

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Summer 2022

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

The Stockdale Paradox



In previous Pelicans I touched on the fact that transition is really a three-phase psychological process to reorientate ourselves. The three phases are the ending, the neutral zone, and the new

beginning. How do we enter into the neutral zone of transition?

First, we must let go of the old situation. Things have changed. They are not the same as they were before. The letting-go-of is a participatory process. Transition will not be successful if we expect other people to do it on our behalf, or if most of us stay behind with all the memories of “always,” or the feelings, emotions, regrets, accusations, or whatever we experienced, which are the results of how things were done. We all must be involved to internalize the difficult endings—and let go of them!

Secondly, we must accept the reality of our situation, without ignoring the hurtful places before we can move on. It is, in a sense, the Stockdale Paradox all over again. “Retain faith that you will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, AND at the same time, confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.”

So, what are the realities of our current situation?

Through various events of the past few years — and as result of the behavior of people — we have lost long-time members, staff, and pastors.

I have listened to many people from all perspectives. I have read emails and minutes, reports and letters, and watched video recordings. At this stage, I am left almost devastated and in grief, like so many people around me. People were misunderstood; people misbehaved; people were important; others wanted to hide. I refuse to be part of a witch hunt to find out what went wrong and of who was wrong. We did not behave like a church, or followers of Jesus are supposed to behave; we were not peacemakers, and never worked for justice...

Thank God for mercy, and a covenant of grace.

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church is not a church with 3,000 members anymore.

We have lost many of our long-time members. Some found other faith homes (Kennon Callahan said, “People worship in the church which is closest to their heart, not closest to their homes”) because they found acceptance and a welcome.

Many people may never find another church where they can come home. In my own research a few years ago, I found that few long-time members of a church truly find “another” family to worship with, nor will they return to their old congregation to rejoin as participating members.

Yes, I am concerned, but mostly about people. Therefore, I listen to people from all perspectives, and will continue to listen. I am convinced that healing comes through speaking and listening, especially if we sometimes take time to hear ourselves speak.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer
Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

connected through mission

Join our ESOL Mission & Thank you to Rita and Greg!



We are blessed at MPPC to be a part of a missional church that focuses on our neighbors here and far away. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Rita Hallman and Greg Nevers, our MPPC ESOL founders and leaders for 7 years, we have offered ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes since 2015. The goal is to help adult students learn or improve their English so that they may participate more fully in the life of our community. We were even

able to keep going during COVID using Zoom. We have now served more than 275 students from 26+ countries and 18+ spoken languages. We are excited to be back on campus with in-person classes this fall.

When participants were asked how our classes have impacted their lives some of our students told us how they found a better job, or received a pay increase, because they are able to communicate more effectively. Others shared how our classes have helped them make friends and end their sense of isolation, as well as improve their English. Volunteers have told us about learning of diverse cultures and countries while coming to understand that no matter where we come from, we all share

similar hopes and dreams. All of us have seen God at work in these communities. At the end of each semester students receive certificates on the number of hours they have attended, and students and volunteers enjoy an “end-of-semester” party. Students often share traditional food from their own countries.

Our Fall semester will begin Tuesday, Sept. 6 and run thru Nov. 22. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30-8) upstairs in Grace Hall. We are offering 3 in-person classes - 1 beginner, 1 intermediate and 1 advanced intermediate. We are also offering one advanced class on Zoom. For each class there is a lead teacher, who is experienced, as well as one or more assistants.

The ESOL Team thanks Rita and Greg for creating this ministry as a way to help us show Christ's love to our neighbors. We also thank you for your support and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

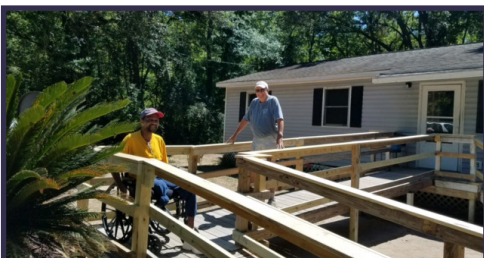
We are always looking for volunteers who can help in the classroom as assistants or teachers. If you speak English and have a heart for service, you are qualified. No other experience is required! To learn more or find out how you can help, contact Maryanne Davis (maryanne.davis.mpsc@gmail.com). She will be happy to share her experience and how you can assist.

MPPC Fix-It! Team Completes Another Important Project

When a roof springs a leak and then the bathroom floor rots due to the water leak, who can our lower income neighbors turn to for help? The answer is “Fix-It!,” a nonprofit that MPPC (along with a number of other Mount Pleasant churches) helped found more than 10 years ago as a part of the East Cooper Faith Network. Fix-It is made up of teams of church volunteers who help home owners desperate to save their homes from ruin by repairing or replacing failed roofs, floors, etc. MPPC's Local Mission budget helps support “Fix-It” with annual funding for their projects.



Our Fix-It team is led by two highly skilled members of MPPC: Al Jenkins and Howard Michaels. They not only know how to “fix” housing problems, but they personally own and use every tool necessary to make these repairs. Their latest project was the completion of a wheel chair ramp for a man who recently had his leg amputated. The MPPC team built a ramp at this home in just three days. The homeowner expressed his profound gratefulness for his new-found freedom as he was no longer trapped in his own home. Additionally, Fix-It built this ramp out of repurposed or recycled materials! The only wood purchased for this job were the new handrail caps that covered the repurposed wood structure underneath. Fix-It went out and picked up free wood from the old Folly Beach pier when it was torn down, and drove to Spartanburg for additional wood donated by contractors with leftover materials.



If you want to join this dynamic team at MPPC, give Al or Howard a call and find out how you can help.

connected through education

Vacation Bible School isn't the Only Fun Event this Summer!

Happy Summer! I hope you are all as happy with the warmer weather and sunshine as I am! We've had a great start to the Summer with our Beach Clean-up, where we were able to collect 36 pounds of trash to keep our beach clean! Thanks to everyone who came out to this fun event, it was so great to get to know you all a little better! We've got so many exciting plans coming up this summer both for the children and their families,

as well as a few church-wide events! All these events are now open for registration on Realm, and I'm looking forward to a fun-filled summer with not only Vacation Bible School, but also these awesome events we have planned!

God Bless,

Jessica Kluesner

Asst. Director of Christian Education



Summer Education Hour with Veggie Tales

We will gather together to watch a Veggie Tales video, then have a short discussion about the video's topic! Come have a fun Summer of Sundays with Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber! See you all there!

Starting on Sundays, May 29!

This program will be during the Education Hour from 10:00am- 10:50am in Grace Hall

MORRIS ISLAND

Coastal Expeditions Shark Tooth Hunting Trip

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FUN FACT

Shark's teeth are shaped like a saw.

SUMMER

MPPC BEACH DAY

ISLE OF PALMS BEACH • JULY 16 • 2022

10:00am - 3:00pm

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY OF SUN, SAND, AND GAMES! RSVP ON REALM

WE HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK

Come enjoy an evening of baseball with your MPPC Family and Friends!

Riverdogs Field

Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

SIGN UP ON REALM!

GOOOAAALLLL!!

MPPC NIGHT AT THE PITCH

REGISTER ON REALM

PATRIOTS POINT FIELD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

FOOD TRUCK PARTY

ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

DONATIONS NEEDED

VBS is asking for donations of some of the supplies that will be needed during the week! We have created a sign-up genius, and you may sign up at mppc.net/volunteer. Thank you in advance for your donations, and we are so excited for VBS to get here soon!

Youth Sunday

I'll Be There for You!



connected through education



Rising 6th Grade VBS Mission Madness Week

Welcome to CornerStone Youth Group

Rising 6th graders are invited to join us during VBS week as we travel around the area to do local mission work! This is a great way to get started with the youth group at MPPC!

Monday

Tie Dye Day for the boys at Windwood Farm. We will stay on campus and make shirts.

Tuesday

Windwood Farm Day. We will travel to give the boys their shirts and play kickball.

Wednesday

Hope House Yard Clean Up Day! Bring your gloves and rakes. We will stay on campus.

Thursday

Isle of Palms Beach Sweep. Wear your bathing suit and bring a bag to collect trash.

Friday

Car Wash at MPPC. We will wash cars and all donations will go towards the VBS mission partner of the week.

Register on Realm

This is a free event
 Snack donations will be collected for the mission madness participants

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Courtney Kraus
 ckraus@mppc.net

CORNERSTONE YOUTH

Summer AT A GLANCE

JUNE 2022

First Friday Films

Graduation Sunday

HS Montreat

Vacation Bible School

MS CROSS Mission Trip

JULY 2022

4th of July Holiday

Carowinds Day Trip

MS Montreat



Breakfast in the Basement

meets
**EVERY
Sunday in
the
Summer**

Stay "in the know"
by subscribing to
the weekly emails
through Realm

Summer ministry
INCLUDES rising 6th
graders- graduated
12th

Middle School Ministry: Rising 6th-8th
 High School Ministry: Rising 9th-12th

Questions? Want to volunteer? Courtney Kraus: ckraus@mppc.net

CornerStone Kicks off Summer

Summer is here and we are so excited about it in CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC. We finished off May with a "bang" with Confirmation and Youth Sunday back-to-back. I am so very proud of our youth and all they have accomplished this year!

I am especially proud of the Class of 2022 as they have left such a mark on youth ministry at MPPC. The youth are looking forward to our summer trips and Vacation Bible School. It is always so awesome to see the youth volunteer with the younger kids as they look up to them. That is what ministry is all about!

Thank you to everyone who made our school program year a success and we look forward to a fun summer. If you would like to volunteer with the youth, please reach out! We are always looking for volunteers at any capacity.

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



connected through education

A COVID, Maybe Cloudy, Look at the Past Nine Months

Can you believe the “traditional” fall-spring education ministry is in its final stages before switching to summer offerings? The “year” went by quickly. September began with ministry adjustments as we realized COVID was not going away. Some small groups met in-person, but the majority began physically distanced via Zoom. The Academy of Saint John group introduced all of us to the technology of the meeting OWL and the “hybrid” possibilities of meetings. Wednesday evenings took on an unusual look with children’s groups and choirs meeting outside, dinner was canceled, and we shuffled our adult offerings. Youth groups met in-person using the larger Fellowship Hall as their meeting space and Prayer Breakfast met outside.

By Lent, we were gathering mostly in-person, but several groups continued – and continue – to meet via Zoom. Children’s programs were inside, youth groups had retreats and continued inside gatherings but in their normal meeting rooms. Among the first large gatherings outside of the Services of Worship – and inside – included a youth sponsored spaghetti supper and our Lenten Small Group Kickoff.

Since April 1, all Sunday morning classes meet in-person on campus with two offering hybrid options. Services of Worship are inside. Youth and children’s ministry opportunities are in-person, and we push the limits for gatherings in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday meals with 250 people that included an egg hunt lunch and a Confirmation Sunday brunch.

As we move forward, all indications are that we are back to the way we were, but we are not. COVID is still present, and people want and appreciate meeting physically distanced. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, reminds us that the church is no longer a place where we can wait for people to **come to us** for ministry, but the Church must **go out** into the community and beyond and **be** the Church. We must be **innovative** in our ministry and part of our congregation is online. What an opportunity to be the Church to the world!

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



Psalms: Prayers of the Heart Summer Study

The Book of Psalms is one of the most cherished books in the Bible. Most of us can recite all or part of Psalm 23 from memory, “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...” We also are familiar with other psalms. “I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?” (Psalm 121) “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22) “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136) “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down...” (Psalm 139)

This summer (June 5 – August 28) Adult Faith Formation will offer one adult Bible study during Sunday’s education hour (10 -10:50 a.m.) on the book of Psalms. We will use Eugene Peterson’s ***Psalms: Prayers of the Heart***. This is a simple study written for groups where little preparation is required. Participants are encouraged to read the psalm for that week and then use Peterson’s reflective questions about the psalm for conversation and discussion. Copies of Peterson’s book will be available in class and in the church office complex. Each week’s Psalm will appear in the eNews. We hope you will join the group when you are in town; we gather in SB 210. In the meantime, here is some trivia about the Book of Psalms.

1. Psalm 117 is the shortest psalm with only 2 verses.
2. Psalm 119 is the longest with 176 verses.
3. The Book of Psalms is split into 5 books, each which corresponds with the first five books of the Bible (known as the Pentateuch):
 - a. Book One: Psalms 1-41 (corresponds to Genesis)
 - b. Book Two: Psalm 42-72 (corresponds to Exodus)
 - c. Book Three: Psalm 73-89 (corresponds to Leviticus)
 - d. Book Four: Psalm 90-106 (corresponds to Numbers)
 - e. Book Five: Psalm 107-150 (corresponds to Deuteronomy)
4. The Book of Psalms is the third longest Book of the Bible with 150 different Psalms in the collection (30,147 words). *The first is Jeremiah (33,002) and the second is Genesis (32,046).
5. The Psalms are one of the few Books used in both Christian and Jewish worship.
6. The key word in the Psalms is “praise” which appears 211 times.
7. The word “Selah” appears 71 times throughout the Psalms. The most recognized meaning it is “forever.” It is often interpreted as an instruction calling for a break in the singing of the Psalm, or to pause and calmly think about what you have read.
8. The Psalms were composed over a period of approximately 1,000 years.

connected through hope

The Hope House Family

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

This is a family that is constantly growing. Almost every week Hope House welcomes new guests. And inevitably those who stay with us for any length of time start sharing meals together and their own stories of heartbreak and survival. They laugh together – cry together – and pray together.

Guests often tell us what a blessing this ministry is. If truth be told - it is those of us who volunteer at Hope House who are blessed.

Most of the time, the only contact Caretakers and Team Leaders have with each other is over the phone. A few weeks ago though many of us had a chance to get together, catch up and meet some of the new members of the team.

While we are the faces of Hope House, there are so many others behind the scenes: filling the freezer with ready-to-eat meals, cleaning up the gardens, keeping the pantries well-stocked with much-needed supplies, or donating to our Adopt-A-Day program.

To all who lend your time and talents to the guests at Hope House.. our heartfelt thanks.



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

JUNE 1

In Memory of Douglas R Mellichamp; Given by Susan Mellichamp

JUNE 2

For Mother's Day in Honor of Lisa Hay; Given by Caroline and Russell Robinson

JUNE 3

In Honor of Ron and Jerry of Port City Paper for their generous support of Hope House; Given by the HH Ministry

JUNE 4

For Mother's Day in Honor of Ann Crowder; Given by Russell and Caroline Robinson

JUNE 5

In Honor of the Old Village Lenten Group; Given by Dal and Linda Schreck

JUNE 7

In Memory and Honor of Douglas R Mellichamp on his birthday; Given by Susan Mellichamp

JUNE 8

In Honor and Celebration of Judy McCoy's Birthday; Given by her husband Greg McCoy

JUNE 9

In Honor of Jennifer Davidson; Given by Leigh, Andrew, Mary Sims and David deHoll

JUNE 11

In Honor of Old Village Lenten Group; Given by Dal and Linda Schreck

JUNE 13

In Honor of Chuck and Cappie Olmstead for cleaning of the Memorial Brick Garden; Given by the HH Ministry

JUNE 15

In Honor of The Old Village Lenten Group Leaders: Kristen McDonald and Susan Mellichamp; Given by Ann and Harry Douty, Linda and Dal Schreck, Mary Linda and Mitch Witherspoon

JUNE 19

In Memory of our Father, Jesse Eargle on his birthday; Given by Austin and Sarah Eargle

JUNE 19

In Honor of Barre Deleot on her Birthday; Given by Kathryn Deleot

JUNE 21

In Honor of James Ngoyi who found refuge at HH 16 years ago, now he is graduating from MUSC and will begin his residency in VA; Given by Marcus and Sue Googer

JUNE 25

In Honor of our 56th wedding Anniversary; Given by Anne and Bob Ostrom

JUNE 27

In Loving Memory of my Mother, Ellen Barnes Rooney; Given by Debbie Goulding

Visit mppc.net/hope-house to make a donation.

connect with the staff

Summer is the perfect time to pick up a book! Here are the staff's suggestions for this summer:



Rev Danie's Rec:

Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change by William Bridges & Susan Bridges



Rev. Bart's Rec:

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing



Rev Lib's Rec:

The Beauty of Dusk by Frank Bruni



Lori's Rec:

"I'll think on it for next summer!"



Alanna's Rec:

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah



Glenn's Rec:

Get Your Life Back by John Eldredge



Stacy's Rec:

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas



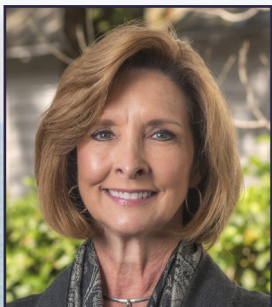
Jessica's Rec:

The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires by Grady Hendrix



Courtney's Rec:

Faith After Doubt by Brian McLaren



Beth's Rec:

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat by John Ortberg



Logan's Rec:

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens



Tony's Rec:

We Need to Talk by Celeste Headlee



Trish's Rec:

"I'll think on it for next summer!"



Joann's Rec:

"I'll think on it for next summer!"



Dan's Rec:

How the Penguins Saved Veronica by Hazel Prior



Alexis's Rec:

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou



John's Rec:

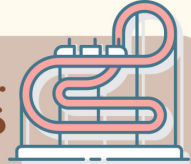
"I'll think on it for next summer!"

connected through community

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

**JULY 13, 6 A.M.
YOUTH TRIP TO CAROWINDS**



**JULY 16, 10 A.M.
CHURCH-WIDE BEACH DAY**



**JULY 24, 4:30 P.M.
CHURCH-WIDE CHARLESTON
RIVERDOGS GAME**



**JULY 25, 2 P.M.
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**



MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Congratulations, James Ngoyi!

Many years ago, before the Hope House was officially named "Hope House," the house was able to provide shelter and hope to a refugee family from the Congo, the Ngoyis. The oldest child, Kenneth, sadly died in within a year, but the other five siblings are now grown and living productive lives. This month one of those siblings, James, graduated from MUSC.



In 2004, James entered Moultrie Middle School as a 12 year old who only spoke French. By the time he graduated from Wando High School, he had learned English, starred on the soccer team and taught himself to drive in the backyard of the Hope House all while keeping part time jobs. After graduating College of Charleston with a degree in Biology (and a 3.5 GPA!), he worked a desk job for a shipping company.

He was then awarded the freshman scholarship in 2017 to attend medical school at MUSC and he recently graduated this spring! He will soon leave for Charlottesville, VA where he will begin his residency in internal medicine.

We are so proud of James and blessings from MPPC go with him on this new adventure!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 LEARNING CENTER GRADUATES!





connected through community

Church-wide Brunch & Welcome Reception for the Sanes in June

Brunch will be catered by Charleston Bay Gourmet and the menu is as follows: egg, sausage, cheese and mushroom breakfast casserole, chicken biscuits, cheese grits, yogurt and fresh fruit. There will be no education classes this Sunday so that we can all be together!

Church-wide Brunch & Welcome Reception for Tony & Haley Sane



SUNDAY, JUNE 12 FROM 10-11 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Our Stephen Ministers are Ready to Care for You

Stephen Ministers serve because no one should have to suffer alone....

Margaret Agee
Robert Ellis
Ellen Gower
Brandon Guest

Chris Hulsey
Kim McCuen
Tom Osterhaus
Joe Rainero

Sue Simonds
Donna Thigpen
Cathy Worrall

If you would like to talk to someone, call Lib McGregor Simmons at (843) 884-4612, Donna Thigpen at (843) 345-6221, or reach out to one of the above Stephen Ministers.

Volunteer Opportunities Are Always Accessible Online!

Want to get involved, but aren't sure how to get started?

Check out the volunteer board at mppc.net/volunteer for various volunteer events offered through MPPC! No matter how big or how small the task may seem, you are making a difference at MPPC, in your local community and in God's world.

Please contact the church office with any questions!





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. 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