of youth and young adults from the Christian community. However, my passion for the Church only strengthens my resolve to stick with the Church as it learns to ask questions about who it is, what it has been, where God might be moving anew in the world, and how we talk about church in a "post-Christian" world. I believe that the young adults in our communities are asking questions that are important for us to hear. I also believe that if we search our roots as Wesleyan Christians, we are already more fully equipped than we might realize to be a beacon of hope and a sign of God's Reign in the world.

I am excited to be among you in this new capacity at this season in my life and ministry. I look forward to coming alongside pastors as a supportive and prayerful listener. I look forward to interacting with your congregations in a variety of ways: preaching and coaching, outreach and mission, and in worship. I look forward to coming among you in this format as Carol and I take our turns reflecting on ministry, current events, Scripture, and the Church. I look forward to serving in other administrative capacities.

My family and I live in Durham where we are actively involved in the community in local running groups, school engagement (personal and missional), and in community groups committed to tearing down racial and economic barriers. We're also learning how to live well and play well together as a healthy family in a uber-busy world. I look forward to working, playing, praying, and resting alongside you this year.

We want to include your stories, photos, events, and information in the **Corridor Connector** for the strengthening of the Church! Send this information to [jlarkins@nccumc.org](mailto:jlarkins@nccumc.org). We would especially love to share the stories of how your missional networks are working together to reach a new generation of disciples of Jesus Christ.



# pleasant green » youth group



## August Youth Calendar

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

Youth theme for the summer: "Summer of Faith, Fun, and Fellowship."

*The summer is splattered with activities that all come back to faith, fun, and fellowship.*

**Elevate: Sunday, August 2 ~ Faith Lesson #3: How to be strong – overcome barriers to faith**

### Activities

**Durham Bulls Game** Sunday, August 9 3:45pm - bring money for food/snacks

**Movie Afternoon** Saturday, August 15 1:00pm - Movies and "special summer treats"

**Back to School Family Night** Sunday, August 23 5:00 pm - All family members invited - Youth Olympic Games - pot luck dinner



## **Youth Mission Trip by Will Witt**

This past month, the Youth Group went on a mission trip to Birmingham, Alabama. I went on the trip along with quite a few others. This was my third mission trip, and I was extremely excited for it. My expectations were certainly exceeded. The theme of the week was the Upside Down Kingdom, by turning God's kingdom upside down by doing the unexpected things in life. Throughout the week, we were encouraged to take the extra step at our mission sites, and really grow in our faith. My group, consisting of Hannah Kankelfritz, Davis Whitfield, Cassie Lipton, and Bailey Anderson, along with group leaders Kathryn Dempsey, John Micol, and Mark Stocking, went to many mission sites, including a community garden, Sparkle (which is a kid's day camp), and The Foundry, which is a

rehab center. The other group of Ryan Montgomery, Caeden Poe, and Rick Cassidy went to Sparkle as well, but they also worked at Habitat for Humanity.

I think I can speak for the entire group who went when I say this trip was truly life changing and inspirational. Even with a few bumps in the road, the entire trip was successful, and I enjoyed every second of it. I encourage those who may be interested in going on a mission trip to go on one. Remember, you don't have to leave the country or the state to go on a mission trip. You can do a local one. I wish you a great experience with God.

*from Wendy Anderson...*

We were so blessed to have incredible youth volunteering with us the week of VBS! On Wednesday we made sandwiches and bagged dinners for FOOD FOR ALL and on Thursday we packed over 150 bags with laundry detergent for OCIM and then went to visit their facility.

*Mike Brogden was excited that we got to see him working hard and he loved showing us around.*





Check out pictures from VBS:

<https://pgumcvbs2015.shutterfly.com/>



Victoria and Isaiah Harris, children of Andrea and Donnie Harris were baptized on July 12.

We welcome  
Michelle Baker  
and daughters,  
Sydney and Piper  
to our  
Pleasant Green  
church family!  
July 12, 2015



Mark Your  
Calendar!

Thursday, September 3 ~ Back to School Kick-Off Celebration!  
with Tom Carr (dinner provided)





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

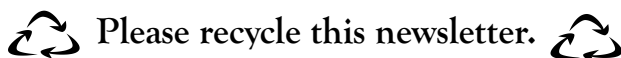
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**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)

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

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

Address Service Requested



**Pick up a new church directory in  
the Narthex. (one per family)**



**The United Methodist Women's  
"Christmas in July"  
Mission Project**

*Take an ornament from the Christmas Tree  
in the Narthex & purchase the "Back to  
School" items for needy children.*

**The school supplies are donated to  
Orange County Elementary Schools.**

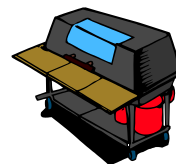
*Please place items under the tree by  
Sunday, August 16.*

**OCIM BBQ Fundraiser**

**Wednesday, August 19**

**11am - 2pm (or until sold out)**

**Meal Deal - \$ 8 / \$2 Desserts  
(Sandwich, chips & drink)**



**Exchange Club**

**331 Exchange Park Lane in Hillsborough**

*Proceeds support OCIM's Ministries  
Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels*

***Mark Your Calendar - Pleasant Green's Homecoming - September 20***

**Summer Campers pick blueberries!**



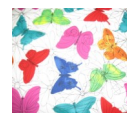
**Summer Workdays at the  
Anathoth Community Garden**

**Tuesdays 5-8 pm / Saturdays 9-1  
3005 Lonesome Rd. Cedar Grove**

**To volunteer call: 919-732-8405**



**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, August 8 at 9am.**

***We will need hands to measure, cut, pin and sew.  
Sewing Machines Needed! Please come!***

**Robeson County Mission Trip  
September 20 - 24**



If you are interested in participating in a NC mission trip, 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!***