



Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church

Thanksgiving Day Worship

Nov. 22

10:00 AM - Sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum



Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff

A Season of Gratitude

In his commentaries on the Psalms, the Reformer John Calvin suggested that, out of all of the spiritual disciplines, there is one that deserves our most diligent effort and practice. That discipline is thankfulness. We should be “especially enjoined” to thanksgiving, Calvin said, simply because we human beings are “disposed to speedily forget” all the ways we have been blessed by God.

I often hear people say they have more difficulty feeling close to God when things are going well than when we are anxious, stressed, or in pain. That has been true for me. Perhaps we start taking too much credit for our blessings. Maybe we become distracted by comfort or numbed by the repetitions of life. The paths into spiritual forgetfulness are many and wide, and we are good at finding them.

A different kind of forgetfulness can happen when things are not going so well. The psalms sing about this kind of forgetting, too. These are the times when we forget that God is present with us — no matter how dark the valley, how big the waves, how strong the foe. These are the painful moments when the psalmist would cry “How long, O Lord?... How long will you hide your face from me?”

Because we are so prone to forget, I want to share with you the story of Martin Rinkart. He was a Lutheran pastor who ministered in the walled German town of Eilenburg in the early 1600s. The town was a sanctuary for fugitives of the Thirty Years War, given that the city walls offered some protection from religious violence. But those walls were useless against a plague that descended upon the town.

At the beginning of 1637, there were four ministers serving in Eilenburg. One abandoned his post in favor of a safer and healthy area, vowing never to return. Pastor Rinkart officiated over the funerals of the other two, who both succumbed quickly to the disease. As the only clergyman left, it fell to Rinkart to conduct as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day. By the end of 1637, Rinkart had conducted more than 4,480 services for the dead. One of those services was for his wife, who died in May.

Miraculously, it was this same year when Rinkart started work on a very special prayer. Surrounded by death and grieving the loss of his beloved wife, Rinkart began to write out a heartfelt message of deep and abiding gratitude. Despite everything he had suffered, he refused to forget the God who was walking with him along every step of that dark valley. As a faithful pastor, his intention was to share the prayer with the families of his parish – to offer them a gift of thankfulness they could recite together around their own tables. It was not long until the prayer was set to music, transforming it into one of history’s most treasured and enduring hymns of joy.

In a world “disposed to speedily forget” the faithfulness and presence of God, I offer to you the words of Rev. Martin Rinkart, which are my prayer for you and your family in this season of gratitude:

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today...*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.*

November 2018

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Send Name/Phone to jpassmore@mppc.net

SUNDAYS

Worship: 8:15 & 9:45 AM, Sanctuary
11:15 AM, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall (The Net)
Sunday School: 9:45 am (All Ages)

Fellowship Breakfast

9:00 – 11:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Childcare

Available during every service, Seabrook
Secure Check-In & Background Checks

WEDNESDAYS

Get Fed: Faith, Fellowship & Food
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MPPC Building Team in Copan, Honduras



Typical home before



New mission built home

In July of 2018, our MPPC Trinidad building team, partnering with Palmetto International Mission, Inc., traveled to Copan Ruinas, Honduras, where we began work on five new houses in a twenty-one-house project in Nuevo Estanzuela that began in February. Our team worked on a total of eight houses. In addition to these homes, the group presented vitamins to all the 21 families, courtesy of members Kim and Katie Richardson of Pitt Street Pharmacy.

Most of our team returned home on July 14, while three of our members remained, heading to Trinidad de Copan where they began the building of three additional houses. On Sunday, July 15, there was a “Presbyterian Day” celebration in Trinidad. At the celebration, our team members presented scholarship money to students and were, in turn, presented with gifts from the students and from the mayor of Trinidad.

Making a Difference, One Family at a Time.

Though our time in Honduras was only a few days, we left behind a transforming investment for local families. MPPC helped start the building of several houses and we provided the community some supplies. Each year as we return we see many more houses completed by the local families. We see a community fulfilling their pledge to work with each other to assure a new home for every family.

An additional benefit to all of this is that the community members that we work with gain new construction skills, skills that they can use to earn a better living. In these ways our church offers the community a “hand up,” not a “handout” - help with a new house and a new job skill, a skill to support their families for years to come.

Please join us on our next trip Jan. 26 – Feb 3, 2019. Contact Jeff Taylor (jefftaylor1954@yahoo.com, 803-517-8472) or apply online: mppc.net/our-missions.

Worship

Nov. 4 Worship Schedule for Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum's Installation & Reception
9:45 AM Worship, Sanctuary
11:15 AM Blended Sanctuary Worship (Traditional & Contemporary), Installation & Guest Preacher: Dr. John Kuykendall
Reception to follow, Fellowship Hall
(8:15 & 11:15 AM Net services will resume on Nov. 11).

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering: Nov. 4

This offering has been a tradition since 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, OH challenged women to give just one more dollar over her usual contribution. Since then, tens of millions have been raised to support thousands of ministries. Grants this year include a hearing aid bank for low-income seniors in Arizona, a cold-weather and hurricane shelter for homeless women and their children in Beaufort, SC, and health and nutrition education to destitute women and their families in Cairo, Egypt. Please give generously so that we may support even more life-changing missions in 2019.

Thanksgiving Day Worship Nov. 22, 10AM

This informal come-as-you-are worship service incorporates hymns, scriptures and prayers of thanksgiving. It will be led by Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum and members of the congregation. The office will be closed Nov. 22 & 23.

Honoring Our Veterans & Service Members: Nov. 11 Bulletin Insert

Giving Thanks

For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. — 2 Corinthians 4:15

What better time than the month of Thanksgiving to celebrate all those who have shared so much of themselves with Hope House:

- 70 caring volunteers who check in/check out guests, offer hope, a helping hand or a hug and a prayer to those who seek comfort in this home-away-from-home.
- Area hospital social workers & case managers who often are the first to recognize people in need of respite and recommend them to Hope House.
- Members of the Hope House Ministry Team

who make sure the House is run as efficiently as possible, is stocked with all the staples, and even roll up their sleeves to clean the House from top to bottom, inside and out.

- Sometimes others lend a helping hand. In late September, members of John Wesley United Methodist Church descended on Hope House with pressure washers, garden tools, hammers and nails. They gave the porches a thorough cleaning, pruned the gardens, fixed furniture and even provided food for the guests!



News & Events

Grocery Bag Sunday

Nov. 11 (Return Nov. 18)

MPPC Cookbook: *Taste and see that the Lord is good. — Psalm 34:8*

The MPPC cookbook is a collection of family recipes that have been handed down through the years and local restaurant favorites too. With proceeds being donated to Florence Crittenton Programs, this cookbook is a useful and meaningful gift during the holidays. Pay with cash/ check in the church office (\$30) or by credit card online at mppc.net/our-missions (\$31 or \$36 includes shipping).

Florence Crittenton Programs assist young single mothers with the necessities they need to successfully raise healthy babies while empowering these moms to get on their feet with mentoring programs, employment assistance, and housing. The programs have been a force for good in our community since 1897.

Ronald McDonald House Dinners

Ronald McDonald House is a "home-away-from-home" where 35 families can stay while their children undergo extensive medical treatment. Here, parents and children lead a life as normal as possible during these traumatic times without the financial burden of costly hotel and travel expenses. Every night a volunteer group prepares the evening meal for these families. Members of MPPC have been preparing this meal on the last Thursday of every month for more than 15 years. With your support, we can continue to provide a monthly meal (\$300/month) to 70 individuals.

To learn more or volunteer, contact Bruce McAdams (mcadams.bruce@gmail.com). To help support this mission, make checks payable to MPPC (memo: Ronald McDonald House).

BIRTHS

David Alexander Rumph III, son of Collin and David Rumph (DG #36) and grandson of Beth Moore (DG #39) and Paul Moore (DG # 27). September 29.

DEATHS

Bob Roffey, MPPC Member and husband of Anne Roffey (DG #66), September 20.

Billy Dahn, uncle of Brittany Greer (DG #33). September 25.

Glenn Bradley, MPPC Member (DG #52) on October 1.

Jerry Seay, brother of Rob Seay (DG #53), October 1.

BAPTISMS

Robert Hay Robinson, October 14

Andrew Harley Speaker, October 21

Carter Morrison Bennett, October 21

Ellison Cantrell White, October 28

WEDDINGS

Sallie Snyder & Tucker McKinley, October 13

Emily Smith & George Khoury, October 20

HOPE HOUSE

Gifts were presented to the Hope House by Jeff and Avis Griffith, Croft's, Lawrence and Barbara Berger.

ENDOWMENT

Gift were presented to the Endowment by Jason and Melissa Herring.

In HONOR of

Rev. Dr. Daniel Massie, given to the Endowment by Dorothy Anne Bowers.

Ann and Julian McGill, given to the Endowment by Betsy Hills and Doug McGill in honor of their parents' 59th wedding anniversary.

In MEMORY of

Glenn Bradley, given to the Endowment by Kevin and Sue Verner.



Community Fall Festival: Oct. 26

Visit [facebook.com/mtpleasantpres](https://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres) for more photos.

We enjoyed a great time of fun, food, and fellowship with our church family and the community.



Volunteers at the ready. That also describes long-time Caretaker Glenn Bradley, who will always be remembered for his dedication and passion for Hope House. In July Glenn suffered a stroke and spent three months struggling to recover. On October 1st, God called him home – just shy of his 89th birthday. Dear friend... you are greatly missed.

If you would like to help and get to know our many wonderful guests who stay at Hope House and Hope Cottage, please contact Beth Moore (843-532-4892 or bmoore@carolinaone.com).



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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College of Officers: Sept. 30, 2018

Visit [facebook.com/mtpleasantpres](https://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres) for more photos.

The MPPC College of Officers gathered for food, fun, and fellowship on Sunday, September 30, 2018. At the end of the evening, the elders and deacons were charged and commissioned to engage themselves, engage their neighbors, and engage their IMAGINATIONS as we dream big about Christ's church in this place.

Pacesetters Dinner & Virtual Charleston Ghost Tour: Oct. 12

Our Pacesetters explored the streets, alleyways, churches, Dungeon and City Jail on a virtual tour through the dark edges of The Holy City's Haunted Historic District.