



ROOTS & BRANCHES

SEPTEMBER 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Liminal

*The space between
Neither this
nor that
Ripe, potent,
uncertain, shaky
A Dawning, a Dusking ...
The immanent threshold
emerging
Crossing ... to what?
Slow down
The moment is calling you
to pay ... exquisite ... attention*

-Christine McDougall

Over the past few weeks, we at Pleasant Green have been intentional about naming the season we are in and what this moment is calling us to do: to pay exquisite attention. To pay attention to God, to pay attention to our energy levels, to pay attention to what brings us life, and to how the Spirit might be leading us on the other side of a pandemic. On August 15th, we spent a couple hours in the Fellowship Hall together and explored a new concept: liminality, which is a state of ambiguity and disorientation that occurs in transitory situations and spaces. It's a season we all find ourselves in, especially in the church. That particular Sunday afternoon we hit the "pause" button but gathered in small groups to reflect, to draw on the collective wisdom of each other, and to name the opportunities and challenges.

In Ezra 3:11-13, the people have gathered for the laying of the foundation of the Second Temple. Scripture says this, "...And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. ¹²But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away."

¹Ruth Haley Barton, Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups, 16.

In so many ways, this describes the situation we are in: so many voices, so many opinions clamoring for our attention and part of our task as the church in this season has simply been: how to handle the noise, how to discern who we are supposed to be listening to? And in the midst of so many voices, not to mention the voices in our own heads and hearts, what is God saying to us right now?

Listening deeply and paying attention to God's voice is what discernment is all about – which has been the theme of the last two Sundays in August. The first Sunday we learned about four foundational practices that help give God access to our lives – 1. Solitude & Silence, 2. Engaging the Scriptures for Spiritual Formation, 3. Prayer, and 4. Self-knowledge/Self-Examination. We acknowledged that transformation of any kind (personal, spiritual, systemic, political) always begins with ourselves. The last Sunday in August we built upon that foundation and introduced ourselves to 4 stepping stones that help us open our lives to God: testing the spirits (Consolation/Desolation), God's invitation to abundant life, Remembering, and our call to community.

As we continue to navigate this liminal season we find ourselves in, it is my prayer that we would answer the call to pay exquisite attention. I leave you with words of encouragement from Ruth Haley Barton, whom we have been reading and referencing this month:

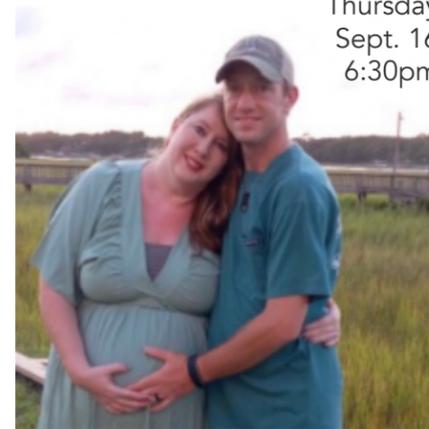
Yes, there will be some new steps to learn, some new things to practice. Feel free to do something before you do everything; pick the one thing you think you can do, and do it with all your heart. God faithfully comes into any bit of space we create for him, and pretty soon the one thing you do before you do everything leads to another thing and another, until you find that leadership is not the burden it once was. It is a dance in which God leads and you follow. It is a wave that God sends, and you ride it. It is the breath of God, and you are the feather that floats upon it. It is a wind of the Spirit that blows, and you lift your sail to catch it. It is a powerful current that is already flowing, and you are in that flow.¹

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 10:30AM!

SAVE THE DATE

Baby Shower for Liz Link Jacks
Given by The Circle of Faith
All women are invited

Thursday
Sept. 16
6:30pm



Liz & Luke are registered at Target & Amazon and have a Doula Fund at myregistry.com!

Financial Update

<i>2021 Unified Budget</i>	327,037.42
<i>YTD Total Income to Operating Fund</i>	167,196.87
<i>YTD Operating Expenses</i>	184,586.19
<i>YTD Operating Fund Balance</i>	-17,389.32
<i>2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward</i>	18,065.45
<i>2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance</i>	676.13
<i>Current Building Mortgage Balance</i>	215,117.99

***Please consider donations to our Discretionary Fund so that we may continue to help others in need! Thank you!**

New technology updates from Mike Quinn:

We would like to share information to our Church family on the new technology and equipment we have recently installed. Due to the looming re-lock down that might occur, this upgrade of our equipment will prove to be timely. We have installed and implemented a TV broadcast quality studio in our sound room. This consists of controllers, new high-definition digital cameras in the sanctuary, Internet Streamer/Recorder, and several new accessories. It utilizes the same type of equipment as a professional studio but occupies a much smaller footprint. We have two remote-controlled cameras in the sanctuary (Will be more as we go).

The quality of the sound and video you will see on the internet is at least 5 times the quality it was when we were locked down previously and using our mobile phones. You will be able view it on YouTube within our own PGUMC Channel. (URL address is forthcoming once I get YouTube to wake up and accept our feed).

Additionally, for those who utilize our church WIFI, we have upgraded that to a business level speed and quality. For example, you may have 100-200 MB (100-200 million bits per second) at your house through Spectrum. We have upgraded to 692MB (million bits per second). This will increase our WIFI as well as the data rate going to YouTube.

Those who know me well, know that I am a "Gear head" and love all things technology. This has been a long time coming and I hope you will take advantage of the online church remotely or the WIFI when you are at church.

Wayne Leonard and I spent much time installing and learning this new system and as of now the Sound will be operated by me and Wayne Leonard will be our Video broadcaster. Thanks to Van McCay for the help with the WIFI installation and the clean-up of the coat room in preparation for this install.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments (919) 491-5831.

Yours in Christ, Mike Quinn

Internet at the Church

On your smart phone or other device— go to settings and select WIFI option and it will list all the available WIFI channels in the area.

If Upstairs: You will see three channels to choose from..

- TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA40**
- TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA39**
(2G -Farther Distance/slower but still great – NO PASSWORD)
- TP-Link 5Ghz – 80BA39**
(5G = Less Distance but extremely fast – NO PASSWORD)

If Downstairs: You will see two channels to choose from..

- MySpectrumWifi76- 2G – Password: unionepic548**
- My SpectrumWifi76- 5G – Password: unionepic548**

BACK TO SCHOOL & Afterschool



Volunteers Needed!

PGUMC Afterschool just began our 31st school year! We are looking for volunteers to be a part of our spectacular homework / reading time which is Monday-Thursday, 4:45 – 5:15pm. You do not have to be a teacher, just someone wanting to help our precious kids. This would mean so much to our Afterschoolers and their parents. If you are interested, please contact Susan Adams at susan_adams2@hotmail.com to work with your schedule. Blessings, Susan, JoAnna & Wendy



Scavenger Hunt checklists are on the table by the church office. Bode enjoyed finding all the pretty rocks!

From the Prayer Ministry

LET US PRAY
FOR OUR SCHOOLS,
TEACHERS,
ADMINISTRATION, STAFF,
AND STUDENTS AS THEY
BEGIN A NEW SCHOOL
YEAR IN THE MIDST OF
CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY.

Prayer for Teachers

Almighty God, We come to you today and give thanks for all our teachers.

Thank you for the way in which they give of themselves each day in the classroom,

Serving and instructing the next generation of this land.

We thank you for them all now.

Father, please fill their hearts with courage now by your mighty Spirit.

Fill them with your strength, so they may rise to every challenge and not grow weary.

Fill them with your wisdom, so that they may be able to make good judgement when guiding and helping others.

Fill them with your peace, so that when stress and anxiety comes it would not overwhelm them. Fill them with your joy, so that the passion they have for their subject may become an infectious passion that spreads.

We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus. Amen.

A short prayer for teachers from www.lords-prayer-words.com. Shared with permission: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/family/prayer_for_teachers.html

A Short School Prayer

Almighty God We give our school to you. We give you all the administrators, teachers and staff who work here. We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love. A place where we respect every-one and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Shared with permission: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/family/school_prayers.html



Pleasant Green United Methodist Women,

Encourage children and youth to engage in spiritual growth studies by participating in the reading program. We invite them to view the United Methodist Women's (UMW) catalog at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf>. You can obtain books through public libraries, local bookstores, bookstore chains and some are available in the Parlour at PGUMC. When ordering books through Amazon, visit smile.amazon.com and select "United Methodist Women" as your charitable organization.

If you do not have time to read, listen to the United Methodist Women's "Faith Talks" podcast at unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks or the "response" podcast at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/responsepodcast>. You can also subscribe to these podcasts through Apple, Google and Spotify, etc. Check out UMW on YouTube. There are lots of ways to stay in the loop!

According to Mahatma Gandhi,

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Worship Service 10:30am Michael Walker	6 Labor Day Holiday Matt McCay	7 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm	1 Bible Study 10:30am Heather Snowden Hackler	2 Jason Bennett Lois Rittenhouse	3 James Hamm	4
12 Worship Service 10:30am Lydia Mis Patrick Bracey	13 Praise Band 7pm Admin Council Meeting 7pm Madilyn Keatts	14 Christa Poe	8 Bible Study 10:30am Leah Parrish Kristian Kankelfritz	9 Becky Crawford Alex Witt	10 Sybil Totten Clayton Carolyn Bass	11 Taylor McCay Doris Turner Jim Perry
19 Worship Service 10:30am Michael Erexson Spencer Alley	20 Praise Band 7pm Eleanor Walker Circle 7pm Marilyn Guthrie Pat Walker, Waldo Wright Jimmy Gooch, Robbie Bryant	21 Hunter Brown Ryan Montgomery	22 Bible Study 10:30am	23 Sarah Fisher Tim Riley	24 Phillip Totten	18 Laura & Charles' Wedding Day! Kinston, NC Joyce Duncan Joy Weaver Evelyn Morris Hannah Barnard
26 Worship at the ENO 10:30am Maya Lee	27 Stew Meeting 6pm	28 UMW Meeting 7pm Bunny Wheeler Nell Andrews	29 Bible Study 10:30am Kelly Jo Lee Lynn Foushee	30 Blood Drive 10am-3pm Kathy DuLaney Sheila Witt Billy O'Briant	25 Common Thread Ministry 9:30am Rosemary Fowler	

Wednesday Bible Study - 10:30am
Each Wednesday on Zoom! <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/95194663395>

9/7 Read & Seed Patch - 6:30pm
Meeting outside at Firefly Farm, 4911 Hunt Road, Hillsborough. Your book of choice this month to read and share with the group. Contact Cindy at pmfcjs@yahoo.com.

9/13 Admin Council Meeting - 7pm
Meeting on Zoom.

9/15 Prayer Ministry - 6:30pm
Meeting in the Clyde Walker Classroom/Parlor. Everyone is welcome! Contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com.

9/16 Circle of Faith - 6:30pm
All women are invited to a Baby Shower for Liz Link Jacks at church.

9/20 Eleanor Walker Circle Meeting - 6:30pm
Dinner at Pomodoro restaurant. 1181 Hillandale Rd., Durham.

9/25 Common Thread Ministry - 9:30am
In the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
Contact Gloria Perry at 919-971-0924

9/26 Worship at the Eno- 10:30am

9/27 Stew Meeting - 6pm
Meeting at the church.

9/28 UMW Meeting - 7pm
Meeting on Zoom.

9/30 Blood Drive at PGUMC - 10am-3pm
To donate or volunteer, call 919.383.5764, email pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)



UPCOMING:

October
UMW Online Silent Auction
Dates and more details to come! Now accepting auctions items– Please consider donating!

Saturday, October 23-
Fundraiser for Steven Collins' Music Fund
Held at the Community Center. Music by the Thursday Night Band. (Pending COVID concerns)

Saturday, November 6th-
2021 Fall Stew -Please plan to help!
Place your order now!
Email pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or call 919.383.5764.

Come Worship at the Eno! September 26th 10:30am

Music by the Praise Band
Meeting under the shelter at
the Eno entrance. Stay tuned
for more details!



Welcome to our New Music Director!



I hope and pray this message finds each of you and your loved ones safe and well.

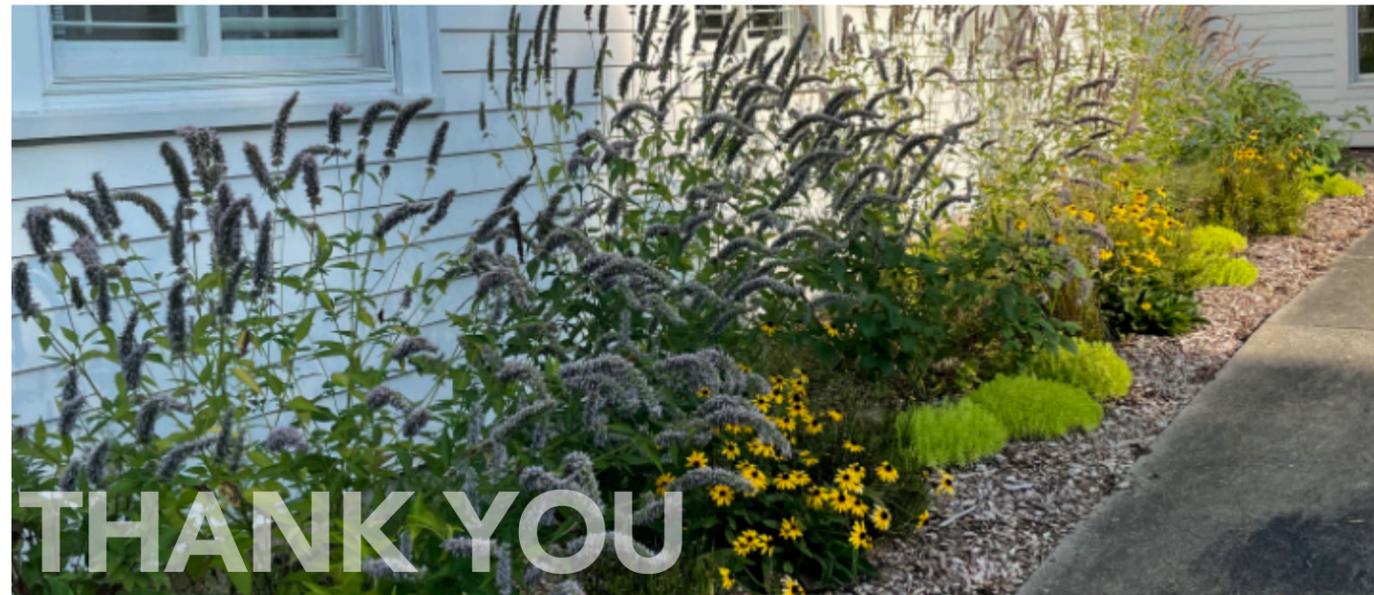
I have always enjoyed coming to Pleasant Green to make music and worship. The church family here has made me feel welcome and as if I'm in the right place. I am looking forward to being here to get to know all of you better. For me, music has always been a key part of worship and I will do my best to assure all of you can be a part of the music through the choir and congregational singing.

I am retiring from my nursing position at Duke in December and am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to be able to spend more time making music and to make it work for all of us in our Pandemic environment. See you in September.

Peace, Duane



Aaron's last Sunday- 8.22.21.
We'll miss you!



Dear Church Family,

Just a note of thanks for the back to school supplies that you so graciously donated to the Circle of Faith's 'Christmas In July' project. We were able to deliver four boxes full of school supplies to three different schools. The social workers at each school were so appreciative!

Again, thanks for taking your time to purchase all the supplies we donated. Our church family always comes through with overwhelming results.

Many thanks and God bless you all.

Circle of Faith

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits, food and flowers from the church. I am finally on the road to recovery. It is going to take a while, but glad to be getting better every day. I am blessed beyond measure!

Love to all!

Rosemary Fowler

Dear Pleasant Green UMC and Circle of Faith,

This note comes filled with much appreciation and love shown to us during Dennis' illness and passing. Thanks for the many cards received. Each one was read to him. The visits from our church family were so encouraging to Dennis. The food brought by was so good and helped at such a busy time. Special thanks to the ladies of the church for providing lunch the day of his service. Until he was unable to do so he shared with everyone about the pillowcase which the ladies so diligently made and gave to him. The words of comfort and prayers helped us through each day. We will always treasure your friendship.

Lots of love,

Jean Nichols & Family

Thank you for the graduation gift and being so helpful throughout the years!

Love, Corbyn Poe

Caring for our Mental Health. You are not alone.

Are you feeling anxious? Restless? Depressed? Experiencing unusual sensations, voices, visions?

*NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) North Carolina offers a list of resources here!
<https://naminc.org>

Feeling suicidal or in extreme distress?

*Call your local public safety office and ask for a CIT officer (Crisis Intervention Trained)

*Call the National Suicide Hotline, open 24 hours - 7 days a week:

1-800-273-8255 or text NAMI to 741-741

Other options:

*In Orange County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-967-8844

*In Durham County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-797-1865

*All other counties: <http://crisissolutionsnc.org/> and look up your county

Need a referral or resource information for therapists, guidance to SSI Disability income or guardianship information. For other questions or just want to talk about your experiences with someone with mental health issues?

*NAMI North Carolina Helpline is available Monday through Friday, 8:30am-5pm

Call 1-800-451-9682 / Text 919-999-6527 / Email: helpline@naminc.org

Want to learn more about yours or a loved-one's condition?

*Current listing of classes and support groups offered on-line here!

<https://naminc.org/programs/virtual-programs/>



"Family-to-Family" Education Program will start Thursday, September 3, 6:30-9pm

Family-to-Family is a FREE 8-week educational program for family members, loved ones, and caregivers of someone living with mental illness.

This free series class is taught by trained NAMI members who have experienced having a loved one with mental illness. In a confidential setting, family members and friends of people with mental illness will learn about:

- How mental illness affects your loved one
- Eye-opening current brain research related to mental illness
- Being an advocate for better treatments for your loved one
- Medication issues and the latest treatment options
- Strategies for dealing with stress and worry to help you take care of yourself while supporting your loved one

For more information or to register, contact Barbara Maier at (919) 929-7822 or bmaier.namioc@gmail.com

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED – CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED

Program sponsored by NAMI-NC and NAMI Orange County
NREPP: included in SAMSHA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practice



UPDATE FROM OUR HAITIAN FRIENDS IN NC

Since our last newsletter things have changed for our friends. The children's mother has returned to Haiti due to some unforeseen difficulties. She and Romel are keeping safe and were not directly impacted by the recent earthquake or storm. Meanwhile, the girls are living with April and her roommate, Shelia and are thriving. They talk by Zoom or FaceTime daily to their parents. Gaelle is attending Little River Elementary and adjusting well to the second grade. Little Hadassa is quickly learning English and will start at Aldersgate Preschool after Labor Day. Their days have been filled with meeting new friends and being exposed to numerous new things in their lives, including potty training for Hadassa! Please continue to pray for this precious family and their caregivers here in the US.

I cannot thank you enough for your generous support during this difficult time. It truly does take a village, and April and Shelia are constantly amazed by the generosity of our church family.



FaceTime with Dad!

“Things like laundry detergent, dishwasher pods, toilet paper, paper towels, paper napkins, dawn and money / grocery store gift cards help a lot! We go through 4 gallons of milk a week and have to buy fresh fruit weekly. The kids don't like a lot of veggies so I have to make up for that in fruit. The hamburger was a big hit! Thank you!”

-April

Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project!



Coffee bags \$8

Mind Body Soul Regular Ground 12oz
Mind Body Soul Decaf Ground 12oz

Organic Chocolate bars \$2.50

Dark Chocolate Almond & sea salt (55%)
Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt
Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67%)
Panama Extra Dark Chocolate (80%)
Dark Chocolate Orange (65%)
Very Dark Chocolate (71%)
Milk Chocolate
Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt
Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)

For Sale in the Parlor!

Fair trade provides opportunities for churches to support a system that nurtures rather than diminishes God's vision of abundant life. UMCOR's partner is the employee owned fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.



Thank you to all the donors and volunteers that came out for our August Blood Drive! The next one will be September 30th!

The Garden at Spring Forest 2021 Inaugural Fall CSA



1907 New Sharon Church Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
www.springforest.org
336.266.9475

Fall subscriptions available! September 7 - November 2

Sign up and pick up your box on Tuesday evenings during afternoon Garden work hours.

Full Share \$250. Add a half dozen eggs from pasture-raised chickens each week for \$30.

Sign up here—
<https://www.springforest.org/csa>

Sign up forms are also in the narthex and can be emailed to csa@springforest.org.

Nancy Maloney has offered to pick up orders from the farm Tuesday evenings and drop off at church!

Orange Congregations In Mission

Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full and the OCIM pantry overflowing!

Any monetary donations toward MEALS ON WHEELS or OCIM operating expenses are appreciated!



Meals on Wheels Orange County, NC, is in need of volunteers to help set-up and deliver meals in northern Orange County. MOWOCNC is currently delivering frozen meal boxes containing 5 frozen meals once per week. As we move past COVID, we are planning on returning to hot meal delivery. Our goal is to deliver hot meals M-F. In order to do so, we must expand our volunteer base from coverage of one delivery day to five. As we recruit and train more volunteers, additional delivery days will be added. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.mowocnc.org or call Heather Harris, Volunteer Coordinator, 919.942.2948 ext. 3.



Families Moving Forward Donations Needed! Collected in the Narthex.

- New single sheets
- New double sheets
- New comforters
- New pillows
- Diapers sizes 1,2,3,4
- Toothpaste
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Brooms
- Dust pans
- Bleach
- Small bottles of dish soap
- Clorox disinfectant wipes
- Low-sugar juice boxes
- Vitamin Water zero
- Gatorade zero
- Sugar-free water bottle packs

Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

**3005 Pleasant Green Road
Durham, NC 27705**



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

PASTOR:

Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org
(919) 383-2339

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE: www.PleasantGreenUMC.org

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977

ENVELOPE: Mail or slip under office door

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and giving trends are changing with new generations. Thank you for your generosity!

9/30 Blood Drive at PGUMC



To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

amazonsmile

Support PGUMC when you purchase through amazon smile. They donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible items to the "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church" charitable organization. We hope you'll consider this as we continue to find creative and generous ways to share resources together. Already have an Amazon Prime account? Go to smile.amazon.com and use your existing login. Pleasant Green's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>



**PLEASE
RECYCLE**