

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

January 2022

the pelican



from pastor bart



Dear Church Family,

For as long as I can remember, the tradition of setting up a nativity set signals that Christmas is close at hand. As a child I loved watching my mom carefully unwrap each figure. Our family nativity was special to all of us

as my grandmother bought it at her church bazaar years before. My excitement grew as my mom intentionally placed each piece in its rightful place nestled around the straw laden cardboard barn. I still have the family nativity and it still stirs my emotions and excitement when I pull it out every December. Though worn and tattered from years of use, I still enjoy unwrapping the pieces and placing them in their rightful place- nestled around the same cardboard barn.



A few days ago, I packed it all away for another year, except for one piece. A few years ago, Suzy and I started keeping one piece of the nativity out to enjoy all year. This chosen figure is our tangible way of remembering a special piece of the Christmas story and keeping the "Work of Christmas" alive and noticeable all year. This

year, I broke tradition and kept out two pieces... the shepherd and his sheep. They are sitting under an orchid between the kitchen and the family room. They will be watching over our family this year. Seeing them together already reminds me that a shepherd belongs with his sheep no matter what. I could not bear to separate these two pieces.

This year my choice of which piece(s) to keep out is fitting. You see, I have been thinking a lot about shepherds and sheep these days. It has been my great privilege and honor to be one of the shepherds of the flock we call MPPC for the past nine months. I also look forward with great joy to welcoming a new shepherd, Rev. Dr. Danie DeBeer. Dr. DeBeer will be starting as our new Interim Pastor on January 10th. I am both hopeful and excited to see what God has in store for us in 2022 and beyond.

Just as my family nativity has many pieces to complete the story of Christmas, the story of my time as the Interim Head of Staff includes many

important pieces that God has rightfully placed around me and MPPC for such as time as this. I could fill up this newsletter with *Thank You's* for all the people who have stepped up and helped me over the past nine months. It will take me longer than the next 9 months to recall and remember you all. Two people stand out for specific public recognition- Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons and Clerk of Session, Jim Deavor. Early on, Jim dubbed us *The Three Amigos*. We have been all that and more. Without their wisdom, leadership and pastoral guidance, I would have crashed and burned long ago. The other figures that surround me on a daily basis that I would like to thank are the staff of MPPC. They have shown constant dedication to their jobs, gotten the jobs done and done well, and most importantly ministered to the congregation in our time of need. We have the best staff on the planet!

My friends, this is not the end of the story! It is certainly not time to pack up the pieces. In fact, the opposite. We have work to continue and to do. Not just any work, but God's work. Now is the time to press into the spiritual growth and ministry we have been called by *The Shepherd* to do. So, listen, listen carefully to hear the Shepherd's voice calling you and leading you. Be confident in the Shepherd's love for you and for his flock. I look forward to the journey ahead and give thanks to God for being a shepherd of this flock.

Grace and peace,

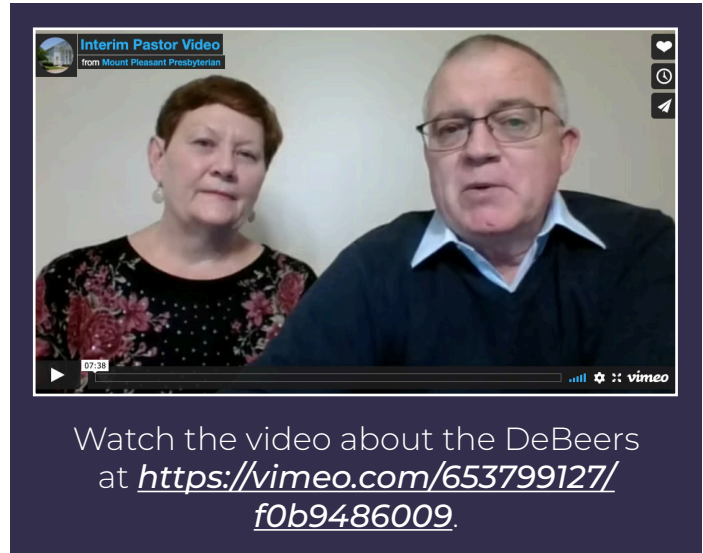
Pastor Bart Edwards
Associate Pastor

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

by Howard Thurman

welcoming rev. dr. debeer



Dear MPPC Friends,

It is our pleasure to announce that the Reverend Dr. Danie DeBeer has been approved by both the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and our Session to be our interim senior pastor/head of staff. The entire search team fully believes that God has chosen and prepared Dr. DeBeer to lead MPPC during this transition time. The team unanimously supports this decision and we are pleased and excited to see how he will lead and prepare us for our next installed senior pastor.

Originally from Namibia, South Africa, Dr. DeBeer earned his Master of Theology from the University of Stellenbosch, and his doctorate from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He has many years of experience serving the Presbyterian church as pastor, interim pastor, and various positions at the Presbytery level. He is coming to us following an interim position at Columbia Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Washington and will begin with us on January 10th.

He is married to his lovely wife Annette and they have two grown children—a son and a daughter—along with their four legged children, a dog and a cat. They are excited about moving to South Carolina and look forward to meeting everyone here at MPPC. To learn more about them, watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/653799127/f0b9486009>.

Grace and peace,

*The Interim Pastor Search Committee –
Susan Dalton, Chair; Lindsay Bruorton;
Tom Dozier; Betsy Hills; Andy White-
Boggan*

connected through education

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Winter/Spring 2022

WEDNESDAYS

4:45-6 PM:

Wednesdays at the Well

Kids Alive (grades 3-5), JAM (grades K-2), Bible Time & Crafts (Preschool), Kingdom Choir, Angel Notes (fellowship, study, & music) beginning January 19. Register your child & volunteer at mppc.net/events.

THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Coming in March

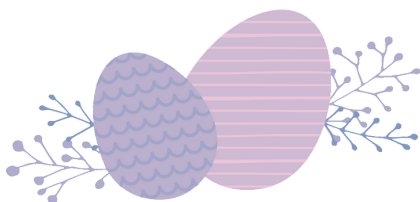
(Third graders receive and learn how to use their Bible)



EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST!

April

(Preschool & Elementary Children)



MOTHER'S DAY CRAFTING

Sunday, May 1.

An opportunity for children to make mom a special Mother's Day present.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

10 AM: *Disciple Ship & the Mighty Dinghy*

(Children discover practices of faith in age-appropriate groupings)

11 AM: *Kids Praise!*

Children's worship following the children's message the first three Sundays of month, 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship beginning January 9. Volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/805084CA8AF2AA3FE3-kids.

11 AM: *First Grade Worship*

For 6 weeks, January 30-March 6 (First Grade children learn about and discover worship at MPPC)

connected through education

“If not...”

Being part of the Church for most of my life, devotions are often part of meetings. I have heard many. Several are powerful, but one that I share with you as we begin 2022 is a simple quote: “If not you, who? If not now, when?”

For two years and counting, churches have been impacted by COVID. First, we physically distanced, gathered virtually, and waited. We thought maybe COVID would go away quickly. Today we have blended gatherings, in person, virtual and some combination of the two, but we still wait. We wait for COVID infections to decline. We wait in the safety of our homes, protecting our health and the health of people around us. For some, we wait because it is what we have become accustomed to, it is a new habit, and well, let's admit it, it can be a convenient reason to stay away.

Opportunities to engage in ministry and education at MPPC are abundant. From Sunday mornings to weekday gatherings, Zoom to in-person, people at MPPC are connecting with each other in worship, Bible study, fellowship, and service. On this page are opportunities for you to participate in the education ministry at MPPC. Prayerfully consider how you will be engaged. Will you lead? Will you encourage and participate? Will you take the lead and start a new group? As you think about 2022 and your faith and discipleship at MPPC, consider the simple quote I shared earlier: “If not you, who? If not now, when?” See you in 2022!

Detailed descriptions can be found at mppc.net/christian-education. There are also leadership opportunities in serving on the Children's and Adult Faith Formation ministry teams, the Christian Education Sessional Committee, and the Learning Center Board of Directors. Please contact Dan Wiard for more information.

A Special Thank You!

Week after week we have many awesome teachers and leaders who share their faith in the education program of MPPC. Thank you for your dedication and commitment! You are making a difference in the lives you touch. Through wearing masks inside to weathering the elements outside, you are there for your peers and students. We would not have a program without you! We look forward to what 2022 will bring.

Dr. Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

MPPC has created a new position as we move forward in Christian Education and children's ministry! We are now accepting inquiries and resumes for an Assistant Director of Christian Education (ADCE). This part-time, 30-hours per week ADCE will largely focus on children's ministry, including planning, coordinating, and implementing all aspects of children's ministry for infant through 5th grade children and their families. It will be important for the ADCE to connect with the children and their families in a genuine way and in support of the mission and vision of MPPC. The ADCE will work closely with the DCE. A complete description of the position can be found on the MPPC website. This is an exciting opportunity to engage with children and families in their faith journey, where children can know and experience God's love! Please contact Dan Wiard to apply or for further inquiries. Resumes and cover letters can be sent to ADCESearch@mppc.net.

2022 Spring Adult Faith Formation

- **Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m.** – small groups for everyone in person and via zoom
- **Lenten Small Groups** – Inter-generational Kick-off Sunday, February 27. Small groups, six-weeks beginning week of February 27
- **Weekday small group and Focus groups including:**
 - **Soul Training**, Mondays, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - **Young Adult Women's Small Group**, Tuesdays, Time TBD
 - **Men & Women's Bible Study**, Sundays, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - **Men's Morning Bible Study**, Fridays, 7:00 a.m. with first Friday of month breakfast at Page's Okra Grill
 - **What My Grandmothers Taught Me**, Last Sunday of month, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - **Wondering**, 1st Monday of the month through May via Zoom
 - **GAB**, 4th Friday, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - **Reflecting on Revelation**, Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m. beginning January 11 via Zoom
 - **The Disciple Making Church (Part 2)**, contact Dan Wiard for groups days and times
 - **The In Between**, a young adult group for post college young people (watch for upcoming meetings)
 - **Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles**
 - **PW Circle 2** – 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.
 - **PW Circle 3** – 2nd Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.
 - **PW Circle 4** – 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
 - **PW Circle 5** – 2nd Thursday at noon

connected through education

Out with the Old, In with the New

*"Out with the old and in with the new
Some exciting things are happening just for YOU!
Come to our events whether you are new or old
We want CornerStone Youth Ministry to be bold
Start out 2022
With a church family that loves you!"*

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



SAVE THE DATE:

Jan. 9: CornerStone Youth Events resume (See new schedule below)

Jan. 21-23: High School Ski Trip

Feb. 11-13: High School Bethelwoods
Presbytery Retreat

Feb. 16: CornerStone Youth Ministry
Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

Mar. 18-20: Confirmation Retreat Camp
St. Christopher

Apr. 22-24: High School Awanita (this
has changed from MS to HS)

May 1: Confirmation Sunday

May 15: Youth Sunday



2022 CornerStone Schedule

Sundays

10 AM: Breakfast in
the Basement- ALL
YOUTH (Basement)

5-6 PM: Confirmation
for 8th graders (GH
221-225)

***6-7:15 PM:** Middle
School Youth Group

***7:15-8:30 PM:** High
School Youth Group

*Drop off- Basement,
Pick up- Sanctuary

Tuesdays

7 AM:
Middle
School Prayer
Breakfast at
MPPC.

Chick Fil A will
be provided,
and one
Tuesday out
of the month,
Men's Ministry
will cook for
us.

Wednesday

6:30 PM: First
Wednesday of
each month we will
have CYM Praise
and Serve Night.

This will combine a
worshipful
experience with
helping others in
the community. We
will partner up with
other ministries to
make this happen
each month! All
Youth.

Thursday

7 AM: High School
CYM- "Thursday's
Together."

The High School
Youth will meet
the first Thursday
of each month for
breakfast before
school. The
location will
change each
month (Page's,
IHOP, CFA, Vicious
Biscuit, Etc.



connected through hope

A Gift That Will Keep On Giving

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

– Acts 20:35

A New Year means a New Beginning for Hope House! Both volunteers and guests are returning, and finding some improvements in both the House and Hope Cottage.

The most recent: a Christmas surprise for faithful Hope House supporter and church member Stephanie McCants. For the past five years, her son Will told us every time the family asked what she would like for Christmas, her only wish was "a donation to the Hope House." So he would Adopt-A-Day in her honor. This year though he wanted to do something a little more special.

He wrote us that he would love to donate, in his mother's name, a new computer for the guests to use. He delivered... and installed...the Apple iMac while he was visiting from North Carolina over Thanksgiving.

His only request - that he be allowed to take a picture of it installed, so he could give her the photo on Christmas morning!

We are so grateful for Will's generous gift and the McCants' family love of the Hope House Ministry.

May 2022 bring all of you much joy and peace.



January Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

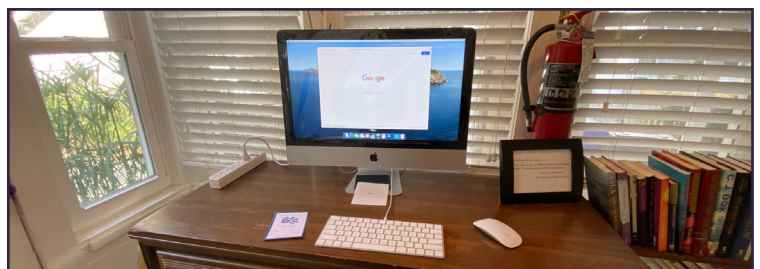
JANUARY 3

In Memory of Sam Witherspoon and
Doug Mellichamp; Given by Pam and
Michael Murray

JANUARY 4

In Honor of my Mother, Stephanie
McCants; Given by Will McCants

Visit mppc.net/hope-house
to adopt a day!





We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and an amazing start to your new year!



connected through mission



Circle of Welcome: Helping Afghan Refugees

The Circle of Welcome is an initiative designed to engage both faith and community groups in the successful integration of refugees into communities in the United States, like Charleston. This

initiative is anchored in a close partnership between LIRS, LSC, and volunteer teams from faith and community groups including MPPC. Chris Keller will be our MPPC point of contact for our Circle of Welcome team. If you'd like to learn more, she can be reached at chr.keller621@gmail.com. We will hopefully host an informational session in the new year for those interested in helping with this cause.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2022 Blood Drives

MPPC will be hosting multiple Red Cross Blood Drives in the Fellowship Hall throughout 2022. The dates are tentatively scheduled for January 24th, April 25th, July 25th and October 24th.

Visit the mppc.net/events website to find out more and how to sign up.



A Successful Season of Giving

It's the season of giving and y'all did not play around! Thank you so much to all our church friends and family who dropped off grocery bags for East Cooper Community Outreach and gifts for our Angel Tree kiddos.

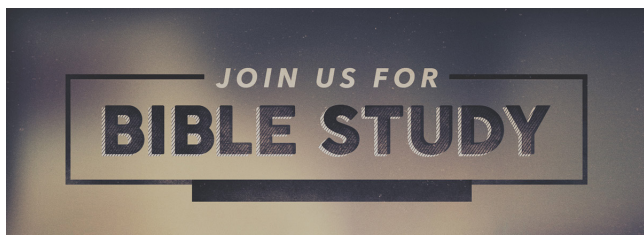
Not only was the ECCO truck overflowing with grocery bags, but our Fellowship Hall was packed full as well.

Not to mention, you all dropped off so many sweet Christmas cards for our homebound friends at East Cooper Meals on Wheels. And gave to so many of our local and international mission partners through our Wise Giving program.

All these gifts - no matter how big or small - truly make such a difference in our community and in God's world. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas season!



connected through community



Community Bible Study

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Beginning January 18

The MPPC Bridge Builders Ministry and the Lowcountry Faith Leadership Council invite you to join the third annual Community Bible Study starting on January 18 via zoom. As some of you will recall, this interracial Bible study began in January, 2020 at Olive Branch AME church.

This year, beginning after MLK Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, members of congregations across the Lowcountry will join together via zoom beginning on Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 for a six-week Bible study entitled, "How Are We Raced?" This study will culminate with a large-group celebration on February 22nd.

To receive the Zoom link, please email pastor.glk@gmail.com or RSVP at mppc.net/events. If you have questions, contact Coleman Legerton at colelege@gmail.com.

Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Doug Mellichamp:

Dr. Fred and Mrs. Mary Jane Crawford



Oyster Roast and Chili Cookoff

Sunday, Feb. 13th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Outside on the MPPC Campus

Join us for our annual oyster roast and chili cookoff! Register at mppc.net/events to get the early bird discount below:

- \$15/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- FAMILY MAX FOR OYSTERS, CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$40.
- \$8/person Chili and Hotdogs
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$25.
- Cook-off contestants & those 12 and under eat free

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

3rd Thursday of the month in the Parlor, Beginning Thursday, January 20th at 10- 11:30 a.m.

Are you interested in crocheting or knitting? Are you interested in fellowship and meeting new people? Are you new to the church and want to find a ministry? Then the Prayer Shawl Ministry group may be for you!

All are welcome (men included!) Remember the British diver– Tom Daley – who won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics? He would knit between dives!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is made up of a dedicated group of people who enjoy fun and fellowship. They make items for the Hope House and members of the congregation who are ill. They also make baby hats, sweaters and blankets for the Florence Crittenton House, shawls and blankets for the Hollings Cancer Center and various items for the warming center at Hibben United Methodist Church. Recently they supplied a baby hat and blanket for a baby whose family was staying with a member of the Connect 3 Sunday School class while undergoing heart surgery.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Pat Levins at 843-971-1142 or email at raypat5@bellsouth.net. Even those that cannot attend the monthly meetings but want to have an outlet for your craft, call Pat to let her know. Even if you are a beginner who needs some guidance this is the ministry for you! Let Pat know.

connected through community



Meet Our Guest Preacher on Jan. 9th

We are privileged to welcome the Rev. Frank Clark Spencer, President of the PCUSA Board of Pensions, as our guest preacher on January 9. Frank is named for his maternal grandfather, the Reverend Frank E. Clark. His paternal grandfather, Samuel R. Spencer, was a banker. These two elements of heritage have combined in Frank to create a unique perspective on faith, leadership, business and organization. After earning degrees at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Harvard Business School where he was named a Baker Scholar, Frank had a distinguished career which included taking his company Cogdell Spencer Inc., public on the New York Stock Exchange in 2005 and being named Ernst &

Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Carolinas in 2009. Frank retired from his company in October 2010 and entered Union Presbyterian Seminary to pursue his Master of Divinity.

In May of 2012 he accepted a call to be President of Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte while continuing his seminary studies. He assumed the presidency of the Board of Pensions in 2014 and was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2015. Frank has served the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a deacon, ruling elder, chair of the Montreat Conference Center, and the NEXT Church strategy team.

SAVE THE DATE

MPPC Men's Retreat: April 22-23

"Stepping Up: Calling Men to Courageous Manhood," with Rev. Dr. Ralph R. Herbert as our speaker.

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24



Friday, March 4th - Sunday, March 6th

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022

Welcoming Sabbath: Time Worth Keeping

Join us in March for a hometown Women's Retreat here in Mount Pleasant!

Saturday, March 5 is the main event, with a social that Friday evening & women-led worship on the MPPC campus that Sunday.

Suzy Edwards & Griselda Lartey will co-lead our program, with a message focused on making space for worship, rest and renewal in our lives. This uplifting weekend will give participants a chance to connect and recharge, with time for enrichment and fellowship.

Register at mppc.net/events
beginning January 10th - February 24th



MPPC Garden Club

If you are interested in helping out with the landscaping around the church and the Hope House, please contact Stacy Hanling at shanling@mppc.net. Green thumbs not required! We look forward to hearing from all who are interested.

- The Property & Grounds Committee





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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CONNECT WITH US

***SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship
10 a.m. Education Hour + Fellowship Time
11 a.m. Sanctuary + Live Stream Worship

Visit mppc.net to learn more about faith formation opportunities for all ages!

SERMONS

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

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events

FOLLOW US



@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact
843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests

**Masks are required indoors
on the MPPC campus.*