



Hope House Prayer Garden. See story, Page 2!



Hope House Happenings

A publication of the Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church (MPPC) Hope House

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Comments from Previous Hope House Guests

God bless this home and all it stands for.
J.G.

May God continue to bless this house and the church for all of their kindness.
M.R.

Thank you for letting us spend this time at the Hope House during our

Hope House Found Its Purpose

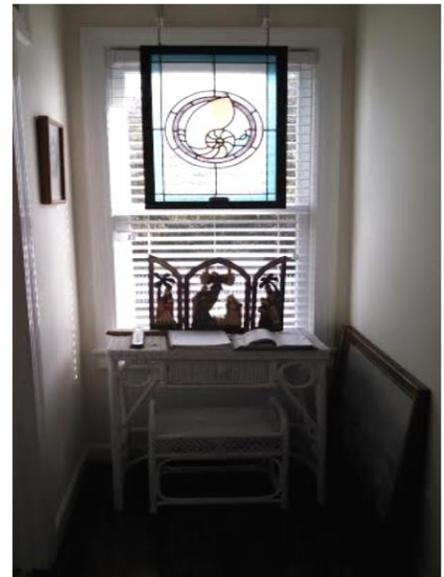
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. - Psalm 34:18

In August 2009, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church was planning to renovate the recently-purchased old house next door. What to do with it was still up for debate.

That's when a couple from Bluffton, SC knocked on the door. Their 19-year-old daughter had been in a near fatal auto accident and flown to a local hospital in very critical condition. Her parents knew every penny had to go for her care...not hotels.

The MPPC Executive Director and member of the Hope House Ministry Team said they were welcome to take a look at the old house. They did and accepted the church's offer to stay there.

The Bluffton man recalled "what a wonderful home this turned out to be," complete with a garden cat named Smokey and a cardinal perched outside. His wife believes "they were signs from God to comfort us." The couple stayed for two months. For most of that time, their daughter was in a coma. When she had recovered, she visited Hope House about three years later and said how



Prayer and meditation area for our guests.

*time of trouble. Bless each and every one of you.
W. and V. S.*

*This house was a true blessing to me in a time of need.
P.W.*

*This has been a wonderful respite from the hospital. What a great ministry you have!
B.W.*

*There are not enough words to express our appreciation for allowing us to stay at the Hope House during our daughter's stay in the Neuro ICU. This place has truly been a shelter from our storm. We pray that God will continue to bless this house and its wonderful ministry.
S.W.*

*Hope House – what a great blessing! Thank you!
B.P.*

*There are no words that I can say to thank you all so much. Thank you for the blessing. The house was great and so was the staff. Thank you for all your help.
T.R.S.*

*Once again, Hope House came through for me. So relaxing to get away from the hospital. Keep up the good work and God bless y'all. Everyone is always so nice here.
L.M.*

*Thanks so much for all the love shown here at the Hope House. God bless each and every one of you.
D.V.*

Our Thanks to Our Guests

Our guests are the best “measure” of this ministry and all who participate as volunteers and donors. We pray for the families of all guests at Hope House and that this place may continue as a source of comfort and inspiration for those in need.

appropriate the name was, since it had given her parents “Hope.” In May, she and her family visited us again, and many of the volunteers who didn’t get to meet the family previously had a chance to meet the family and learn their amazing story.

Today, she describes herself as “a normal 29-year-old woman, happily single - for the moment,” with a Jack Russell terrier named Tinkerbelle and two 9-year-old turtles. She teaches English as a second language, privately tutors children with special needs, and hostesses at a Mexican restaurant. Living proof that God works wonders!

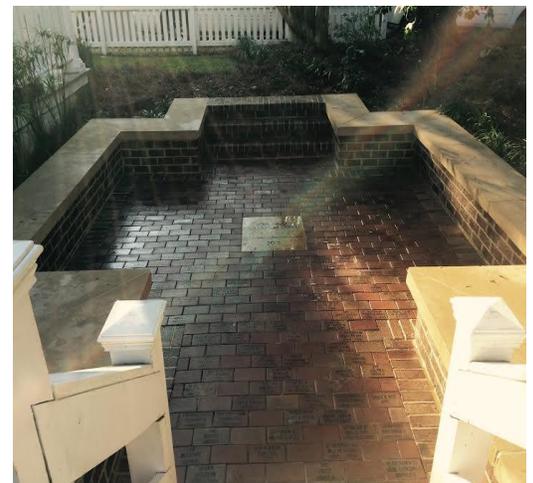
Old Hymn Captures Hope House Volunteer’s Reason for Sharing

*“For the beauty of the Earth,
For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Sun and moon, and stars of light
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.”*

According to Hope House volunteer, Rhetta Moore, this classic hymn best expresses her inner passion for gardening. That love began at an early age, and she gives her parents all the credit. Her dad grew iris, daylilies, okra, tomatoes, butter beans, peas, and berries to name a few. Her mother froze and canned many of the vegetables and made jams and jellies, as well. All the while, Rhetta grew up underfoot helping every step of the way!

When she bought her home in 1991, she knew she wanted a yard with a garden similar to her parents’. Gradually, she transitioned to a shade-loving garden with flowers, ferns, umbrella plants, and farfugium, which grow well under and complement her beautiful shade trees. In her spare time, she still freezes vegetables, fruits, and berries to boot!

Hope House was blessed with Rhetta’s gardening skills in 2010 when fellow church member, Jane Schmitt, suggested she volunteer to help out with the grounds...about the time the Prayer Garden was put in. A perfect match! Over the years, Rhetta transitioned the prayer garden and grounds to perennial shade plants that do well under the many trees on the property. This minimized the need for annual replanting, allowing more time for fertilizing, pruning, and other maintenance. The result - a stunning landscape for guests and volunteers to enjoy.



Donors honor loved ones with engraved bricks in the Celebration Garden.

Along with other committee members, Rhetta was also involved in all aspects of the Celebration Garden’s creation, from concept to overseeing the laying of the bricks. She took this photo the day the bricks were laid. God seems to approve. Notice the sunlight shining down from above!

Volunteer Opportunities Aboard!



Volunteers regularly power wash the Hope House exterior.



Volunteer caretakers perform the everyday running of Hope House, checking-in guests, changing linens and bedding, keeping the pantry stocked, maintaining the grounds, and - most importantly - being there for our guests.



There is always a need for volunteers to keep the gardens beautiful.

During the growing season, Rhetta devotes several hours per week at Hope House. No small task! She does have help, though. Fellow church member, Suzanne Flohr, assists regularly. Rhetta is excited to have Suzanne on board, and says she is eager to help with any task that needs to be done. Rhetta also credits John, Julia, and Robbie Royall, local owners of Royall Ace Hardware. Over the years, they have been her “go-tos” for any gardening questions or challenges. Why does she do it? In Rhetta’s words, “I just love the outdoors. It’s peaceful being out here and I have the satisfaction of knowing the grounds are well-kept and that others are enjoying them as much as I do.”

Thank you Rhetta for all of your hard work, vision, and devotion. The hymn, “*For the Beauty of the Earth*,” truly does reflect the why and how of what you have done for Hope House! Thank you also to Jane, Suzanne, and the other church and community volunteers who have been involved in making the surroundings of this house of ministry so beautiful and tranquil.

Gospel Lesson of Hope

Hebrews 13:1-2

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it.

We Need Your Help!

If any of these opportunities tap into your talents or call you to a mission, we can use your help:

- **Caretakers** - Check-in guests. Light household duties. Morning and afternoon shifts available.
- **Team Leaders** - Coordinate guest referrals, caretaker schedules, and train new caretakers.
- **Hospital Liaison** - Maintain relationships with hospital staff.
- **Policies and Procedures** - Create and update written policies and procedures.
- **Food and Supplies** - Prepare and take meals to the Hope House freezer.
- **Grant Writing** - Work with Mt. Pleasant/Charleston area businesses and community leaders to raise funds.
- **Prayer Garden/Grounds** - Seasonal planting, weeding, and fertilizing.
- **Maintenance** - Complete minor repairs, as needed.
- **Communications** - Write articles for local newspapers and publications. Write thank you notes.
- **Treasurer and Statistics** - Maintain petty cash, record guest donations, and maintain statistics.
- **Historian/Recorder** - Photograph Hope House events and update scrapbook.
- **Technology and Website** - Design of website. Maintenance of computers.

Many other opportunities will arise as this ministry progresses, so keep your eyes, ears, and HEARTS open! If any of these needs or opportunities inspire you to help, please contact Beth Moore at (843)532-4892 or bmoore@carolinaone.com.

MPPC Prayer Shawl Ministry volunteers hand-knit or crochet shawls for Hope House guests. Each shawl is personalized with a tag that reads, "This shawl is crafted with a prayer for you. As you wear this shawl, may you feel the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father."



The pictures above this guest bed were painted by MPPC youth. These youngsters also design and fill the guest bags provided in every room.



"Adopt-A-Day" and Change a Life!

The "Adopt-A-Day" program is another way to support the ministry of Hope House and Hope Cottage. As a participant, you can acknowledge a family member or a friend through an honorary, congratulatory, or memorial gift. Operating expenses are approximately \$50 per day, but any gift is welcome, and your gifts are tax deductible. Hope House expresses its heartfelt thanks to all those who have so generously participated. For more information, contact Elizabeth Grantham at (843)345-0828 or elizabethforexchange@gmail.com.

Our Mission

The purpose of Hope House is to function as a hospital hospitality house and provide a Christ-centered, safe, secure, temporary home-away-from-home for individuals and families in need. Hope House serves adults (18 and over) who have a family member or friend in a Charleston, SC area hospital and Hope Cottage serves guests with special needs. Hope House does not discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Hope House Ministry Team

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