



**Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum**  
Pastor & Head of Staff

## A Place of Refuge Amid the Storms of Life

Professor William Brown of Columbia Theological Seminary once said that, out of all the many metaphors that grace the poetry of the psalms, two tend to rise up above all others. He even suggests that those two images, working together, combine to shape the theology of the entire psalter. Even if you do not consider yourself to be an expert on the Book of Psalms, I would be willing to bet that you know and understand both of these metaphors very, very well.

The first image is “refuge.” The psalms know well that all people need places of safety, security, defense, and comfort. When the Hebrews sensed danger, they wrote of their longing for the protection of a mighty fortress, the safety of a solid rock that could keep them high above the flood, or the comfort of a stronghold full of friends and family. In other psalms, refuge was found under the protective shadow of God’s wings or in the shade of God’s fertile vineyard. In the green pastures of these places, which rest easily beside still waters, we are reminded that the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth, is our shepherd.

The second image is that of the “pathway.” Again and again, the psalms speak of faith as something that is encountered “on the way,” along the road, out and about on the highways and byways of life. In some ways, the pathway is presented as the opposite of refuge, given that people out on the road are naturally more exposed and vulnerable. In other ways, the path is lifted up as the truest and purest experience of what it means to be a disciple. By definition, we are ones who are “sent out” to serve God in the world.

I share this biblical background with you because I believe, as William Brown does, that these two metaphors combine to give shape to everything that happens in the church. If there is one thing that the church can and should do, it is to be a place of refuge amid the storms of life. We all need places where we can rest safely in the comforting presence of God and people who are ready to welcome us and care for us. At the same time, we cannot stay in “the refuge” all the time. Because God did not create us to sit perpetually still in one place, we must occasionally stretch our legs and venture out into the world to walk the varied paths of life. As God leads us “in right paths for his name’s sake,” we may well encounter danger. There is peril and vulnerability out there on the road, but there is also adventure. There is also exploration, discovery, and the chance to embrace new opportunities for love and service. And when that may all seem too hard, if we grow faint or weary or fearful or weak, we have the security of knowing that Christ’s church will be there as our fortress, our stronghold, and the solid rock on which to stand.

My hope and prayer is that we will work to find a sustainable balance between these two pillars of faith – that, together, we will embrace not only the need for comfort and familiarity, but also Christ’s challenging call to be courageous witnesses for God’s faith, God’s hope, and God’s love.



**Wednesdays: Pastor-Led Adult Study**  
**Oct. & Nov.: 6 PM, Fellowship Hall**

The pastors will explore themes and scriptures in the “Serving From the Heart” text. We will look at who the Holy Spirit is, and spiritual gifts, including 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Bring your Bibles for the study.

**October 2018**

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### 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  
[mppc.net/events](http://mppc.net/events)

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# Opportunities in His Service

## Hibben Hospitality

(formerly Hibben Cold Shelter)

Over the past five years Hibben United Methodist Church has opened its doors when the temperature drops below 33 degrees at night. We have been blessed to have many volunteers from MPPC, our neighboring church, to help our efforts. Our guests include homeless folks and individuals whose homes lack adequate heat when temperatures go below freezing.

Hibben UMC now calls this ministry Hibben Hospitality. We open our doors the third Saturday of every month, year-round at mid-day to serve lunch, in addition to being open through the winter months when the nighttime temperatures dip below freezing.

Hibben Hospitality offers warmth, safety, hospitality and the love of Jesus Christ to anyone suffering from the cold. While the number of guests served on any given night may vary, each year Hibben Hospitality has seen an increasing number of guests.

As with all ministries, relationships have grown and developed between Hibben Hospitality volunteers and with the guests. Team members often seek out familiar faces

when guests arrived as well as reaching out to new folks. Word has spread throughout the homeless population that Hibben is safe, and the people are caring and friendly. One couple had a unique request to our Shelter pastor Rev. Strawther. Through their interaction through the shelter, the couple felt close enough to Rev. Strawther to ask him if he would officiate their wedding. After calling themselves husband and wife on the street, they felt compelled to make their union official. The couple completed pre-marital counseling prior to holding the ceremony in Rev. Strawther's office.

Tangential relationships have sprouted up with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department who will stop by during the night shift for coffee and to keep watch over both Shelter volunteers as well as guests.

Hibben UMC has been blessed to serve and learn from each other, both Hibben Hospitality volunteers and guests alike. We are Christ's hands and feet to our neighbors. Open Hearts. Open Doors. Open Minds



### Volunteer For Hibben Hospitality

Hibben United Methodist Church welcomes all MPPC volunteers who are interested in serving. While you who may not be able to commit to long term volunteering you may be able to volunteer now and again as your schedules permits! Consider having your group, Circle, or Sunday School class serve a meal or set up cots. Volunteers are needed to clean bathrooms in the morning prior and provide laundry services for bath towels and sheets. Hibben Hospitality has a particular need for volunteers willing and able to spend the overnight hours from 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM to ensure the guests have a restful night. We'd love you to join us!

Training sessions will be offered in the fall, with dates and times to be announced. Contact Jim Custer ([custer.jim@gmail.com](mailto:custer.jim@gmail.com)) to be included in announcements of training and opportunities to serve. 843-364-7583.



*Photos: [www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres](http://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres)*

MPPC youth and volunteers sorted and loaded items onto the church bus and a U-Haul truck on Sunday, September 23. My wife, Suzy, and I along with Chris Sarkowski delivered these much needed basic items to Wilmington and Morehead City, NC on Monday, September 24. Thank you to everyone who participated in this outpouring of love and support.

### Ways To Support Hurricane Relief

#### 1. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

[pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org)

#### 2. Samaritan's Purse

[www.samaritanspurse.org/disaster/hurricane-florence](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/disaster/hurricane-florence)

#### 3. Good Shepherd Center - Wilmington

[www.goodshepherdwilmington.org](http://www.goodshepherdwilmington.org)

When it is appropriate, we will be putting together a team of volunteers to do some hands-on work through one of these organizations as soon as relief needs assessments are complete. If interested in joining this team, contact Jim Custer ([custer.jim@gmail.com](mailto:custer.jim@gmail.com)), Chair of the Local Missions committee.

I know many of you will answer the call for assistance, if you are able. One thing we can all do is pray for those in need. Let us all pray that God's mercy and grace will shine through as they recover and rebuild.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bart



# News & Events

## World Communion Sunday: Oct. 7

On October 7th we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday. Christians around the world, in congregations large and small and speaking every language, join us in the celebration. Starting in 1933, the concept didn't gain momentum until during the Second World War. As the world was racked with misery, this special Sunday was seen to symbolize the effort to hold things together in a spiritual sense. A special offering for Peace and Global Witness will be taken to emphasize our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God's creation.

## New Member Joining Day: Oct. 21

During the 11:15 AM service

## Children's Sunday: Oct. 21

### Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

On Children's Sunday, we join faith communities across the country in a special worship service led by our children to engage our church family and improve the lives of children and their families in our community and beyond. Contact Amy Thomas ([athomas@mppc.net](mailto:athomas@mppc.net)) if your child is interested in leading any of the four services.

## Community Fall Festival: Oct. 26

5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall & Parking Lot

Bring a friend and join us for food, fellowship, and fun! We'll have trunk-or-treat, jump castles, hay rides, face painting, games, candy, and plenty to eat! Make sure to stop by our photo station to have your child's or family picture taken. While you are there, register for a chance to win one of two baskets full of goodies! For more information, contact Amy Thomas ([athomas@mppc.net](mailto:athomas@mppc.net)).

## Village Concert Series

Nov. 2 - An Evening of Jazz with pianist Chantale Gagné and friends

Feb. 1 - Chamber Music Charleston

Mar. 8 - Charleston Symphony Orchestra

Woodwind Quintet

7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Our concert series kicks off November 2 with jazz pianist Chantale Gagné. A Quebec native, Chantale has been studying music since the age of 8, and currently performs for audiences across Canada, the US, and Europe. All concerts in our Village Concert Series are free and open to the community.

## Daylight Saving Time: Nov. 4

Fall back one hour on Saturday Night, Nov. 3

### BIRTHS

**Allen Rober Lowdermilk**, son of Georgeanna & Brian Lowdermilk and grandson of Andi & Gary Awkerman (DG #1), August 4.

### DEATHS

**Lois Sturgis**, MPPC member, (DG #19), grandmother of Kathryn Becker (DG #7), August 16.

**Peggie Moore**, sister of Mac Thigpen (DG #14), on September 8.

**Rose Vivian Lea**, MPPC member, (DG #62), September 12.

**Lodema Adams**, mother of Crystal Strickland (DG #60), September 18.

**Bob Roffey**, MPPC member, husband of Anne Roffey (DG #66), September 20.

### BAPTISMS

**Eva Louise Limehouse**, September 23

**Callie Mclaine Kimm**, September 30

### HOPE HOUSE

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

In MEMORY of AND In HONOR of **Marjean and Manfred Brauch**.

In MEMORY of **Booker Dalton**, given by Ralph and Betty Jenkins. **Don Johnson**, given by Ralph and Betty Jenkins.

### ENDOWMENT

In HONOR of **Rev. Tom Herrington**, given to the Endowment by Catherine Stuhr and Susan and Douglas Mellichamp.

**Archie Willis**, given to the Endowment by Dal & Linda Schreck.

In MEMORY of **Rose Vivian Lea**, given to the Endowment by Susan & Douglas Mellichamp, Becky Reynolds, and Dal & Linda Schreck.



## MPPC Learning Center - First Days of School

[Facebook Photos: www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres](https://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres)

Our MPPCLC Director, Lisa Schwartz, made the first day of school extra fun for the children and parents with this amazing yard sign by Charleston Lawn Greetings ([charlestonlawngreetings.com](http://charlestonlawngreetings.com)). A few moms had a REALLY good first day! God bless the children, parents, caregivers, and teachers this school year.

**Openings:** MPPC Learning Center has openings in their preschool program.

**3K:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday Program

(M/W Hours 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM; F Hours 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM).

**4K:** Monday through Thursday Program (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM).

If you would like to register your child or need further information, please contact the school office (843-856-2020).



# Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street  
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

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## GROCERY BAG SUNDAY FOR ECCO

Thank you from [East Cooper Community Outreach \(ECCO\)](#)! On your recently completed Grocery Bag Sunday, MPPC members donated just shy of 800 pounds of food with a value of more than \$1,400!

The ECCO Wellness Pantry provides food for approximately 350 local families every month. Your donations, along with the donations from 20 other area congregations are a blessing to these families as we work to educate our clients about healthy meal options on a budget.

This initiative is designed to encourage a change in client lifestyle with elevated nutritional education efforts and the increased availability of healthy food.

## STEPS 2018 @MPPC: AUG. 25

[Facebook Photos: www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres](https://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantpres)

The 11th annual Charleston Atlantic Presbytery S.T.E.P.S. (Studying, Teaching, Equipping, Praying, Serving) event was held on Saturday, August 25th.

Hosted by Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, there were approximately 290 participants from 34 churches. The day's events included 2 worship services, 30 workshops, informational displays, an on-site bookstore, lunch and great fellowship.