

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

# THE PELICAN

May 2021





# FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Church Family,

The Greek Philosopher Heraclitus once said, "*The only thing that is constant is change.*" I have found this to be true in life, especially life in the church. In my short time

here at MPPC we have experienced many changes. We have experienced staff changes, natural disasters, and a global pandemic. Although many of these changes have been heartbreaking, I have also seen and experienced great encouragement through it as the congregation has met and strived to handle the difficult changes with the love of Christ. The past few weeks have been no exception to MPPC facing change, as we embrace and absorb the departure of Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bynum. I have heard and seen the pain, confusion, and conflict you feel and how that has affected our community of faith. I assure you that the session and the staff leadership are working very hard to address and resolve these issues and create a space for reconciliation and rebirth.

My hope is that we will not only survive this difficult season but thrive. My prayer is that the love and unity that once flourished in this place, will soon begin to flourish again. I see the love of Christ in you and I believe in your ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to keep spreading the Good News of God's redemptive love!

My friends, hear the good news; God is working at this very moment; plowing the fertile fields of ministry, sowing seeds, and tending to the work of reconciliation and redemption. A garden does not produce fruit in a day or even a week but continues until the harvest. So we must tend to one another and seek God's will and mission for MPPC, I encourage us to plant seeds of love, kindness, patience, and generosity.

Today, find ways to strengthen your unity, pull together, step up and volunteer to help where help is needed. If you see something that needs to be done, be the first to do it! Look after the staff they need your support and care during this time of transition. Presbyterian theology believes in the priesthood of all believers, *each of you are called into ministry.* This is a time of great need and an opportunity for you to find your calling and faithfully put it into action!

Finally, let us hold one another in our hearts and continue to pray for the blessing and vitality of this congregation.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bart W. Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "E".

**Pastor Bart Edwards**  
Associate Pastor & Interim Head of Staff

# CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

## Greetings from your Worship and Music Ministry!

We have faced so many challenges this past year and we have learned things we never thought we would need. I have had a keen sense of the Lord's presence throughout this whole experience. The musical people of all ages at MPPC have still found a way to sing and enjoy music. We have laughed and cried together over our shared experiences. I thought a small year-in-review might be called for:

- We have shared over 46 anthem videos
- Created a virtual Christmas concert with children, adult and bell choirs
- Held weekly rehearsals for singing and handbell choirs – spanning in ages from 3 years old to 91
- Hosted two safe concerts during the pandemic through the Fine Arts Ministry with many virtual viewers - 474 views the day of and after for the first concert and 410 for the second concert
- Prepared and participated in several extra virtual worship services for Thanksgiving, Travelers' Christmas service, Lenten Thursdays, Easter, the Presbytery and one for the Bytes of Faith Series

I thank everyone from our wonderful parents who made sure our youngest singers made it to the Zoom rehearsals to all the instrumentalists, singers, and ringers who gave of their time and talent to bring praise and honor to God. I do not believe we have wasted a minute God has given us this last year. Though I pray we can return to a sense of normalcy in the near future, I will look back fondly at all we accomplished through this time of trial.



## Reformation Trip - Walking the Path to Geneva – May 25- June 6, 2022

In that sense of looking to a future where we will find a sense of normalcy, we are rescheduling our Reformation trip which was canceled in 2020. We hope you will consider joining us as we travel to four countries tracing the spiritual roots of the reformed church. We will start in Prague and end in Geneva. Along the way we will visit key Reformation sites in the Czech Republic, Germany, France, and Switzerland. There will be an informational meeting in the fall. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Barbara at [bloehr@mppc.net](mailto:bloehr@mppc.net).

**Barbara Loehr-Fox**  
Director of Music Ministries



# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

## Lenten Small Group Survey Results

Without a doubt, being with people and in relationship with one another is a highlight of the MPPC Lenten Small Group program. If we were to re-write Romans 8:38 reflecting our commitment to Lenten Small Groups, we might read, "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from Lenten Small Groups. Neither COVID-19 nor quarantine, neither masks nor carry-out only, neither Zoom nor social distancing, our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of CDC can separate us from Lenten Small Groups." We love to be together, and we did that in 2021 thanks to technology and creative social gatherings! Thank you, small group leaders, pastors, and everyone who participated.

### ***What did we enjoy most in our small groups?***

Fellowship, being together, connecting with and getting to know others, our church family, discussions and interactions, Sunday sermon connections, leaders, the Scripture-based study.

***What did we enjoy least?*** Not being in-person, COVID restrictions.

***What topics most interest us for small group gatherings?*** Bible studies, parenting, life application, hearing the voice of others

***Looking ahead, when would you participate in small groups?*** (In order of preference) Lent, Advent, Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer

***Which type of small group appeals to you?*** (In order of preference) In-person, Virtual (tie), In-homes (tie), In-community

## Components of Small Groups: Prayer, Study, Fellowship, Service

Small groups are important in our faith journey and adult faith formation. While we often think about only the "study" aspect of small groups, I believe there are four components of small groups that help us live into and grow our ministry and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Those components are:

***prayer*** - keeps us grounded in who we are and whose we are

***study*** - helps us grow as disciples and apostles of Christ

***fellowship*** - our faith and Christian discipleship is about being in relationship with each other

***service*** - our response in gratitude to God's amazing love for us, we go into the world and community to serve, being imitators of Christ

Many of our small groups include these components. If you find your group short in one of the areas, consider adding the missing piece. And then watch and experience what God will do through your small group.

**Dr. Dan Wiard**  
Director of Christian Education



## Ongoing Adults Faith Formation Opportunities in May:

### Throughout the week

- Men & Women's Bible Study (Sundays, 4:00 p.m.)
- Soul Training (Mondays, 6:30 p.m.)
- Presbyterian Women (various days)
- GAB (Gathering Around Books, fourth Friday, 5:30 p.m.)
- Digital Bible: Philippians (Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.)
- Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament (first Sunday, 7:00 p.m.)
- Young Adults (Thursday evenings)
- The Minor Keys (reading through the minor prophets, Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m.)

### Sunday mornings

- The Academy of St. John (8:45 a.m.)
- The Middle (9:00 a.m.)
- Connect 3 (9:00 a.m.)
- The Harbor (10:15 a.m.)
- Seekers & Sowers (10:15 a.m.)

Contact Dan Wiard or follow the Weekly eNews & Updates for more information or to register.



# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

## It Takes A Village!

When I was 16, my mom informed me as I was a youth deacon and my dad was on session, I was going to work VBS. I loved kids, but admittedly I had other plans for my first summer with a car, and the air conditioning in our little church plant building was the worst. I balked, and my introverted sister balked harder, but Mom was immovable. It was through that week leading kids at VBS that I discovered a deep love for children's ministry.



I've seen it over and over – a retired teacher who said his kid days were done, a creative dad who gets obsessed with a project, a grandmother reconnected to her grandchildren through serving in

Children's Ministry. But more importantly, I've seen kids choose to give their extra piece of candy to someone in the congregation, the recognition of a Sunday teacher at the grocery store, and the kids who remember the tips that one favorite teacher taught them for getting around in the Bible. Though we use this word a lot, leading in children's ministry isn't just "volunteering." It's shaping the faith of the next generation of Christians, who are the future of our church and of our faith in the world.



We are so blessed to have hundreds of children in Children's Ministry at MPPC, and amazing leadership on the part of adult members. A ministry this size takes constant congregational

involvement, as it's bigger than any one person – or ten, or twenty – can do. When the pandemic hit, we were already looking for ways to support and bolster our children's leadership, many of whom have been leading for some time, and to provide a consistent system for those serving our children to feel connected, fed through their service, and like the programs they led wouldn't come crashing down when they needed a break.

The answer to that last problem is simply one of abundance; having enough people to let everyone take turns.

As we look to the future and all that children's ministry can be, I'm aware that it can only stretch as far as our manpower. I want to encourage you to consider serving in this ministry in a capacity

that meets your time and talents. Teaching is of course always a need, and I encourage you not to fear sharing your faith in that way. But the needs also look like sitting with our kids and listening to them, hiding Easter eggs, or making decorations while you watch TV. Sometimes it's dressing up for Trunk-or-Treat, and other times it's building stage sets. There are always needs in children's ministry, and all it requires is love and two feet with which to jump in!

Please prayerfully consider today how you can serve our children. I promise you it will make a difference.

**Sarah Harbin-Coleman**  
Director of Children's Ministries



### SUNDAYS:

- 9:15 a.m. - Breakfast & Bibles Zoom
- 10:30 Worship - Bookstand and Wiggle Bags available for all ages, Childcare by reservation
- 11:30 Worship - Wiggle Bags available, Childcare by reservation, Elementary lesson and activity during sermon
- Weekly Sunday study videos for all ages
- Lunch on the Lawn every other week after church; all families invited!

### DURING THE WEEK:

- Wacky Wednesday Zooms, 3:30 p.m.
- Upper Elementary monthly gatherings
- Lower Elementary monthly gatherings

### SUMMER CAMPS:

- Bethelwoods Day Camp – June 21-25
- Bethelwoods Resident Camp – July 11-16
- VBS – On Campus or At Home – August 2-6

# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

## Introducing Our New Summer Interns!



### MAC REANEY

My name is Mac Reaney, and I am currently a Business major going into my junior year at The Citadel; I am also in the Army Reserves. I am from Travelers Rest, South Carolina and attended Travelers Rest High School. I love the outdoors- especially going to the lake or the beach. I grew up going to church and have a deep love for the Lord. I am very excited for the opportunity to work with the youth at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church and consider myself extremely blessed to interact with such a great community. I can't wait to begin serving and to watch members of the youth grow in their relationship with God this summer!



### AMELIA COBB

Hello! My name is Amelia Cobb and I am so excited to be working with the middle and high school youth as one of the summer youth interns. I just finished my junior year at Clemson University as a Graphic Communications major. I am coming home for my last summer and I couldn't think of a better place to spend it than at my home church. I grew at MPPC starting from preschool at the learning center, through confirmation, and into high school ministries. MPPC introduced me to some of my very best friends on mission trips, at Sunday school, and during Bible studies. I can't wait to meet all the youth of MPPC and I know we are about to have a great summer together!

## Thank You to Our Fall and Spring Intern, Carter!



### CARTER EDWARDS

MPPC Friends, Youth, and Youth Families, what a year it has been! My final day as an intern with MPPC was April 25th. This internship has meant so much to me over the past year, growing both personally and professionally. It has been an honor to serve such incredible families, and work alongside the dedicated education staff. Courtney, thank you for teaching me with grace, wisdom, and creativity. You are an inspiration and an advocate to our Youth Ministry, and I am so grateful to have learned so much under your wing. Thank you to everyone for embracing me with open arms, from a safe social distance, and please stay in touch! I will still be around, but if you need anything please text or call me, you can get my number from Courtney. Blessings!



# YOUTH SUNDAY





# CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION



## MPPC Kenya Mission Team

During the early spring of this year, our church lost two wonderful servants, Russ Keller, the leader of our Kenya Mission Team and Dr. Solomon Nzyuko in the Daystar University Community Development Department, our partner agency in Nairobi, Kenya.

Russ had joined the Kenya Team in early 2017 prior to MPPC sending a team of six church members to Nairobi. There they observed the success of the church's first extended community development project called Empower to Lead (E2L) in conjunction with Daystar University.

Daystar is a Christian university in the heart of Nairobi that has a community development department which trains students to return to their home villages upon graduation to establish self-sustaining community initiatives. The goal is for the graduate students to organize community projects, such as an agricultural co-op, which teach the villagers how to grow new healthy crops that will feed their community and provide a source of village income for what they can sell to others.

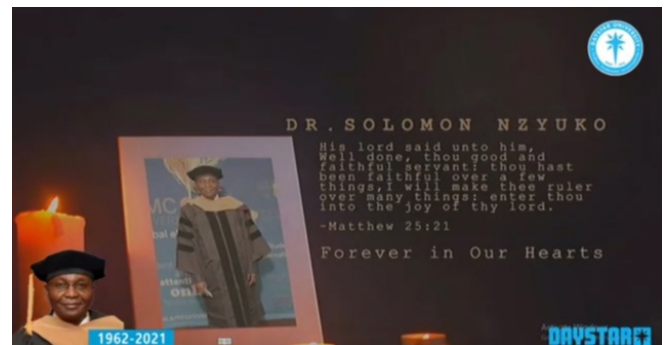


Russ brought his business skill and heart for mission as the team worked with Dr. Nzyuko to observe our initial partnership successes and to plan for a second project with the same overall goal.

On returning to MPPC, Russ became the leader of the Kenya Team as that second project was developed and implemented prior to the start of the global pandemic. His leadership and skill was accompanied by his joy in serving, a joy that you would feel just being in his presence.

After having built relationships within Daystar for many years, in February of 2013, MPPC sent a mission team to Daystar. They were there specifically to create a model for helping develop sustainable community projects in marginalized areas of Kenya.

Dr. Nzyuko met with this mission team, bringing all of his academic and practical expertise to the table.



Dr. Nzyuko's love of the Lord and passion for mentoring his students, helping them develop into leaders who would find solutions to tough problems, was evident from the start. The more we worked with him, the greater our respect and love for him grew. In monthly Skype calls, Dr. Nzyuko was always asked to offer a prayer which flowed beautifully from his heart.

Our church's loss of Solomon and of Russ is deeply felt. They are two beautiful souls that are reunited in God's presence and we are thankful for their friendship, their lives, and their servant hearts.

In honor of Russ and Solomon, our MPPC Kenya Team would like to continue this vital work in Kenya that they were so instrumental in. We invite any of you who feel called to serve to join us. If you feel so called, contact Jim Custer



# CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

## MPPC Youth Gives Rakes on Wheels a Spring Boost!

Seventeen members of our MPPC youth, led by Courtney Kraus, raked and bagged 25 bags of leaves and yard debris for a Meals on Wheels recipient in the Green Hill community to finish up the 2021 Spring Yard Cleanup project. We can be proud of their hard work on behalf of our neighbors in need. Youth assistance this year helped combat the challenge of fewer MPPC volunteers during this year due to COVID-19. MPPC members were able to meet the need identified by East Cooper Meals on Wheels.

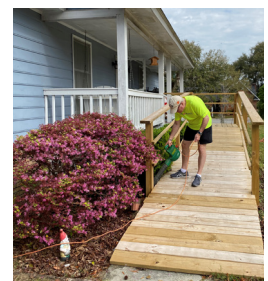
In all, 54 volunteers traveled to 10 different yards during the last three weeks of March. Four of the yards were cleaned up by families living under the same roof. The other six yards were cleaned up by MPPC members wearing masks to protect one another from the risk of COVID spread. East Cooper Meals on Wheels staff member Rachel Hamilton called MPPC's Rakes on Wheels effort this year: "Awesome!! I know you made these meal recipients so happy!"



MPPC Youth display their rakes after completing their yard cleanup effort

## Connect 3 Spends a Day Serving with Rakes on Wheels

On Saturday, March 27th, the Connect 3 class joined the Rakes on Wheels effort. After, 33 class members gathered for a picnic and fellowship on the church campus. Connect 3 meets every Sunday at 9 a.m. by Zoom. Newcomers are welcome to join the class at any time!





# CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

## Feeling Hopeful

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*



One step at a time.

How appropriate that on Easter weekend Hope House took a giant step forward.

We welcomed our first guest in 12 months: a woman from Michigan whose son was hospitalized after a serious auto accident in Charleston.

Rev. Bart Edwards brought her plight to our attention. The Hope House Advisory Team agreed that we should get the house ready immediately.

On Good Friday, four Hope House volunteers came armed with buckets and brooms and a pressure washer. Lisa Hay, Paula Custer, and Angi Case spent a number of hours scrubbing, sweeping and sanitizing the inside, while Jim Custer took aim at all the cobwebs and pollen on the outside.

Once the house was deemed “ready,” our guest arrived the next day, expressing gratitude that she had a safe place to go.

As we don’t want to put anyone’s health at risk, Hope House is only accepting one guest at a time - for now.

More work needs to be done before the Cottage can welcome guests. But we will, with God’s help - one step at a time.

## Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

### **MAY 1**

In Memory of  
Rosalee Force;  
Given by Jeffrey  
Undercoffler

### **MAY 14**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by  
Wynn Ullman

### **MAY 2-3**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by Joan  
and Don Brown

### **MAY 15**

In Memory of Lori  
Blackburn; Given  
Anonymously

### **MAY 3**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by Bob  
Ridout

### **MAY 16**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by  
Mary Ann and Gary  
Wilkinson

### **MAY 5**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by Don  
and Ellie Furry

### **MAY 21**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by  
Evans and Dianne  
Shearon

### **MAY 6**

In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by  
John and Carolyn  
Cotter

### **MAY 27**

In Honor of MPPC  
Hope House Ministry  
Team; Given by Jeff  
and Avis Griffith

### **MAY 7**

In Memory of Ricky  
Cox; Given by his  
family, Terry, Pat, and  
Leila

### **MAY 28-29**

In Honor of our  
family and friends;  
Given by Mona and  
Jim Knight

### **MAY 9**

Happy Mother’s Day  
to Avis Griffith; Given  
by her family

### **MAY 30**

In Honor of my  
MPPC family; Given  
by Jason Ray

### **MAY 10-11**

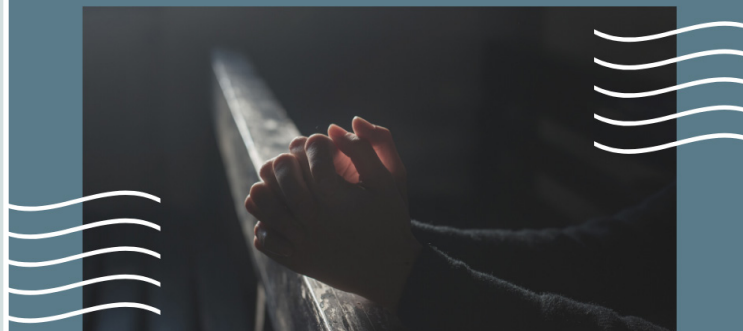
In Memory of Gary  
Beeler; Given by  
Robert W. Beard &  
Co.

Visit [mppc.net/hope-house](http://mppc.net/hope-house)  
to adopt a day!



# CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY

## SERVICES OF HEALING & WHOLENESS



Wednesday, April 28, at Noon

Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

Additional services may be scheduled on future dates.

## Service of Healing and Wholeness

We invite you to the following Services of Healing and Wholeness. In each service, we will draw upon the resources of Scripture, prayer, and worship, recognizing that reconciliation comes as a gift from God. These services, approximately 30 minutes in length, will be held at the following times:

Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

Additional services may be scheduled on future dates.

## About MPPC Endowment

Did you know that listing the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Endowment Fund in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA can be very tax efficient? In addition, if you leave funds to the Church at your death, we'd like to recognize your generosity by giving you a leaf on the Endowment Tree in the Fellowship Hall. Want to know more about the MPPC Endowment Fund and how a gift to the fund can make a difference now and in the future? Check out [mppc.net/endowment](http://mppc.net/endowment) or contact Harry Smith at 843-708-9555 or Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495.



## Endowment Gifts

### Given In Memory of Alma Savedge:

Mark and Cathy Kleber

### Given In Memory of Pax Darlington:

Susie Harris

## Community Book Group

Please join us for a virtual anti-racism book study on *The Loudest Duck: Moving Beyond Diversity While Embracing Differences*, hosted by the Lowcountry Faith Community Leadership Council. Following up on our successful anti-racism Bible Study, we want to dig deeper in small group settings by having these essential, difficult conversations and engagements with the Word of God, in love. To register, email [pastor.glk@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.glk@gmail.com), and you will be added to a small group for this 8-week study from April 18 - June 6th (small groups will choose how and when to meet). All book study participants will gather together for large-group sessions the week of June 14 and June 21st (dates & location TBD). All are welcome. If you have questions, contact Coleman Legerton.



## Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
29464  
PERMIT No. 28

## CONNECT WITH US

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:00 a.m. Online Worship  
10:30 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship  
11:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

Visit [mppc.net](http://mppc.net) to learn more about faith formation opportunities for all ages!

### **SERMONS**

Live Streaming: [mppc.net/watch-live](http://mppc.net/watch-live)  
Sermons: [mppc.net/sermons](http://mppc.net/sermons)  
Podcasts: [tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts](http://tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts)

### **EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS**

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

### **FOLLOW US**



@mtpleasantpres

### **OTHER WAYS**

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

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

[mppc.net/prayer-requests](http://mppc.net/prayer-requests)