

the pelican



from rev. dr. debeer

Letting Go



Last month I wrote about the fact that change (which is situational) is different from a transition (which is a three-phase psychological reorientation process). The three phases are *the ending, the neutral zone* and *the new beginning*.

Endings are difficult. We all have something(s) we are attached to – whether it be realities, an identity, “the way we have always done something”, a person we like (the previous pastor), past good times (which are often recreated to fit our memories—e.g. the stellar growth under Rev. Steve Eason), and things we have loved so much (early morning breakfasts prepared by “our own chef”). Yet, a new beginning hardly ever works if there is not a good and proper ending.

Letting go results in loss. Think about it.

People don't really resist change, but they resist losing the things they treasured. They remember good times, and forget the struggles. They know how they have mastered the ability to do something well, and are uncertain if they will be able to master a new way of doing things.

Add to that that we know what we have now, but nobody can really promise us or give us a guarantee of what we will have.

It is only if we are willing to let go of our attachments and enter the neutral zone. The neutral zone is in a time and state of being in which the old behaviors and attitudes are evaluated and die out, and people prepare to move on in a new direction.

What are the things—the myths and legends, the good times, the wonderful pastors—to which Mount Pleasant are attached? What are the things that are often more important to us than anything else?

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Danie DeBeer
Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

The Messiah is Among You

This story was part of a sermon last month and several of you have asked to hear it again.

THERE WAS ONCE an old monastery tucked away in the middle of a forest. For many years people would make a significant effort required to seek out this monastery. The peaceful spirit of the place was healing for the soul.

In recent years, however, fewer and fewer people were making their way to the monastery. The monks had grown jealous and petty in their relationships with one another, and this animosity began to be felt by those who visited.

The abbot of the monastery was distressed by what was happening and poured out his heart to a wise old Jewish rabbi who came for a week of solitude and prayer in a nearby cottage in the woods. Having heard the abbot's tale of woe, he asked if he could offer a suggestion. “Please do” responded the abbot. “Anything you can offer.”

The rabbi said that he had received a vision while the abbot was pouring out his heart, and the vision was this: “The Messiah is among you.”

The abbot was astounded. Someone among his own community was the Messiah! Who could it be? He knew it wasn't him, but who? He hastened back to the monastery and shared the news with his fellow monks.

The monks grew silent as they looked at each other. Was this one the Messiah? Or was it that one? Or perhaps it was...? From that day on, the mood in the monastery changed. They began to treat each other with extraordinary respect. Jacob and Johannes started speaking to each other again, neither wanting to be guilty of slighting the Messiah. Paolo and Matthias left behind their frosty anger and sought out each other's forgiveness. The monks began looking for little ways of serving each other, opportunities to assist, seeking healing and forgiveness where offense had been given.

One traveler, then another began to find their way to the monastery. Word soon spread about the remarkable new spirit of the place. People found themselves renewed and transformed. They sensed a new spirit, the aura of extraordinary respect that now began to surround the old monks, and seemed to radiate out from them and permeate the atmosphere of the abbey. All because those monks knew the Messiah was among them.

- ROB MACKINTOSH (rgjmackintosh.com)

EASTER

at mount pleasant presbyterian church

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH

Palm Sunday
Regular Worship Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH

Maundy Thursday Service
Sanctuary - 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH

Good Friday Service
Sanctuary - 7 p.m.

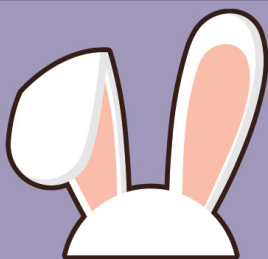
SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH

9 AM
Fellowship Hall
with the Net
Band

*10:15 AM
Traditional
Service in the
Sanctuary

*11:30 AM
Sanctuary
Service + Live
Stream Option

**Overflow in the Fellowship Hall*



Easter Egg Hunt

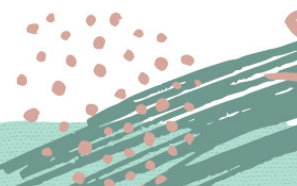
April 10, After 11 AM Service (Around 12:15 p.m.)



Easter Lilies

Transform the Net and Sanctuary this Easter season with beautiful, fresh lilies! Purchase an Easter lily anonymously, or in memory or in honor your loved ones.

The lilies are \$10 each and contributions will be accepted through April 8th online or in the church office.



connected through education

Exciting Spring & Summer Plans for Children's Ministry

Thank you all for making my first month here at MPPC so much fun! I have felt so welcomed and have really enjoyed getting to meet so many of you! I'm excited for all the fun plans we've got coming with our Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and VBS, and I look forward to getting to know more of you as my time here continues! Thank you again for the warm welcome!

God Bless,

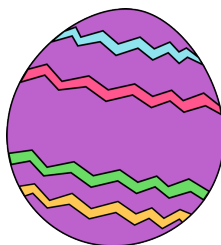
Jessica Kluesner

Assistant Director of Christian Education



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt April 10th following the 11 AM Service

Join us on Palm Sunday, April 10, after the 11 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall for pizza, a kid's craft, and the Easter egg hunt! This event is open to the entire church, and we encourage you to invite guests as well! We do ask that you register both yourself and any guests you may be bringing on Realm so we can ensure the correct amount of pizza is ordered.



We will eat at 12:15 p.m., and there will be a small craft available for the children to do as well before the hunt. We are requesting donations of bags of wrapped candy to fill the eggs or plastic eggs themselves, please drop those off in the church office.

We will also be stuffing the eggs April 4-April 6 from 9-10:30 a.m. If you can help with this or have questions, please contact Jessica at jkluesner@mppc.net.

Spring Semester of Wednesday at the Well Ends April 6th.

We have so enjoyed spending Wednesday nights with your children from preschool to 5th grade, and we are already looking forward to the fall semester. We will see you one last time on Wednesday, April 6th!

WEDNESDAYS AT THE WELL

4:45-5:30 p.m.

JAM (grades k-2), Kids Alive (grades 3-5)

5:00-5:30 p.m.

Angel Notes (preschool)*

5:30-6:00 p.m.

Kingdom Choir (grades k-5)*

5:30-6:00 p.m.

Bible Time & Crafts (preschool 3's and 4's)

**Angel Notes and Kingdom Choir will sing during worship on Palm Sunday.*

Food Truck Party VBS 2022: June 20-24, 9 AM-12:30 PM

We hope children of all ages who completed preK 3's and 4's to grade 5 are excited about Vacation Bible School at MPPC this summer. Our "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!" VBS moves back into June this year as we invite children of all ages to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into our neighborhood for the summer's biggest party!



This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all our daily needs are met.

Our registration waitlist is currently full, but we do still need volunteers to make this awesome week happen! There is a link on Realm for members to sign up to volunteer at VBS and we'd love to see as many of you there as possible! Any questions, contact Jessica at jkluesner@mppc.net.

life at mppc

Intergenerational Kickoff to Lent



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New Ways to Get Involved!

It is hard to believe that we are already preparing for summer in CornerStone Youth Ministry. We have many events and trips coming up for the youth and families at MPPC. I am excited to share that we will be hosting two new events this spring/summer for ALL members and friends of MPPC. We will be beginning "Lemonade on the Loop & Lawn" and "First Friday Films."

Lemonade on the Loop & Lawn will take place every Sunday after each worship service. The youth will be outside waiting for you at the Loop (for 9:00 service) or the Lawn (for 11:00 service) ready to serve up lemonade. We are starting this to promote fellowship after church. Lemonade will be free, but tips are always appreciated and will go to support CornerStone Youth.

First Friday Films will take place the first Friday from April-June. We will be hosting this event in the gravel lot of MPPC with the big screen, popcorn, drinks, and sweets. The youth and families will have a chance to vote on which movie to watch each month. This Friday, April 1, we will watch Trolls! This is a free event, but there will be candy available to purchase. All proceeds go to support CornerStone Youth. The youth wanted to start this as a way to gather with church members and friends!

I hope you will be a part of these new events that the CornerStone Youth will be hosting this spring and summer!

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



LOOKING AHEAD:

Apr. 22-24:

HS Youth Awanita Retreat

May 1:

Confirmation Sunday at 9 a.m. service

May 15:

Youth Sunday at both worship services

June 5:

Graduation Sunday (HS graduates at 9)

June 11-18:

HS Montreat Conference

June 20-24:

MPPC VBS

June 26-July 1:

MS CROSS Mission Trip



connected through education

Small Groups +1

Adult studies are happening in-person on Sunday mornings and throughout the week! While many of the groups are focusing on the church wide Seven Words study, there are plenty of options to engage in study and reflection.

Below is a quick listing of some of the opportunities. Visit mppc.net or contact Dan Wiard for more information!

- Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - Connect 3 (Parlor), Academy of St. John (SB 206), The Harbor (GH)
- Sundays, 10 a.m. - Seekers & Sowers (SB 207), The Middle (SB 210), Youngish Adults (GH 123/125)
- Sundays, 4 p.m. - Men & Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Last Sunday of Month, 7 p.m. - What My Grandmothers Taught Me (Zoom)
- Mondays, 6:30 p.m. - Soul Training (Zoom)
- First Monday of Month, 7 p.m. - Wondering (Zoom)
- Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m. - Bible Study (Zoom)
- Fridays, 7 a.m. - Men's Morning Bible Study (Zoom & 1st Friday @ Okra Grill)
- 4th Friday, 5:30 p.m. - Gathering Around Books (Zoom)
- Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles - Dates vary

MPPC MEN'S RETREAT

Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood

April 22-23, 2022

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Friday, April 22
6-8 p.m.
Fellowship, Dinner, Presentation

Saturday, April 23
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Breakfast, Lunch, Presentations

Men's Ministry at MPPC

Men's ministry seems to be one group in which men might be hesitant in participating. In general, we tend to keep our faith private, and it is easier to keep our thoughts and feelings to ourselves. To give up a Friday evening and part of a Saturday for a men's retreat can be tough...but think of it this way: this is a time for yourself; a time to connect with other men; a time for development to be better for those you love; a time to eat fantastic food; a time to discover who God might call you to be. These are very real possibilities for the 2022 MPPC Men's Retreat.

On Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, men of MPPC will gather in the Fellowship Hall on the church campus while we break bread together and hear God's message through guest speaker, Ralph Herbert. Our theme: ***Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood***. We will talk about stages of a man's journey through life, boyhood, adolescence, manhood, mentorship, and patriarchy, and examine a man's responsibilities at each step. We also will seek to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a man of faith?"

Be courageous and to step out in faith and join the men at MPPC for a time of fellowship, food, and exploring God's call at our April 22-23 Men's Retreat. You will be challenged and energized by our time together. Register through Realm, on mppc.net/events, or contact Dan Wiard.

Dinner Friday "Taste of Italy"

Baked Ziti, Chicken Parmigiana, Cheese Tortellini Primavera, Mamma's Meatballs Melt and Caesar Salad Served Buffet Style with Fresh Baked Rolls, butter, Sweet Tea

Breakfast Saturday Hot Breakfast Buffet

Scrambled eggs, Homestyle Breakfast Potatoes, Applewood Smoked Bacon, Sausage Patties, seasonal fresh cut fruit, orange juice

Lunch Saturday

Choice of Signature Sandwich served with condiments, Kettle chips, fresh baked cookie

In This Corner

Monthly, a cohort of educators and pastors gathers via Zoom to talk about and share gleanings from a topic or book we read. This month's book is worth reading! The book is *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, by Anna Carter Florence. She helps readers of all backgrounds see and hear scripture in a way that engages our mind and being. It invites us into community as we discover a text and its life application. From faithandleadership.com we read,

In her new book, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, Florence, the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, draws on the world of theater to offer specific tools for reading and rehearsing Scripture in groups.

Studying scripts with other students in a theater class in college, Florence discovered that the work wasn't about being the smartest or most talented or coming up with the best interpretation.

"It was about hanging in there with each other, because the text and what we were creating with it was so interesting, nobody wanted to stop," she said. "We kept seeing where it could lead and how the questions it raised were so much bigger than we ever anticipated."

So too with Scripture -- only more so, Florence said. "It is this text that continues to give and give and give."

I invite you to pick up the book at the library or through Amazon and read it. It might surprise you as a different way to read Scripture!



connected through hope

Giving The Gift of Hope

"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely.." – Psalm 112:5

Springtime...when our gardens are blooming and the warmer temperatures lift our spirits and fill our hearts with joy.

At Hope House, Caretakers and Team Leaders bring happiness to complete strangers who often become 'family' – sharing their time and talents to make sure each guest feels at home and at peace.

Your generosity and loving care also is evident every day. Some of you knit prayer shawls, which guests often take to their loved ones in the hospital, wrapping them in comfort. The kitchen is kept stocked with food donated or made by other MPPC members. Sometimes those items, as well as other supplies – even linens, are left in bags outside the door.. no name, no note.

Another way you help is to "Adopt-A-Day." Each \$50 donation, in honor or memory of a relative or friend, ensures that Hope House will stay open another day.. providing shelter and safety to those who are miles from home, caring for loved ones in our area hospitals. This can be done online at MPPC.net or you can send a check to the church office made payable to MPPC with "Hope House" on the memo line. Be sure to include a note with the DATE you choose, and whether it is "In Honor of.. In Memory of.. Celebrating the Birthday of.. or Celebrating the Anniversary of."

Please include the name and address of the person for whom you are Adopting a Day, plus your name and address, and how you would like it written up in the church Bulletin, e-News and the Pelican. (Contributions submitted after the 15th of the month prior to the Pelican may not be able to be included in the current month's Pelican). That way we can properly thank and acknowledge both of you.

For all you have done and continue to do, we extend our heartfelt **thank you**.



April Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

APRIL 2

In Memory of Rossie Spell;
Given by Circle #4

APRIL 6

In Honor of all Hope House Volunteers;
Given by Greg and Judy McCoy

APRIL 7

In Honor of Ricky Cox, our son's, birthday on April 7 and in his Memory; Given by his parents and sister: Terry, Pat and Leila Cox

APRIL 12

In Honor of Anna Laye,
Hope House Volunteer;
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

APRIL 18

In Honor of John Williams, MPPC Sexton;
Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

Hope House is funded by member donations, guest contributions, and community grants.

It costs approximately \$50/day to operate Hope House. You can support our mission by "adopting" a day at Hope House. Visit mppc.net/hope-house to make a donation.

connected through mission

MPPC's Missional Donations to Habitat for Humanity Honduras at Work!

Dear Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of each of the 33 thousand families that have been benefited in Honduras with decent and affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity Honduras extends a cordial thanks for your economic support of USD\$ 3860.00, which has allowed us to leverage and expand our work through the whole country supporting families like Antonia's. Your support means a new hope for families who had lost it, as a result of the emergency caused by COVID-19, helping the native communities with more than 1800 solutions in areas where the 22% of the country has issues with water and sanitation and 11% no water at all, plastering walls with stucco that will prevent the spreading of Chagas disease, solid cement grounds in rural areas where 24% of rural population has dirt floors. In Honduras 76% of the families who live in the country side still cook with firewood and by providing smokeless eco-stoves we prevent respiratory diseases and reducing the use of fuel, land tenure to develop small dwellings, also providing 200 housing solutions to very far places like the Mosquito Coast. We believe that safe and affordable housing is a crucial foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.

Best Wishes.

Antonia is a young woman of just 26 years old from Gracias Lempira, Honduras, and like most of the Young people of the country, she thought that the possibility of having her own place it was just a dream.

All this changed as soon she knew about the housing projects of Habitat for Humanity Honduras "a friend told me she's built her house with Habitat and that call my attention, I asked for the requirements and I noticed I was able to apply, some of them were having an income and taking care of my family, in my case my Mom depends economically from me.

I'm pleased, this is an inexplicable feeling, having my own house at a very early age, knowing that the country has limited opportunities for young people that do not qualify for housing loans".

Also she added "if someone told me that at my age I will own a house I couldn't believe it.

"Habitat make dreams come true, it was difficult tell my Mom that we have to move again and again every time the rent contract was expired"

Antonia
Gracias, Lempira



The Circle of Welcome, Helping Afghan Refugees

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, All Saints Lutheran Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints comprise a "Circle of Friends", joining together with Lutheran Services Refugee and Immigrant Services to assist in the relocation of two Afghan men.

Visit mppc.net/circle-of-welcome to see the latest volunteer needs for this mission as they arise.



connected through community

New MPPC Learning Center Mission Partnerships



The Learning Center has historically had a missional component with our students and families. This past year, the Learning Center supported One80 Place, the MPPC Angel Tree and Low Country Orphan Relief through generous giving from our families.



We are also very excited to have created a partnership with Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM) and look forward to this relationship growing in years to come. To date, the Learning

Center students were each provided a HOM child to pray for at Christmas. Our students were (and still are!) encouraged to bring an offering to chapel to support HOM, too. In fact, each class has a dedicated collection box for HOM ministries that we'll continue to promote throughout the remainder of the school year. The Learning Center students also made Valentine cards for the Haitian students to spread love and joy as well.

Lastly, we have also asked our Learning Center families to consider sponsoring a HOM child which totals \$35/month of continuous giving. In the future, we look forward to this relationship growing to deepen a connection between our beloved preschool and the growing school in Haiti while spreading God's message to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Have questions or want to get involved? Feel free to reach out to Pastor Bart or any of the MPPCLC Mission Team members listed below. We welcome any support to keep the momentum going.

Sincerely,
The MPPCLC Missions Team
Ashley DeStefano, Quinn Hillegass and Liz White

Welcome Tony Sane, Our New Director of Music Ministries!

After an almost eight-month search process, the Music Ministry Search and Personnel Committees are pleased to announce that Tony Sane has accepted the position as Director of Music Ministries at Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Tony has a B.A. in Music with a concentration in Music Education, Voice, and Choral Conducting from Western Carolina University. He is currently the Director of Music at Myers United Memorial Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC, where he leads seven musical ensembles with members ranging in age from three to 90. He has also served churches in Gaffney, SC, and Rutherfordton and Franklin, NC. We believe Tony's experience in and passion for traditional and contemporary music and worship styles will make him a tremendous leader of MPPC's music programs.

Interim Music Director David Nagelkirk will continue leading the adult choir and supporting the NET Band and children's music until Tony's arrival in late April. We hope you will join us in welcoming Tony and his wife, Haley, into our church family.



connected through community

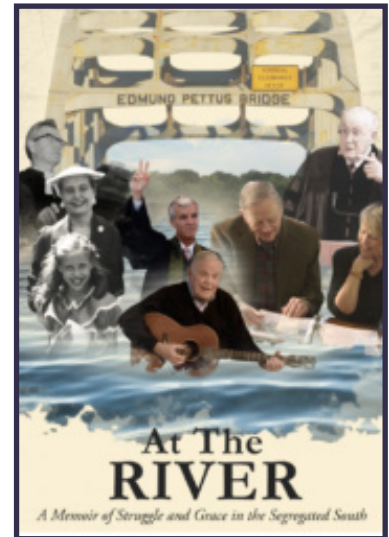
Habitat for Humanity Workday Sat., April 23, 8:30 a.m.

Join us for another work day at the East Cooper Habitat for Humanity work site. Under construction are two homes for deserving families in Mount Pleasant. The families will purchase the homes using "sweat equity" and will assume a mortgage structured to be affordable to them. Lunch will be provided. More information is available at mppc.net/events or contact Pastor Bart at bedwards@mppc.net.



At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South Sun., April 3, 5 p.m.

MPPC Bridge Builders is hosting a showing of the documentary, "At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South," by filmmakers Carolyn Crowder and Rod Murphy on Sunday, April 3 at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



The documentary by filmmaker Carolyn Crowder is about the experiences of Presbyterian ministers who, in the face of opposition from their congregations and the dangers to their families, took a stand in the segregated South to support the Civil Rights movement in the 1960's. Many of us Presbyterians (and our parents) probably knew some of these ministers personally - this is a unique opportunity to hear about their commitment to a cause they felt called to support.

The 90 minute film will be shown followed by 30 minutes of moderated discussion. Snacks will be provided. For more information, contact Coleman Legerton at colelege@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities in Christian Education

There continue to be many opportunities for you and your family to serve in the education ministry of MPPC. Below are some immediate volunteer needs and how to sign up for them!

- **Kids Praise!** - Children's Worship for ages K-2 the first three Sundays of the month during the 11 a.m. service. Volunteer at signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-kids.
- **Chaperone a Youth Trip** - 2 males needed for HS Montreat, 2 males needed and 2 females needed for CROSS, 1 male and 2 females needed for MS Montreat. Contact Courtney Kraus at ckraus@mppc.net for more info.



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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CONNECT WITH US

***SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9 a.m. The Net

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