

FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff



As we enter the season of giving thanks, I have found myself thinking a lot about the things that make us thankful. Gratitude can be triggered by small moments, like enjoying a perfect piece of fruit, or finding a great parking place iust when we needed it. We can also find it in

much bigger moments: a clean diagnosis when we feared the worst; an embrace that saves a strained relationship; or a full night's rest after weeks of sleepless nights.

Somehow, thankfulness even finds a way to burst into our most painful moments. Some might even say that our clearest experiences of gratitude are made possible by adversity. Suffering has a way of clearing the decks in our spirits, removing the clutter from our vision, and helping us focus on the most important things in our lives. In her book *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass said it this way:

"Pain, suffering, and injustice—these things are all real. They do not go away. Gratitude, however, invalidates the false narrative that these things are the sum total of human existence, that despair is the last word. Gratitude gives us a new story. It opens our eyes to see that every life is, in unique and dignified ways, graced: the lives of the poor, the castoffs, the sick, the jailed, the exiles, the abused, the forgotten as well as those in more comfortable physical circumstances. Your life. My life. We all share in the ultimate gift—life itself. Together. Right now."

This is a lesson Paul wanted the church of Corinth to hear and understand. A group of Christians that had started with great faith and promise was being torn asunder by factions and infighting. No one seemed to be on the same page. Instead of picking sides, Paul the pastor wanted to remind them all that something much greater — Someone greater — had the whole situation in hand. "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing," Paul wrote. "He will increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

In other words, the new life in Christ gives us a new story. The new story does not dwell on human scarcity, but instead trusts in God's abundance. The new story knows that when we seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, every need and more will be satisfied and added unto us. The new story leads us to more thanksgiving, which leads us to more generosity, which leads us to more blessings, which leads us to more thanksgiving. It is, Paul would say, the surest path to joy. "For the ministry of service is not only supplying the needs of the saints," Paul promised, "but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12).

In the small moments, in the big moments, and even in the toughest moments, look for reminders of how God is taking care of you. These gifts surround you always. Focus on these good things, and you will find your spirits soaring — "overflowing" with gratitude for blessings we too often miss. You may even find your voice joining in the grateful exclamation of a joyful Paul: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

Blessings and Peace,



WORSHIP TIMES

After much research and discussion, the Session voted in October to change the Sunday morning schedule to two worship times: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. there will be worship in the Sanctuary, Children and Youth Sunday school, and many of our adult Sunday School classes will meet. At 10:30, there will be a traditional service in the sanctuary, the Net alternative service, and some adult education options. As our new Children's Ministry Director begins, additional options for children's programming at the 10:30 hour will be explored. This change in schedule will begin on January 5th.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Ministry at MPPC is one full of fun, fellowship, and faith formation of our young people. There are many opportunities for our youth to invest in the life of the church with various weekly activities and yearly trips and retreats.

Youth Ministry is made up of Middle and High School Youth and yearly "Tween Events" to get our 4th and 5th grade children ready for youth ministry. The Middle and High School Youth meet by grade level on a weekly basis on Sunday morning for Confirmation Class (8th grade) and Sunday School (6th-12th grade). The Youth meet together on Sunday nights for bells, choir, and Youth Group, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for Prayer Breakfast as well as various Bible Studies held on campus.

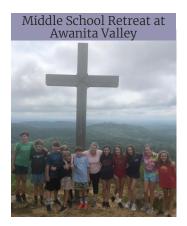
In addition to the weekly events the Middle School Youth attend retreats, Presbytery Conferences, mission trips and Middle School Montreat in Maryville, Tennessee. The High School Youth attend a Presbytery Conference along with Montreat Youth Conference every summer.

Youth having an awesome time at Sunday Night Youth Group



We are always looking for church members to volunteer when they can, and this can look different based on the member. We need help with Sunday night meals, chaperoning trips, and help with various Youth activities. If you are looking to get plugged into this amazing group of young people, please contact Courtney Kraus, Director of Youth Ministries, at **ckraus@mppc.net** to help.

MPPC is very fortunate to have such an awesome group of youth that represent MPPC with such grace and positivity!













HONORING OUR VETERANS

History Committee Honors Veterans

MPPC will honor its veterans, including deceased members, during worship on Nov. 10 for Veteran's Day on Nov. 11. Veteran's Day is a day on which we honor the men and women who have served or are serving in the military and who have fought to defend our freedom. We also honor the family members of these veterans.

The History Committee has a partial list of MPPC members who served in the armed forces during World War II and since. To complete our history of

those who provide our country with military service, we are requesting the names of our members who served or are presently serving in the armed forces and their branch of service. We also need the names of members who served (or are serving) in the Peace Corps since it started in 1960.

For updates to the following veterans list, contact Linda Schreck of the History Committee at 843-884-7325 or lschreck2@comcast.net. If you have previously submitted this information, there is no need to submit it again. Thanks for your support of the MPPC History Committee.

Air Force

Reynolds Adams

Kathie Jennings Basten

Glenn Bradley*

Bobby Caldwell

Rick Alan Chadwick

Ron Cole

Robert Fancher. Sr. *

Robert Fancher, III.

Leonard C. Fulghum, Jr.

Joe Gaddy, Jr.

Alan Garner

Paul Grantham

James D. Harrington Sr.

Blake Benjamin Harwell*

Otis B. Hyler

Donald B. Johnson*

James S. Knight III

John McDermott

Ben A. Pelot, Jr.

Keith Ramsdell

Bryan Rogers

Buddy Smith

Malcolm Swan*

Wade Thompson

Mike Walsh

Keeling A. Warburton

Air Force Reserve

Robert M. Witherspoon III

Air Force/ Air Force Reserve

Wayne Capps

<u>Air National</u> Guard

Roger O. Harley

<u>Army</u>

John All*

Bob Brennan

Mary Brigman

Chauncey R. Clark III

Fred Crawford

Booker Dalton*

Carlton Force*

Gerald George

Dan Grubb*

Pauline Grubb*

Scott Hanling

Jason Haney

John Hardwick*

Gary Hayden

Robert "Bob" Hervey

Jerry Hogan

Jim Hollingsworth

Al Jenkins

David Kav

James "Jamie" R. Keeler

Robert H. Kina

John Garland Lackey

William F. Landrus

Jonathan Lee

Joe Maupin*

Bruce McAdams

James R. Middleton

Joe Molinari. Jr. *

Rex Morgan

William Payne, III

William M. Pearson*

Warren T. Player

Dick Query

Bob Reed

Ikey Renneker, Jr.*

Jordan Rowe

Jervey DuPre Royall*

Lee Royall*

Oscar Eugene Savedge*

Dan Schram*

E. M. Seabrook. Jr.*

HONORING OUR VETERANS

David Smith

George Smyth

Ronnie Strawn

Fred Stribling

Bill Talbot

Stan Wengert

Rick Widman

Robert M. Witherspoon IV

Army Air Corps

Dallas S. Deer, Jr.*

Harry E. Douty, Sr.*

Sam Witherspoon

Army National Guard

William Masche*

Douglas Mellichamp

Army/Air Force

Lewis Horton

Army/Air Force Reserve

Mark Kleber

Coast Guard

Bob Byrnes

Jim Ingham

Timothy A. Mellichamp

Marine Corps

Robert L. Alexander

Daniel Bluford

Michael A. Farmer

Ron Gavin

George Hancock*

Curt McCall, Sr.*

Steve Peper

David Reed Thompson*

Marine Corps Reserve

Ronald W. Eades

Navy

Al Aiken*

A. Jerry Beavers

Susanne Bradford

Philip Castengera

Adrian Chappell*

Edward Cheeseman

Joe Coates

Frank Conway

Grover Croft

Richard "Dick" Fitzgerald

Robert L. Fitzgerald

Larry Fulton*

Coby Frampton

Roe Gabriel*

Marcus Googer

Charles C. Graham

Edith Hancock*

Marshall Hay

Earl Hewett

Carl P. Hewett*

Butch Hills

Fran Hollingsworth*

Ralph G. Jenkins

Russ Keller

Norman Ray Levins

Tim Limbert

John Marshall Sr.*

Michael J. Maughon Jr.

Anson M. McAdams*

Greg McCoy

Julie Whilden McIver*

Joe Molinari

John Nuernberger

Richard S. Pate*

Adam Price

Bob Roffey*

John E. Royall, Sr.*

John E. Royall, Jr.

Robert Lee Royall

Carl Schneeberger

E.M. Seabrook, Sr.*

Donna Smith

Mark A. Stewart

Ed Sumner*

Morris Sutton

Mac Thigpen

Bobby Vaughn

George Voelker

Herman L. Wacker (Bubba)*

Edward C. Wagner, Jr.

Henrietta Wildeboer

Navy Reserve

James Gilbert

Julian McGill

Kenneth W. Shortridge, Jr.

Peace Corps

Bob Anderson*

Public Health Service

Russell Horres

* Deceased





MPPC MEN'S MINISTRY



In September, some members of the Men's Ministry Team at MPPC and Friendship AME worked together to build an at-home ramp for an individual with a handicap as part of the "Fix It" Ramp Build Program associated with the East Cooper Faith Network. The East Cooper Faith Network is coordinated by Greg and Kathy Jones who find clients and assist with the funding for materials. MPPC and many others in the East Cooper area are involved with the organization and supporting it.

The builders on this project included Mac Thigpen, Bob Byrnes, Louis Johnson, Joe Molinari, Douglas DeWolff, Roscoe Davis, Freeman Milligan, Don Horres, Anthony Major and Tim Mellichamp.

The Men's Ministry Team first became involved with the "Fix It" program in 2012. Tim Mellichamp is a board member of the "Fix It" program and was also the organizer and leader on this project. Anthony Major from Friendship AME is the President of the "Fix It" program.

After the project's completion, Tim took some time to share the following words about his experience:

"Give me a place a stand and I can move the earth" said Archimedes 23 centuries ago.

Archimedes is credited with idea of the simple machines (i.e. lever, wedge, screw, pulley and wheel). The simple machine is basically a device that produces a mechanical advantage or a force multiplier (the ratio between effort-out and effort-in). His famous quote expresses there is no limit to the amplification of force using a simple machine.

Over the past couple of weeks, members of MPPC's Men's Ministry built a simple machine called the inclined plane, otherwise known as a ramp.

They built a literal simple machine and a figurative simple machine which will result in a *force* that you may not see or feel, but it's amplitude is there radiating beyond our abilities to comprehend.

Doing God's bidding is the epitome of the simple machine. The effort out is much greater than the effort in. In other words, God will work in your life when you are His Hands and Feet.

The effort you put in, doing His bidding, will generate a *force* far greater in other parts of your life. This *force* multiplier, this mechanical advantage, is a simple *divine* machine Jesus called loving your neighbor.

I paraphrased some scripture from *Psalms 1 (1-6)* which I think sums up the work of this group:

Doing God's bidding, you become a mighty tree planted by a stream. Your fruit will be bountiful. Your leaves will not wither. But, if you choose not to do his bidding, you will be like a tree planted in the desert. You will become like dust and blow away in the wind.

Give us a group of builders with faith in God and we will move the world! God sent us out in the world, so we came; we saw; and we moved the world! Thanks be to God and for the all the builders.

If you're interested in volunteering with future projects, please contact Tim at timmellichamp@





HOPE HOUSE

Sharing What You Have

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Hope House will soon be celebrating its 10th Anniversary! This ministry has been sustainable because of the many supporters like Alice and



Richard Weil's family. When the idea of the ministry was presented to the MPPC congregation of using Hope House as a place for those to stay with loved ones in the area hospitals, Alice called shortly after to say her family-owned business, Charleston Mattress Store, would like to donate all of the mattresses. What a blessing it was, considering we were working to furnish this old house on a \$0 budget! More than 1,750 guests have slept on those mattresses since Hope House opened.

Recently, the ministry team decided it was time for some new mattresses and planned to start purchasing one mattress at a time until we got all six replaced. We planned to use a donation from the Exchange Club, another generous giver, to purchase our first mattress. When I called the Charleston Mattress Store to place our first order, I was asked how many beds we have at Hope House and the receptionist said she would call me back. She did...and so kindly said, "The Weil family would like to send a delivery truck to Hope House with all of the mattresses needed."

The ministry team was thrilled! Some of our volunteers got together on the day the new mattresses were delivered to strip the beds, wash linens and get ready for new guests with new mattresses.

The volunteers of this ministry continue to be overwhelmed with the kindness and support shown by so many of our MPPC members and

others in the community. The love and support of those surrounding us is just one more blessing Hope House has been given. God's presence is truly felt in this place!

Thank you Alice, Richard, Ritchie and Steve Weil and all of you who support the Hope House Ministry!

Beth Moore, Director of Hope House



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

NOV. 2

In Honor of Jim and Deane Rowell of J.R. Rowell Printing Company for their generous donation of designing and printing our new Hope House brochures, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

NOV. 6

In Honor of Christy and Garrett Rowe on their anniversary, Given by Donna and Kenneth Widener

NOV. 6

In Loving Memory of Virginia Gilliam on her Birthday, Given by Mike, Julie, and Will Stephenson

NOV. 11

In Honor of all Veterans at MPPC and Worldwide, Given Anonymously

NOV. 14

In Honor of The Charleston Exchange Club for the Grant they gave to Hope House, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

NOV. 22

In Honor of the Weil Family for the mattresses donated to Hope House, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

NOV. 28

In Honor of and in Thanksgiving for the America we live in, Given Anonymously

GET INVOLVED



Village Concert Series

The Village Concert Series 2019-2020 season's opening concert will feature the Dozier Winds on **Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.** This woodwind quintet is an Army Music Performance Team from Fort Jackson. They play over 40 concerts a year throughout South Carolina.

In accordance with Veterans
Day, each name on the program
knows military service, from
well-known European masters
such as Ravel and RimskyKorsakov to famous American
composers such as Sousa
and Barber. At the end, the
Service Medley will recognize
the military veterans in the
audience. The concert follows the
Pacesetter's November dinner;
dinner starts at 5:45 p.m.

2020 Medical Mission Trip to Honduras

Have you ever thought about participating in an International mission trip? In 2019, our Trinidad de Copan, Honduras medical team provided services to around 1,000 patients in 5 village clinic locations. You do not need to be in the medical field to participate. Non-medical team members are needed to help organize and assist doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists on the trip. Apply online or see other international mission trips at mppc.net/missions.

Women's Retreat Registration Open

Join us for our annual Women's Retreat **Jan. 24-26** at Pawleys Plantation. We are excited that the Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons will be leading us in program and worship with a focus on the Lord's Prayer.

The last day to register is **Nov. 10**! All registration and payment will be handled online at **mppc.net/event/womens-retreat-2020**.



Second Sunday Speaker Series

The next Second Sunday Speaker Series presentation and discussion is on **Nov. 10 at 5 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall! The November speaker is Louise Brown, a participant in the MUSC hospital workers strike 50 years ago.

Sponsored by the MPPC Bridge Builders Team, this event will feature a speaker for 30 minutes, followed by round table discussion, and time for snacks and fellowship.

Bring your friends and family! Neighboring congregations are encouraged to attend as well in order to have a diverse crowed with different perspectives to share.

Middle School Youth Trips

- Camp St. Christopher
 Confirmation Retreat: March 20-22, 2020.
- Cross Mission Trip 2020: June 21-26, 2020. Registration begins Nov. 20.
- Middle School Montreat Conference 2020: July 15-19, 2020. Rising 9th graders can attend! Registration begins Dec. 11.

High School Youth Trips

 Bethelwoods Presbytery Retreat: Feb. 7-9, 2020.
 Registration opens Dec. 1.

Chaperones Needed

Chaperones needed for all upcoming youth trips!

If you are interested in chaperoning, contact Courtney Kraus at **ckraus@mppc.net** or 843-884-4612.

New Member Class

The next New Member Class will be on **Nov. 10** from **4:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Contact Rev. Kim Trimboli with questions, or register for the class online at **mppc.net/new-member-class**.



MORE ABOUT MISSIONS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the MPPC Missions Fair on Sunday, Oct. 20! For our members and our ministry partners it was a great opportunity to celebrate the abundance of God's blessings in the world.

The following day, Rev. Bart Edwards and partners from Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM) visited the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and The Village at Summerville. The goal of this trip was to explore the new telehealth technology. The telehealth system can provide long-distance physician services by using computers and mobile devices to evaluate and keep in touch with patients. The telehealth system would allow U.S. doctors to consult with Haitian doctors in the HOM clinic





During this trip, Rev. Bart Edwards, Rev. Leon Dorleans, Founding Director of HOM; Rev. Gary Fulton, Executive Director of HOM; Janet Horton, Medical Coordinator for HOM; Vince Tanner, Trip Coordinator for HOM; and Dr. Quincey Etienne. Medical Director at HOM Port au Prince Clinic, first visited MUSC's Center for Telehealth. There, the group was given a run-down of the system by Dr. Ragan DuBose-Morris, Telehealth Education Manager and Dr. Terrence Steyer, doctor at MUSC and MPPC church member. Dr. Dubose-Morris explained the various services the system could offer. From psychiatric care to infant and prenatal care to stroke victims, there are many services that could be utilized in Haiti.



"There are 300,000 people and only one other clinic in addition to ours in Cité Soleil, Haiti," said Janet Horton, MSN, FNP, HOM Clinic and Medical Team Coordinator.

"The need for healthcare is so great and our capabilities are limited, but telehealth technology opens another world of possibilities to what our physicians can offer. Not only does this technology provide access to other doctors who can't physically be in Haiti, but it also allows access to specialized services that our doctors cannot currently provide."



Following the tour of MUSC's Teleheatlh Center, the group traveled to The Village at Summerville, a senior living community run by the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. Dr. Russell Blackwelder, The Village Co-Medical Director, showed the group how he applies telehealth medicine to his work at the Village.

"It was especially helpful during the snow storm several years ago," said Blackwelder to the group. "I wasn't able to drive to work, so I was able to check on the patients and video chat with them through the telehealth system without leaving my house."

After these visits, HOM and the MPPC International Missions team are hoping to work together to get one of the telehealth units for the HOM clinic in Haiti.

To learn more about international mission visit **mppc.net/missions**. You can also learn more about HOM and how you can get involved by visiting **haitiom.org**, or contact Rev. Bart Edwards, Associate Pastor for Missions, at **bedwards@mppc.net** if you would like to get involved in the telehealth project.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah by Richard Bach begins with a parable mixed into the opening story. Creatures lived in a village at the bottom of a river, clinging tightly to the twigs and rocks of the river bottom. It was what they knew: it was their habit. "But one creature said at last, 'I am tired

of clinging. Though I cannot see it with my eyes, I trust that the current knows where it is going. I shall let go, and let it take me where it will...and taking a breath [one creature] did let go, and at once was tumbled and smashed by the current across the rocks. Yet in time, as the creature refused to cling again, the current lifted him free from the bottom, and he was bruised and hurt no more."

Sometimes it is difficult to let go of the ways and habits we are accustomed to. We cling to the securities we know; the risk of the unknown might be more than we can handle. In being a disciple of Jesus Christ, however, we are called to let go of false securities, securities that do not last, and put our trust in him. If we are to cling to anything, we are to cling to Jesus. His invitation to his disciples to follow him is equally an invitation to us.

A good place to develop a foundation where we are Called is in Worship and Christian Education. In these places we can gain a sense of the biblical story and its application to us and our lives. We can discover – with other believers and seekers – how God may be calling us to serve God. And from my experience, I believe we are most complete when we are in tune with God.



Christian Education opportunities abound at Mount Pleasant. From seven adult Sunday School classes to five women's circles and weekday Bible studies and small groups throughout the week, there are opportunities for each of us to connect to Scripture and to our Call. Young or mature, there is a place for everyone to grow in our Christian walk. And if there is something missing in our ministry, perhaps God is calling you to begin a new ministry. The Christian Education Committee of Session and I welcome your ideas.

Just as one creature let go to that which was familiar, I wonder what might happen if we let go and completely allowed God to guide us. Where do you suppose God might take us?

I hope to see you in Worship and Christian Education.

Peace,
Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM IS COLLECTING BIBLE-THEMED TOYS FOR THE PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES. A COLLECTION BIN IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE DCE OFFICE.



Do You Know What You Believe About Your Faith?

It can be an awkward conversation with our significant other, peers, children, or even a stranger we meet on the street, "What do you believe about God?" "Who is Jesus?" "Why do we believe that?" "Is it okay if I don't agree with that?" Have you found yourself at a loss for words trying to express what you believe about your personal faith, or the beliefs of our PCUSA congregation? If so, or even if you want to deepen your understanding, you might find answers in the Sunday School class, "What Do We Believe? An Adult Confirmation Class" that meets in the Parlor from 9:45-10:45 a.m. As a participant in the class, you will have opportunities to discover your faith, what our congregation believes, and what it means to be a connectional church in the PCUSA.

EVERLASTING GOD, MAKE THIS HOUSE YOUR ABIDING PLACE, AND BLESS ALL WHO DWELL HERE. FILL THEM WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, AND SEND THEM OUT IN YOUR LOVE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN. (THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)



HOUSE BLESSING

House blessing is a tradition that is both ancient and new, calling upon God to make one's home a welcoming place to nourish the body, enjoy life, laugh, love, rest and be renewed.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) includes a liturgy for the Dedication of a Home-House Blessing in our Book of Common Worship. Recently an MPPC family invited a pastor to come to their new home and lead this short service. If you are moving into a new home, consider including this ancient/new tradition before or after you tackle unpacking all those boxes. To schedule your house blessing, contact Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons

New Sunglasses Needed!

Hondurans use bicycles, motorbikes and motorcycles to get around, as few own cars. And many don't have protective eyewear to use while maneuvering this dusty country. We're asking for donations of new (they love the tags!) and inexpensive sunglasses for children and adults to take with us on our Medical Mission Trip to Honduras in February 2020. Please bring to the church office where there will be a box marked "Sunglasses for Honduras." All contributions are gladly and thankfully accepted!





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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAYS

Worship: 8:15 a.m. Sanctuary 9:45 a.m. Sanctuary 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. (All Ages)

Fellowship Breakfast: 9–11 a.m. 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

WEDNESDAYS

Get Fed: Faith, Fellowship & Food

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events-registration

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@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net 843-884-4612