

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

January 2020



FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff



A Good Year to Do Great Things

The beginning of a new year is laden with all kinds of hopes and expectations. We see January 1st as a new beginning and a clean slate. To use a term from the Old Testament, the new year is a time for *teshuvah*. While we often translate this word as “repentance,” a more literal rendering from the Hebrew is “turning.” As people of God, this can be a very hopeful resolution – that in the new year we will turn ourselves more squarely to God, turn to face one another with greater love and compassion, and turn to face our true selves with greater honesty and forgiveness.

The Franciscan friar Richard Rohr, in his mystical devotional book On the Threshold of Transformation, shares a legend born out of the indigenous culture of the Great Plains. According to folklore, men from those tribes, as they roused their sons each morning, would say to them, “*It is a good day to do great things.*” This simple greeting transformed what could have been an ordinary day into one fraught with expectation, hope, and possibility. “We need to allow our souls to be stirred,” Rohr writes, “by a magnificent ambition – something that makes us jump out of bed in the morning, that calls us to be some kind of hero in our own kind of story.”

As the sun begins to rise on a new year here at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, it is my sense that God our Father is rousing us to a more urgent sense of expectation, hope, and possibility. You are blessed with strong hearts, strong faith, and a strong commitment to mission and ministry. We all have our flaws, but every great legend, and every great success story, begins with flawed individuals who end up doing more than they ever dreamed that they could. We are poised to write a new story, and it could even be heroic.

So, let’s turn to God, turn to each other, and turn to face the best version of ourselves. In short, let’s wake up! It is a good year to do great things!

Blessings and peace,

New Worship Times

Starting Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020



9 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Children and Youth Sunday School
Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Alternative Worship in the Net
Adult Sunday School

Children's Worship Opportunities Coming Soon...

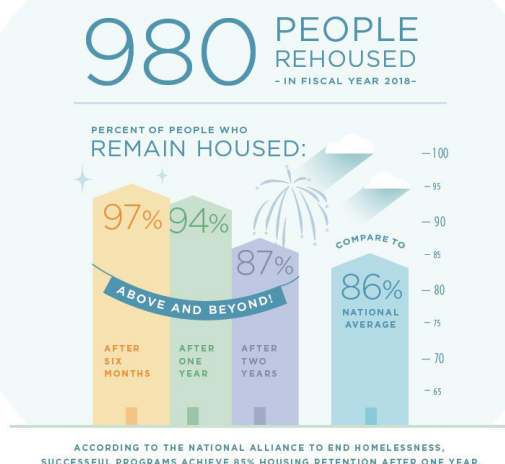
MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

One80 Place's mission is to end and prevent homelessness one person, one family at a time. We believe that the only solution



to homelessness is housing and that everyone deserves a home. We are the largest homeless service provider in the Lowcountry, and we shelter about one-third of the homeless population every night. Our 160-bed shelter in downtown Charleston serves men, women, children, and Veterans. Once safely in our facility, our clients have access to an onsite health clinic, attorneys, case managers, and three meals a day. We have an onsite clinic to help diagnose issues that can threaten your long-term housing. We have a partnership with the VA to end Veteran homelessness. We have legal services that help people navigate through mountains of paperwork. Ultimately, however, all of these programs are in line with our housing efforts.

One80 Place follows the "Housing First" approach to serve our clients. This means that from the moment families and individuals walk through our doors, housing is at the forefront of everything we do and say. This allows us to move clients into their new homes as soon as possible and allows us to serve more clients over the course of a year. We have operated a shelter and community kitchen since 1984 and have expanded our services to more effectively end and prevent homelessness. In 2018, we successfully ended or prevented homelessness for 980 individuals.



Our volunteer program is centered around our community kitchen. On an annual basis, we serve over 170,000 meals and count on our volunteers to help serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website at one80place.org/volunteer. You can view our volunteer calendar, sign up, and learn more information.

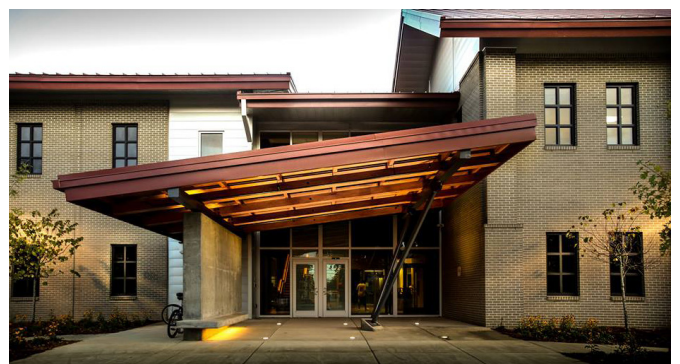
Interested in doing more? We are always in need of monetary contributions, nonperishable food, and new household items for our move-out kits.

Please visit our website at one80place.org or contact Katie Smith, Director of Annual Giving, at ksmith@one80place.org to learn more.



If you're interested in donating, there will be collection boxes in the MPPC reception area, Fellowship Hall and Grace Hall lobby.

This time of year, air mattresses, sheet sets, and pillows are the most needed items. Additional items can be found at one80place.org/wish-list.



HOPE HOUSE

A Safe Haven - Ten Years and Counting

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." – Phillipians 4:13

The middle of this month marks a **decade** since Hope House was dedicated as a faith-based hospital hospitality house. It has become known as a place to find peace and comfort, to reflect and to recharge, while caring for a loved one in a hospital miles from home. More than 1,750 guests have passed through its doors.

Two recent guests, a minister and his wife, said they felt "blessed and strengthened" by the kindnesses of Hope House volunteers and other church members here at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian.

On Thanksgiving Day all the guests at Hope House and Hope Cottage were treated to a dinner with all the fixings by Carl and Kathy Berry!

A few days later, everyone's spirits were lifted when, for the sixth straight year, Anna & Will Laye and their sons Noah & Ryan spent the better of a day decorating the House for Christmas!

Once again, Hope House was blessed to be asked to take part in the Old Village Holiday Street Fest again, to share the story of this home-away-from-home.



If you feel inspired to join this team and get to know our many wonderful guests, please contact Beth Moore at (843) 532-4892 or bmoore@carolinaone.com.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

JAN. 1

Happy New Year to all of our Hope House Friends

JAN. 2

In Honor of Jack and Linda Branham, Given by Ellen and Forest Branham

JAN. 4

In Honor of all Hope House volunteers and supporters, Given by Beth Moore

JAN. 7

In Honor of our Grandson, Henry Rowe, Given by Ken and Donna Widener

JAN. 12

In Celebration of my great nephew, Chance Osborne, on his 5th Birthday, Given by Angi Case

JAN. 16

In Honor of Peggy and Bill Leete for their years of support and

service to Hope House, Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

JAN. 18

In Honor of our son, Michael Widener, Given by Ken and Donna Widener

JAN. 21

In Honor of Anna Laye and her family for the beautiful decorations at Hope House during Christmas,

Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

JAN. 22

In Honor of neighbors and friends at Christmas, Given by Beth Moore

JAN. 25

In Honor of MPPC members for their support and love of Hope House, Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

JAN. 26

In Honor of our Grandmother, Mary Lou Mapp, Given by Haywood, Russell and Caroline Robinson

JAN. 29

In Memory of Lori Blackburn, Given by APNC members, Rennie All, Kaki Cobb, Matthew Lee, Paula Angelos, Maryanne Davis and Amy Murrell



YOUTH MINISTRIES

2019 was an amazing year in youth ministry at MPPC! We traveled to different states for conferences, grew in our faith through Confirmation, graduated from High School, became middle schoolers, served our neighbors in Charlotte, Charleston, and even Haiti through youth missions. MPPC Youth are always on the move and it is fun to look at the year as we begin a new one! The growth physically, mentally, spiritually, and faithfully is amazing to see through the eyes of the young people of our church. If you or your family has a young person between 6th and 12th grade and they are not involved in MPPC youth ministry, a new year is the perfect time to start!

Looking ahead to 2020 we have exciting things happening like Presbyterian conferences, mission trips, Youth Sunday, and even a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. We would LOVE TO SEE YOU!

Peace,

Courtney Kraus
*Director of
Youth Ministries*
ckraus@mppc.net



Youth Trips Save the Dates

(We need YOU to chaperone)

- **January 10-12:** High School Youth Ski Trip
- **February 7-9:** High School Youth Bethelwoods Presbytery Retreat
- **March 20-22:** 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat at Camp St. Christopher
- **May 15-17:** High School Youth Awanita
- **June 13-19:** High School Montreat Conference
- **June 21-26:** Middle School Youth CROSS Mission Trip in Charlotte, NC
- **July 15-19:** Middle School Youth Montreat Conference in Maryville, TN



Churchwide Save the Dates

- **February 12:** Youth Group Valentine's Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser (More details to come about RSVPs)
- **April 26:** Youth Sunday
- **Mary 3:** Confirmation Sunday



December was full of fun for our Youth. We spent an afternoon caroling at Franke Home. The next week, we closed out the year with a HUGE Christmas Party.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Two months before her 15th birthday she was in the foster care system. Her mother deserted her; her father was on the run accused of abuse. To look at her, you would not think she was any different than the child next door. She was beautiful and smart. Yet within herself she kept secrets, stories about a divided family that had a long history of dysfunction and betrayal. The community she came from was notorious for drugs and shootings, and that's where she found her network of help. To end those friendships was to abandon her support; to keep contact with her friends was to allow her to remain in a sea of trouble that was sure to swallow her.

We were Annie's first foster family; she was our first foster teenager. And while our backgrounds and stories were very different, we clicked. We mostly just "fit." Technology was her greatest resource to connect with friends and she was often in love with the boys she knew from her past. Her friends, especially the boys, would listen to her stories and would empathize as best they could. Her past was her present; it was hard to let go. And for every person we – or the system – took away from her, the more deeply entrenched she became to the few that remained.

Annie looked for love. From the boys she met to the broken familial relationships that once existed, love was flighty and often conditional. It had to hurt Annie; often she would cry from loneliness. Because Sunday worship was an important part of our life, we took Annie with us each week. We know it made a difference to her because one Sunday, during the sermon, she began to cry. The Reverend Elizabeth McGuire, using John 17 when Jesus prays for us as her text, weaved her faith journey into her message.

"You may have doubts, you may have fears, you may not feel much at all when it comes to talking about Jesus. You may not know God in deep and intimate and powerful ways, but... God knows you. Jesus has prayed for you and... Jesus still does. In each and every moment, the moments of anger, the moments of calm, the moments of laughter, the moments of tears, Jesus is praying for you...If [we] can remember these words of Christ, then that journey towards faith and love and hope can go that much closer to knowing and living in confidence that God certainly knows you and loves you."

Annie's tears were tears of redemption, acceptance, thankfulness, and love. Annie had found a new beginning!

We often make New Year's resolutions and promises we try to keep at the beginning of each year. "I'm going to exercise every day," we resolve. "I will be nicer to people around me," we promise. The Good News for us is that each day can be a new beginning in Christ! Whether it's January 1, February 12 or July 25, each day we have the opportunity for a new relationship with Christ. The Christian Education ministry at Mount Pleasant offers many opportunities for us to walk in our faith. From Sunday School on Sundays to Get Fed on Wednesdays, youth prayer breakfasts to summer retreats, weekday studies to small groups during Lent, we are invited and welcomed to explore our faith through study and grow as a congregation, a community of disciples responding to Christ's call to share the Good News of the Gospel in all we do.

I hope to see you in the Christian Education Ministry of MPPC in 2020!

Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education
dwiard@mppc.net



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Get Fed

January 15 - April 29, 2020

Get Fed is back on January 15, 2020, with classes and opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Registration for elementary children's LOGOS is a TWO step process and is now open. New to this winter's registration is a Parent Covenant parents must sign before a child can register. This covenant allows opportunities for adults to participate in all aspects of LOGOS. Children will see the fruits of parent involvement in smaller Bible Time groups, structured recreation, more hands-on-deck in music, and more opportunities to build relationships with adults during dinner. The adult classes offered this spring are **UNAFRAID** and **The Gospel of John, The Film**.

***UNAFRAID: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by the Rev. Adam Hamilton**

In this 5 week series, we explore the most common worries and fears experienced by Americans today, consider practical steps for overcoming these fears, and reflect upon fear in the light of scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we don't need to live in fear. Let's live with courage and hope. For anyone struggling with fear, worry or anxiety, or wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Each lesson will involve 15-20 min video, group discussion and table discussion. **This study will meet in the Parlor and will be led by Rev. Bart Edwards.**

Books are available for purchase through the church. (It is not necessary to purchase the book, but it is helpful.)

The Gospel of John, The Film

Many of us have read or are familiar with the Gospel of John. We know it is the fourth Gospel in the New Testament. The Leadership Bible says, "John provides a treasure trove of Jesus' stories and teachings not found in the other Gospels. John is also the simplest and most profound of the Gospels. Rich in insights and application, this book is the greatest evangelistic tool ever written."

While this may all be true, when we see the Gospel of John come to life in film, our understanding of who and what Jesus was like might change. "Is this the Jesus we read about in scripture?" We wonder. "Is this the Jesus I know? My Jesus does not (or maybe does) look like the Jesus depicted in the film." Over five weeks leading up to Lent, we will watch the film *The Gospel of John*, a word for word adaptation of the Good News Bible translation and explore questions that arise as we interpret what we see. The only text you will need is your Bible. **This study will meet in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Dan Wiard.**

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:45-5:30: LOGOS choir

5:30-6:00: Dinner for ALL ages

6:00-6:30: LOGOS Bible Time
Angel Notes Choir

6:30-7:00: LOGOS Recreation
Angel Notes Bible Time

6:00-7:00: Adult Study Electives

6:30-8:00: Adult Choir

Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (55+), \$5 per child (ages 6-17) and children under 5 eat free. \$25 family maximum.

New! Get Fed II

Are you dropping your children off for preschool in the Learning Center on Thursday mornings? Did you miss the Wednesday night Get Fed or prefer a daytime study to coming out in the evening? Beginning Thursday, January 16, Get Fed II will offer the Bible study *The Gospel of John: The Film* that will parallel the Wednesday evening study in GH 123-125. We begin with refreshments and fellowship at 9:15 a.m. followed by study from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Childcare is provided.

Date	Topic
January 15	Understanding and Countering Fear
January 22	Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
January 29	Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
February 5	Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
February 19	Aging, Illness, Dying and Fear of the Lord

GET INVOLVED



Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-off

The MPPC Annual Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-off will take place **Jan. 8, 2020!** Early Bird Registration is open at mppc.net/events. Childcare will be provided.

Early Bird Discount:

- \$15.00/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- \$7.50/person Chili and Hotdogs
- Chili Cook-off Participants eat free
- Children 12 and under eat free
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$30.

After January 6th:

- \$20.00/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- \$10.00/person Chili and Hotdogs
- Chili Cook-off Participants eat free
- Children 12 and under eat free
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$40.

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every **Thursday at 9 a.m.** in the **Parlor** to knit, crochet and create wonderful handmade pieces of clothing. The ministry team also make shawls and blankets for those in need, many of their creations are gifts for Hope House residents.

In December, they created beautiful Christmas colored hats and scarves for the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center. The Dee Norton Center is one of MPPC's mission partners and they work to "protect and support children." This talented, fun and meaningful ministry is open to anyone who is interested in joining. No prior skills are needed; a willingness to learn and make a difference is what is most important!



A Year with the Bible

A new year is here, and with it, a new opportunity for you to gain a deepened faith and a sense of accomplishment from reading the Bible in its entirety in 2020. Each Tuesday, beginning on **Jan. 7**, you are invited to come to the **Parlor** from **12:10-1 p.m.** Bring your lunch if you wish and gather with Parish Associate Lib McGregor Simmons and other daily Bible reading buddies to discuss the passages which you have read during the previous week. Just as having a buddy helps to keep your New Year's resolution to exercise on track, so will reading the Bible alongside others keep you from getting bogged down in Leviticus as mid-February rolls around!

So, **sign up** for *A Year with the Bible* by emailing lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net or **simply show up** on any Tuesday at 12:10 p.m. We promise that this gathering will be a no-judgment zone so don't be deterred if you have skipped a day or a week here or there. The first week of readings is as follows:

1/1	Genesis 1-2/ Matthew 1
1/2	Genesis 3-4/ Matthew 2
1/3	Genesis 5-6/Matthew 3
1/4	Genesis 7-8/ Psalms 1-2
1/5	Genesis 9-11/Matthew 4
1/6	Genesis 12-13/Matthew 5
1/7	Genesis 14-15/Psalms 3-4

LENT 2020

Neighborhood Church

This year our Lenten focus will use the book *Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission*. Selected by Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly for a Presbyterian-wide study, authors Krin Van Tatenhove and Rob Mueller weave storytelling, personal experience and case studies together to help readers explore what it means to be a neighborhood church and offer ways for congregations to “transform...from inward to outward moving.”

“This is a resource to inspire churches to become a vibrant and engaging community partner with the families and neighborhoods living around them. Drawing on their combined sixty years of parish experience, wisdom from Asset-Based Community Development, and compelling case stories, Van Tatenhove and Mueller do more than just call us to incarnational ministry. They give practical, essential tools that lead to communal conversion, develop the DNA of listening, spur fruitful partnerships, promote integrated space, and sustain long-term visions.”

– PCUSA Store

“If our churches follow Jesus as he’s called us to do, we will be in our neighborhoods, pursuing justice for our neighbors. That ties directly to our goal to be a Matthew 25 church. The whole story of the judgement of the nations is about people feeding, clothing, visiting, healing, loving, supporting, and being present to our neighbors,” she said. “Jesus defines our neighbor as anyone whose path we cross. Vital congregations combating systemic racism and poverty, the Hands and Feet Initiative that calls us to be the hands and feet of Christ, all of these things are wrapped up in what it means to be church.”

– Reverend Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator 223rd General Assembly

“I think the scriptural base of what it means to be church in the context of where God has placed us, is very real in the examples that the authors give.”

– Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri



Small Group Kickoff

Sunday, Feb. 23 | 5:00-7:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

All small groups kick-off the Lenten study on Sunday evening, Feb. 23, with a simple meal and keynote presentation and discussion with author Rob Mueller, co-author of *Neighborhood Church*. We encourage all small group participants to attend this Kickoff. The event is open to everyone. No reservations required.

Speaker: Rev. Rob Mueller

Rob is the pastor of Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church, a one hundred-year-old urban Hispanic congregation in San Antonio, Texas. He began ministry working with the Christian Base Community model of church redevelopment that was created in poor Latin American Christian communities. Rob is also the co-author of *Neighborhood Church*.

Getting Connected to a Small Group

We hope everyone will want to participate in this church-wide study during Lent. To get connected to a small group, visit the registration tables set up throughout the church campus between Services of Worship on Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9. Participant study books will be available at the church for \$10. Leader guides will be provided for each small group. If you are interested in hosting, facilitating, or joining a small group, or if you have any questions, please contact Dr. Dan Wiard (dwiard@mppc.net).



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. *Worship in the Sanctuary*
10:30 a.m. *Worship in the Sanctuary*
10:30 a.m. *The Net | Worship in the Fellowship Hall*

Sunday School:

9:00 a.m. *(All Ages)*
10:30 a.m. *(Connect 3 Adult Sunday School)*

Fellowship Breakfast:

8:30– 11 a.m. *in the Fellowship Hall*

CHILDCARE

Available during every service in the Seabrook Building
Secure Check-In & Background Checks

SERMONS

Live Streaming: mppc.net/watch-live
Sermons: mppc.net/sermons
Podcasts: tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events

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OTHER WAYS

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