

## Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

# The Pelican



### Reformed and Reframing

*"... like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5)*

One of our foundational beliefs as Presbyterians is that the body of Christ is a *"church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God."* In other words, we are convinced that the Holy Spirit is not done with us yet. God, as the master Creator, is still very much at work building us into a "spiritual house" and "holy priesthood." For this reason, we as Christians must always remain open to the possibility that the way we "do church" may need to be reformed and reframed as the world around us changes.

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a roundtable discussion of some of the ways that we, as Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, are working to reform and reframe some of our congregational structures to be more supportive of our current missions and ministries. The conversation will focus on three primary areas:

- (1) the reorganization of the session as the governing council of the church;
- (2) the reorganization of the staff to support our mission and ministry; and
- (3) the reorganization of diaconate responsibilities and priorities.

*Read more on page 2*



August 2019

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#### Special points of interest

- Find information about Sunday School for all ages!
- Read about what the Confirmation Class studies. Can you answer all the Big Questions?
- Learn about upcoming opportunities for mission, faith formation, and learning more about how the leadership structures of the church are being reorganized.

*"A church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God."*



Mount Pleasant  
Presbyterian Church

## Reformed and Reframing, cont.

1) With regard to the session, our goal is to strike a healthy balance between (a) freedom and flexibility in our various ministries and (b) sessional engagement with those ministries. Our sense is that some ministry teams feel disconnected from the larger church and that our communication about the good work we are doing as a church could be more effective. Changes in the sessional committee structure are designed to address these issues.

(2) The staff is also being reorganized to address gaps left by recent transitions and restore a more traditional Presbyterian structure. In particular, care is being taken to align our team members and their job descriptions more closely with the alignment of the lay leadership of the elders and deacons. We will also be working to be more intentional about telling the story of Mount

Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Amazing things are happening here, and we need to be telling that good news to the world!

(3) Last but certainly not least, a task force has been hard at work with our deacons to assess their ministries and re-energize this vital part of our church leadership. We think you will be excited to hear about the changes that are coming for these individuals who have been called to extend the care and compassion of Christ throughout our congregation.

Please make every effort to join the “Reforming and Reframing” conversation at **7 p.m. on September 4<sup>th</sup>**. I look forward to seeing you there.

Blessings and peace,



*“Amazing things are happening here, and we need to be telling that good news to the world!”*



## Blessing of the Animals

On the afternoon of October 6, MPPC will host Blessing of the Animals, an outdoor worship service which will witness to God’s love, care, and concern for creation. This will be a new service for our congregation, and we are in search of a team of animal lovers who will join Parish Associate Lib McGregor Simmons in planning the gathering.

Contact Lib at [lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net](mailto:lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net) if you are interested in offering your time and talents to celebrating “all creatures of our God and King.”

## MEMBER CARE

### DEATHS

**Reba McFadden**, July 21

**Brody Bates**, toddler son of Kayce & Coleman Bates, the grandson of Kim Porter and great nephew of Cappie & Chuck Olmstead, June 14.

**Gene Scott**, father of Stuart Scott, May 10.

**Marjorie Story**, grandmother of Ben Story, May 27.

### WEDDINGS

**Elizabeth Hutchison & Tanner Hicklin** (6/29)

### UPCOMING DATES

MPPC CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for patients, survivors & care-takers —  
September 26 [at 6:30.](#)

*“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”*

*Leo Buscaglia*

## Walking the Mourner's Path



Walking the Mourner's Path is an 8-week, Christ-centered program which will be offered at MPPC on Sunday evenings between September 29 and November 17.

Who can benefit from this program? Anyone who wishes to renew the joy in life after the death of a loved one, someone who sees everyone else going on with their lives but still feels stuck in grief, someone who believes that they have not had the opportunity to grieve fully for someone who died recently, years ago, or somewhere in

between.

The group will be limited to 10 participants, creating a safe space to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

For questions or to register, contact Andi Awkerman at [aawkerman@mppc.net](mailto:aawkerman@mppc.net) or Lib McGregor Simmons at [lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net](mailto:lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net).

## Welcome to the World!

When you welcome a new baby into your home by birth or adoption, be sure to inform Andi Awkerman [aawkerman@mppc.net](mailto:aawkerman@mppc.net) so that a rose can be placed in the sanctuary and the Net to express the congregation's joy and gratitude to God for the precious gift of your child.

### BIRTHS

JUNE:

**6 Laurie Edward Altman, IV** "Ward", son of Erin & Laurie Altman, (III) & grandson of Jackie Horton.

**26 Ruth Helen Horschel**, daughter of Page & Travis Horschel, & granddaughter of Jackie Horton.

### BAPTISMS

JUNE:

**2 Blake Dargan Newman;**  
**16 Oliva Parker and Griffin Hayes Myrick;**  
**30 Eleanor Mae DeStefano**

JULY:

**14 Benjamin Russel Ellis;**  
**21 Hunter Elisabeth Judy**

## Children's Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

Whether infants or fifth graders, Sunday School has a place for our youngest disciples to grow and learn the stories of the Bible. We use the Deep Blue curriculum, biblically grounded, educationally sound, fun, and designed to help children experience their Bible story each week in age appropriate classrooms.

Infants (SB 100/Nursery)  
Toddlers – Younger (SB 111)  
Toddlers – Older (SB 109)  
2's (SB 106)  
3's – Younger (SB 103)  
3's – Older (SB 102)  
4's – Younger (SB 101)  
4's – Older (SB 100)

5K – Younger (GH 124)  
5K – Older (GH 120)  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade (SB 203)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (SB 202)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (SB 204)  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade (SB 205)  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade (SB 208)



\*Childcare is available on Sunday mornings during all Services of Worship and Sunday School.

*In the congregation's worship we take our place among all of God's people. Simply being in the room and walking through the rites and rituals connects us to people of all ages in our community. Children see the youth and adults that they know as teachers, coaches, and the "big kids" singing and praying. Families worshiping together claim the faith for the entire family.*

*- Carolyn C. Brown*

## Youth Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

Youth classes offer age appropriate studies that bring the Bible to life for young people.

### Middle School

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade (GH 224)** – The Youth will gain an overview of the Bible and discover Biblical characters God used that are part of our faith story.



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade (GH 226)** – Seventh Graders will explore Bible stories that include scary, gross, and weird stories from the Bible.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation (GH 221-225)** - In this engaging nine-month class for young people who want to explore becoming a member at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, young people will explore who they are, what they believe, and what it means to be a disciple/member of MPPC.

### High School

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (GH Lower Level)** – A look at the life of Jesus Christ with weekly opportunities to connect Scripture to life.

See pages 8 and 11 for more information about Youth Activities!!



# BIG GOD BIG QUESTIONS

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In 2015, Westminster John Knox Press published the book, *100 Things Every Child Should Know before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders*, by Rebecca Kirkpatrick. One hundred is not significantly large and often it is not overwhelming. Whether we have 100 pennies or 100 peanuts, 100 items of clothing or there are 100 people at a River Dogs' baseball game, 100 is manageable. But when we put 100 in the context of biblical knowledge and our faith, the number can suddenly become daunting.

Confirmation class at Mount Pleasant happens in eighth grade. So by the time a young person is roughly thirteen, Kirkpatrick believes "the list of 100 Bible stories, characters, verses, church traditions, habits and conversations represents the foundational knowledge...children and younger teenagers should have in order to make the transition to the next level of faith expression as older teenagers and young adults." Consider some of the following questions based on Kirkpatrick's list of 100. While some of these questions are easily answered, others may be quite challenging.

*"From the youngest children to the wisest disciples, from Sunday School to weekday gatherings, there are opportunities to help encourage us as disciples and apostles of Jesus Christ."*

- How many books are in the Bible?
- Old Testament stories are about what people?
- What are the first stories told in the book of Genesis 1-11?
- Jacob had many sons. Can you name all of his sons? Who was Jacob's favored son?
- Name two of the Ten Commandments. What do those commandments mean?
- Who was David? What did David first do when we read about him in the Bible?
- How does the story of Jonah end?
- Where was Jesus baptized? What happened after Jesus was baptized?
- When did the disciples think Jesus was a ghost?
- What does Jesus say about loving our enemies?
- Who was Paul?
- What type of literature is the book of Revelation?
- What is Advent?
- What are the elements of Communion?
- What happens in worship when someone is baptized?

A great place to get a solid foundation on which to build our faith is in the Christian Education ministry of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. From the youngest children to the wisest disciples, from Sunday School to weekday gatherings, there are opportunities to help encourage us as disciples (and apostles) of Jesus Christ. Whether you are a leader or participant, we invite you to engage in the Christian Education ministry of MPPC and see where God might take you.

# Adult Faith Formation

## Adult Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

### **The Academy of St. John (SB 206)**

The Academy class works to equip God's people through expanding our understanding of Biblical revelation and how we live it out in the world.

### **The Middle (SB 209)**

We are all in the middle of something. Some of us are in the middle of raising kids, our lives, taking care of parents, etc. All of us are exploring the middle of our faith journey.

### **The Harbor (SB 210)**

This class will delve deeply into the book of Exodus and look at how God chooses Moses to lead the Hebrew people to the Promised Land.

### **Seekers and Sowers (SB 207)**

Read and study the Bible verse by verse with this wonderful group of men and women who aim to read and reflect deeply together.

### **What Do We Believe? An Adult "Confirmation" Class (Parlor)**

Sometimes we aren't sure what we believe as individuals and as a PCUSA congregation. This basic class is a place to discover and explore our faith and the denomination.

### **New Class (Name TBA) (GH 122)**

This class is designed specifically for young adults. Using contemporary studies, the class explores and discusses Scripture and its application to life.

## Adult Sunday School (11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)

### **Connect 3 (GH 123, 125)**

This Sunday School class meets during the last Service of Worship and offers conversation and discussion geared around scripture and contemporary studies. From books of the Bible to topical studies, this class offers life application insight into each lesson.

*"Our deepest calling is to grow into our own authentic self-hood, whether or not it conforms to some image of who we ought to be. As we do so, we will not only find the joy that every human being seeks--we will also find our path of authentic service in the world."*  
— **Parker Palmer**

### **Looking Ahead . . .**

Wednesday nights are shaping up for the fall with programs beginning September 11 that include LOGOS, Angel Notes and preschool Bible Time, and adult electives. Childcare is also available. Online LOGOS registration is now available.

The schedule for Wednesday nights:

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 4:45-5:30 | LOGOS Choir                      |
| 5:30-6:00 | Dinner for all ages              |
| 6:00-6:30 | LOGOS Bible Time/Angel Notes     |
| 6:30-7:00 | LOGOS Recreation/PreK Bible Time |
| 6:00-7:00 | Adult Electives                  |



# Adult Faith Formation

## Bible Studies

**Sunday Bible Study** 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Conference Room)

Men and women of all ages are welcome to study God's Word with us in this discussion-based group.

**Soul Training – Mondays** 6:30-8:00 p.m. (GH 125)

This weekly Bible Study for women of all ages focuses on spiritual development.

**Women's Bible Study – Wednesdays** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This long-standing group meets weekly at member's homes.

**Men's Bible Study – Fridays** 7:00-8:00 a.m. (Parlor)

Start your Friday off right by studying God's Word with other men of the church.

**Presbyterian Women – Various**

Four Circles to choose from (mppc.net). These small group Bible studies meet on different days once a month for study, prayer, and fellowship. This year's theme is A Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.

**Not sure where to start? Contact Director of Christian Education Dan Wiard ([dwiard@mppc.net](mailto:dwiard@mppc.net)) and he will help get you connected.**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

## Hope House Adopt-A-Day for August

2—In Honor of our Women's Circles who support Hope House in so many ways  
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team  
6— In Honor of David DeHoll's Birthday  
Given by Jennifer and Mark Davidson  
6—In Honor of Rob Crowder on his Birthday  
Given by his Grandchildren  
6— In Memory of our Parents, Sid and Mable  
Query for their support, love and commitment to Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church  
Given by Dick and Susanne Query  
9—In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. Sidney Johnson  
Given by their daughter, Louise A. Guy  
12—In Honor of my Mother, Margaret Seiepel  
Given by Angi Case

17—In Honor of the MPPC Prayer Shawl Ministry Team for the prayer shawls we give to guests  
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team  
20—In Memory of Eleanor Carraway Noell Tarres  
Given by her Family  
23—In Honor of our MPPC Church Staff and Ministers  
Given by Coleman and Chip Legerton  
26—In Honor of Jennifer Passmore for her love and support of Hope House  
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team  
29— In Honor of Jim Hollingsworth for his care of the clocks in Hope House  
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

# Mission

## COMING HOME AGAIN

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..” – Romans 15:13

For Hope House volunteers, nothing brings more joy than to welcome back former guests and their “patient.”

June 9th was such a day. The Hess family drove up from Bluffton so we could help celebrate Chelsea’s 30th birthday. Eleven years ago she came close to dying after a horrific auto accident. Seeing her now, thriving and so full of optimism, brought quite a few of us to tears.

Her parents and brother Christopher were the very first guests at Hope House. It was still undergoing renovations back then. So you can imagine their surprise at the most recent changes: a new roof, new porches, and a grand new staircase! Christopher was especially excited to show everyone “his” room, which is now the Green Room.

Chelsea’s mother Mary wrote of being overcome “once again walking into that comforting, peaceful and loving” home. Since their stay, this hospital hospitality house has welcomed more than 1,650 families.. offering each a safe, secure, temporary home-away-from-home.

For Chelsea, who said she “loved getting together with everyone” again, it will always be the place God gave her and her family “a new beginning.”

If you would like to hear more about Hope House and the many ways you can become involved with this ministry, please contact Beth Moore (bmoore@mppc.net).



### Middle School Mission Madness Week

The youth started off the summer with Mission Madness week during VBS. They did local mission work around Charleston.

Mission Madness week is for rising 6th graders during VBs hours. The youth did a lot of hard work!

### CROSS Mission Trip

Eighteen youth served the Charlotte area for an entire week with our friends at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. All together the youth served sixteen sites over the course of the week.

This is a great trip every year and this year’s theme was based on Luke 18:43 “I want to see.”





## JOIN OUR ESOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

We are blessed at MPPC to be a part of a missional church that focuses on our neighbors here and far away. We have offered ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes since 2015 with a goal of helping adult students learn or improve their English so that they may participate more fully in the life of our community. We are always looking for volunteers who can help in the classroom or with administrative tasks. No prior experience is required.



When asked how our classes have impacted their lives some of our students have told us about how they found a better job, such as at McDonalds, because they are able to communicate more effectively. Others have told us about how our classes have helped them make friends and end their sense of isolation as they learn English. Volunteers have told us about learning of different cultures and countries while coming to understand that no matter where we come from we all share similar hopes and dreams. And all of us have seen God at work in these little communities of neighbors as we meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the school year. At the end of each semester students receive certificates on the number of hours they have attended and students and volunteers enjoy an “end-of-semester” party in the fellowship hall. Students often share traditional food from their own countries.

Since we began we have served more than 250 students. They have come from more than 26 different countries and spoken 18 different languages. Educational backgrounds have ranged from elementary level to PhDs. We have been very fortunate to have more than 50 volunteers.

Our Fall semester will begin August 29th with registration. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30-8:00) upstairs in Seabrook and Grace Hall. We are planning to have 7 classes - 2 beginner, 2 intermediate, 2 advanced and one advanced conversation. For each class there is a lead teacher, who is experienced, as well as one or more assistants.

If you would like to learn more or find out how you can help there will be an **informational meeting in Grace Hall Room 220 at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 27th** or you can contact Greg Nevers ([neversgreg@gmail.com](mailto:neversgreg@gmail.com))

The ESOL Team thanks you for your support and asks that you keep us in your prayers.

### Parents Night Out Mill Street Tavern

August 16, 5:30 –8:00 p.m.

Register now at <https://mppc.net/events-registration/>  
For more information, contact [Rev. Kim Trimboli](#) or [Towner Magill](#).

### I-Beam needs you!

One child, one adult, one hour, once a week. This marks our 9th year that MPPC has mentored our local 2nd-5th grade students who have reading challenges. Please consider volunteering this coming school year. Visit our sign up tables in front of the church or in the fellowship hall August 18th, 25th, September 1st, and 8th OR attend one of the training sessions below:

At Christ Church Parrish Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 10 at noon

Thursday, Sept. 12 at noon

Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30

At St. James Santee Elementary School

Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30



To hear more, come to lunch and an information session in the Fellowship Hall, August 25 after the 10:30 service. For more information call Terry Horres 843-442-6525 or email [thorres@carolinaone.com](mailto:thorres@carolinaone.com).



### Pacesetters September 13

Mark your calendars now for Pacesetters in September! The "Classic King," Michael Viljac, is returning by popular demand, and will be performing a mix of Golden Oldies from the 50's, 60's and More. Come and enjoy a delicious meal, great fellowship and your favorite music of bygone years. Watch your weekly e-news for more details!

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The next AAH pickup event is Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. Church volunteers & scouts from Boy Scout Troop 20 meet in front of the Fellowship Hall to proceed on their route from Mill St. to the Ravenel Bridge. This is a great community service. For more information contact Elton Carrier ([Elton\\_carrier@att.net](mailto:Elton_carrier@att.net)), (843-442-1812).



## YOUTH LIFE AT MPPC

### Middle School Montreat

Thirteen youth traveled to Maryville College for the Middle School Montreat Conference. Over 700 youth and leaders gathered from Wednesday to Sunday to explore the theme, “For Such a Time as This.” The youth did energizers, sang, participated in small groups, heard daily keynote speakers, worshiped, and even performed in the variety show.



#### Middle School Trips and Retreats 2019-2020

- Awanita Retreat SEPTEMBER 13th-15th (sold out!)
- Bethelwoods Presbytery Retreat NOVEMBER 8-10
- CROSS Mission Trip 2020 JUNE 21-26
- MS Montreat Conference 2020 JULY 15-19

## Youth Ministry Fall Kickoff

Kick-off is for all youth grades 6—12 and their families Sunday, September 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m., as we gather in the Fellowship Hall for family fun, dinner, and more fun! After dinner (about 6:00 p.m.) Senior Highs will head to the basement, Senior High Parents will have a meeting in the Fellowship Hall, and Middle School Youth and Families will walk down the street for a pool party. The church will provide chicken and drinks for the meal; families are asked to bring a covered dish to share.

## Senior High Youth

High School youth will gather on Wednesday, August 14, for “Throwback Movie Night” from 7:00-9:15 p.m. in Grace Hall, Lower Level. While the evening includes pizza, popcorn, and drinks, we will spend some time talking about the fall program and what lies ahead. Bring a friend, come with ideas, and enjoy some fellowship before school starts! All 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend.

Our Senior High Youth had a fantastic trip to Montreat again this summer. Thanks to all the adult leaders who made the trip possible. Several of our youth also participated in the Lamb program in the Honduras.



#### How I can help with Youth Ministry ?

- Be a chaperone
- Help with Sunday School
- Be a youth adviser, help during youth group
- Provide a meal for Sunday Night Youth Group
- Pray for the Youth and their Leaders

## Looking Ahead!



Next month's Pelican will feature our wonderful music and worship ministries! Be ready to hear about programs like our Angel Notes, Adult choir, Youth Music, Net Band, Kirk choir and SAGE choir, Logos choir, handbells, ushers and lay leaders, communion preparers, and more!

In the meantime, contact Director of Music Barbara Loehr-Fox at [bloehr@mppc.net](mailto:bloehr@mppc.net) for more information or to find a place for your God-given musical talents!

### MPPC PELICAN

302 Hibben St.  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
29464

843-884-4612  
[www.mppc.net](http://www.mppc.net)