

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

October 2023

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer



It is not easy to write about stewardship, because I believe that people don't want to hear anything about it. Stewardship has never been among the popular in the church, because we know where it leads... to that inevitable ask for (more) money to fulfill our mission as congregation.

Stewardship, however, is a concept that goes way beyond someone begging for the financial support of a congregation's ministries.

In Matthew 21, Jesus told another parable to his listeners. *"There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country."*

This story was well-known, as the prophet Isaiah (Is 5) used the same image to let people know why God was angry with them.

In the Matthew-version of this story, Jesus wanted his followers to understand that nothing belongs to them. Indeed, we can never behave as if we have ownership...

As such, stewardship means that we recognize God as the owner of the "vineyard." And "those people" who though they could claim ownership of the vineyard, well, they are us, who deny that stewardship involves a complete approach to manage all the resources—our health, our relationships, our finances, and our property—entrusted to an individual, family, or organization by the Owner.

In stewardship we emphasize sustainability, responsibility, and the total well-being of every individual, family, and our congregation. Because we recognize God as the ultimate owner, stewardship extends beyond budgeting, investing, saving and contributions to charitable causes. It is at its deepest about ethical considerations, accountability, and a commitment to sustainability.

So, as we begin to consider our financial pledges for 2024, how are we doing in honoring God as owner? Do we recognize that we are the "wicked" tenants, who are on the lookout for ourselves?

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer

Interim Pastor & Head of Staff



The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Matthew 21:33-46



'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

connected through community



YOU'RE INVITED TO...

THE GATHERING



A SERVICE OF HOPE, INSPIRATION AND GIVING

Sunday, October 22 at 10 a.m.

One outdoor service followed by a churchwide luncheon and missions fair!
Register on Realm or at mppc.net/events.

Join us at The Gathering with Guest Preacher, Rev. Danny Massie!

On **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 10 a.m.**, our congregation's Finance and Stewardship Committee is again hosting **The Gathering: A Service of Hope, Inspiration, and Giving** as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

This program is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. The Gathering encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship at The Gathering, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Everyone will receive a stewardship package in the mail and pledge cards will be available throughout the MPPC campus! Thank you for prayerfully considering your contribution to the many wonderful activities and missions that our beautiful

church offers throughout the year. Your gift will also support programs for music, youth, children, and spiritual growth for all ages.

This year we are honored to have the honorably retired Rev. Danny Massie as our guest speaker at the Gathering! His esteemed

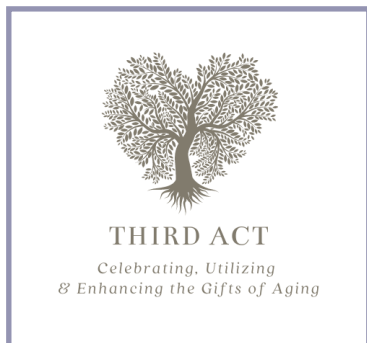
career began in the 1960's as a Youth Director at the Fondren Presbyterian Church in Jackson Mississippi. He has since been the pastor at 4 churches in the southeast with the most recent one being First Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC where he Honorably Retired in May 2015. However, most of you probably remember Rev. Massie best for the wonderful service he provided to MPPC as the Interim Pastor and Head of Staff in 2018. Danny and his wife "Tita" live on Sullivans Island and enjoy their 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday October 22 for a great sermon, free boxed lunches, live music, a mission fair, festivities, and a basket full of fellowship. **Please let us know if you are planning to attend by RSVPing on Realm, or visit mppc.net/events.**



connected through education

Third Act: Celebrating, Utilizing, and Enhancing the Gift of Aging



Third Act is lining up its 2023-2024 schedule and we think you will enjoy the many opportunities coming. Among our topics and events: The Impacts of Loneliness on Our Lives, Field Trip to

the James Island Christmas Lights, a Historic Presentation about Mount Pleasant, Weather in the Low Country, Abide A While and Planting, the new African American Museum, and Mount Pleasant Water Works. Many of the events and gatherings

happen on the Fourth Monday of the month as we assemble for a covered-dish lunch, fellowship, and a special presentation by guest speakers. You can sign up each month for events via Realm.

Mark your calendars now; stay tuned for specific details of the programs.

- October 23, 2023
- November 27, 2023 – James Island Lights (later afternoon/evening)
- January 22, 2024
- February 19, 2024
- March 25, 2024
- April 22, 2024
- May 20, 2024

Adult Sunday School Classes and Studies

It's not too late to get involved in adult Sunday School! Classes meet most Sundays and are open to all adults. Childcare and children's programs happen during the same hour. Here is a description of the classes, when they meet on Sunday morning, and their current course of study:

The Middle (GH 226) - Joy Even on Your Worst Days-Wisdom from Philippians by Tom Are, Jr., 9:45 a.m.

The world the apostle Paul inhabited was dramatically different from our time. He knew nothing of capitalism, or physics, or Zoom, and more significantly, Paul was a regular in Caesar's prison. For us, "Caesar" is a salad. But a constant in the human story is that every life faces suffering. Paul's life was no different. And yet, on Paul's worst days, he still exhibited a spirit of joy. In this spirit of joy, Paul offers us some inspiration. Joy is not a common reality in modern life. We are more acquainted with anxiety and fear, and on good days we can settle for happiness; but joy is less common. The worst days come to all of us. At some point the dreams die, the body fails, the spirit is crushed. Those days leave their mark on us. But an imprisoned apostle passed down 104 verses to an ancient congregation in Philippi, and they have passed it down to us. It is their testimony that when the worst days come—and they will—they do not have to be the end of joy. Indeed, they might be the beginning.

The Academy of St. John (SB 206) – Searching for the Historical Jesus, 9:45 a.m.

Located on the Wondrium web site, the Academy of St. John Sunday School class begins this fall watching and studying a fascinating documentary. Searching for the Historical Jesus takes you back two millennia to explore the history, context, and

character of a humble carpenter who changed the world. Filmed in the Holy Land, each thought-provoking episode (15 total episodes) will bring Jesus and his world to life with vivid detail, offering an excellent companion piece for anyone wrestling with history or with walking in faith. (9:45 a.m.)

Connect 3 (Parlor) - 9:30 a.m.

The fall Connect 3 begins looking at what we believe as they study the Apostles' Creed using Adam Hamilton's study Creed. We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs.

Youngish Adults (SB 209/Library), 9:45 a.m.

The youngish Adult class looks at Bible Stories for Grown-Ups this fall as they consider stories many read as children including Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Author Josh Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment.

connected through education

Why Do We Teach Sunday School to Children?

There are many good habits that you want your child to learn, and some of those habits can be formed and reinforced during their time in Sunday School. From listening skills and sharing, to respect and social skills, there are many opportunities for them to learn good habits at a young age. Below are eight benefits of Sunday School for children:

1. Kids learn church is a fun, safe place.
2. Children develop relationships with other trusted Christian adults.
3. Children connect with other Christian kids.
4. Kids can learn from others' perspective, not just their parents'.
5. Parents build relationships that can provide resources for helping minister to their children at home.
6. It reinforces lessons learned at home.
7. It provides a safe place for kids to practice having faith discussions outside of the home.
8. It provides a safe place for older children, teens, and adults to express their gifts and serve God and his people.

And, the kids have fun! We hope to see your children on Sundays!

Fall Festival is Coming!

MPPC and the Learning Center are hosting Fall Fest on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 4-6 pm! We are looking for volunteers and donations! Fall Fest is a great way to connect and support MPPC's children's ministry and the Learning Center. Here's how you can be involved:

1. **VOLUNTEER** – help with the games inside the Fellowship Hall the night of – the church provides the supplies!
2. **PUMPKIN WALK** – provide painted pumpkins for the Pumpkin Walk. Bring in the day of the event and place in Fellowship Hall.
3. **DONATE** – We are looking for all kinds of goodies to give the children – individually wrapped candy, small trinket prizes. These donations can be dropped off in the basket at the reception desk.



Fall Festival

Trunk or Treat | Games | Hot Dogs + Snacks





**Sunday, October 29,
4-6 pm at MPPC**

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church
302 Hibben St. Mount Pleasant, SC



Bring your children by for an evening of fall fun!
Contact Lynn Wiard at clwiard@mppc.net to volunteer.

connected through education

A Glimpse of Our Young People

When you think about young people in our youth groups (grades 6-12), it's easy to be misguided about who they are. After all, they have energy. At lightning speed their minds jump from one topic to another, they know more than many about technology, hormones are raging, and cellphones are high in their communication repertoire (if not THE mode of their communication). And if you ever see all our middle school youth together at one time, the first words off the tip of your tongue might well be, "There's so many of them!" It is difficult to not see our youth.

One thing I hope we do see and do say about our youth, though, is that they are present. They are present in worship on Sunday mornings. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings they are gathering, praying, chatting, and eating Chick-Fil-A before some of us are even awake. And on Sunday nights, after busy weekends and prepping for school Monday morning, they are at youth group. In the coming months, you will see our young people leading worship and participating in service projects around the church. For most of them, it is their choice that they are present. They choose to participate in the ministry and programs of MPPC, and MPPC is providing them a safe environment to have fun, enjoy each other, and learn about their faith as they navigate being Christian in sometimes-difficult times.

Our youth are great people to be with and there are ample opportunities for adults to engage with our young people. Sometimes we are energized when we serve; sometimes we learn more in a leadership role. I invite you to connect with our youth and be present with them. Enjoy the pictures of them in this month's Pelican. I hope you will call or email me asking how you can get involved serving with our young people.

Those who are serving with our young people so far this year: Holly Limbert, Suzanne Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Ellie McDermott, TJ Del Duca, Cynthia Rivers, Maryanne Davis, Rebecca Sailor, Katie Lucy, Trey Lucy, Jodi Fuquay, Margaret Rudisill, Amy Herndon, Sarah Wendell, Allison Carter, Kara Presley, Sarah Phelps, Carolyn Word, Butch Hills, Tara Montgomery, Lindsay Broun, Chip Broun, Sharon Barnett, Jeff Taylor, Lindsey Demos, Ashley Brown, and Mary Laing Holland.

Peace,

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



connected through community

Sundays for Youth

Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.:

Middle School (Basement, L20/22)

High School (Basement, L21)

While both middle and high school youth meet in the basement, they will meet separately as they study the lectionary passage for each Sunday using the PCUSA curriculum *Feasting on the Word*. This engaging curriculum parallels Sunday's sermons as MPPC tends to follow the common lectionary which Feasting also follows.

Confirmation Class (GH 221/223/225):

This year's class is a 9-month program with most classes **meeting during Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m.)**. Additional outings and/or meetings beyond Sunday mornings will include one evening meeting with Session, a couple of church visits, and a retreat. Confirmation is open to any youth who are serious about exploring their faith and who want to become members (disciples) at MPPC. Confirmands should be in the eighth grade or older. Contact Dan Wiard at the church for more information or register on Realm.

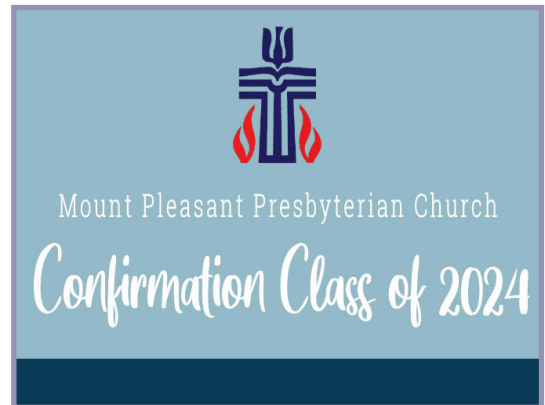
Sunday Nights, 6-7:15 p.m.

MPPC Youth Group, 6-7:15 p.m.

Meeting on Sunday nights from 6-7:15 p.m. young people, gather for Youth Group and an opportunity to explore their faith through conversation and discussion. Youth will have input into the topics that matter to them. These topics might include relationships, school, home-life, technology, daily living our faith, siblings, beliefs, church, and more. In addition to the conversation and discussion on Sunday nights, youth will enjoy fellowship, recreation, and food that are bookends to the topic.

Middle School meets in GH 221/223/225.

High School meets in the Basement .



Prayer Breakfasts

Middle School – Tuesdays, 7 a.m., Basement

High School – Thursdays, 7 a.m., Chick-Fil-A on Long Point Rd.

Join us as we gather before school for Chick-Fil-A breakfast and a time for prayer together. Meets during the school year Aug-Nov/Dec. & Jan-Apr/May.

connected through music



MUSIC MINISTRY

REVISED SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE BEGINNING OCT. 1

Instrumental Ensemble- 4:30-5 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Open to all ages youth through adult!
Brass/Woodwind/Strings/Percussion/Other

Beginner Bells- 4:30-5 p.m. (Choir Room)
Any beginners who would love to ring! We will teach you!

Youth Choir- 5:15-5:50 p.m. (SB 206)
Middle and High School Students, share your creative talents in choir and in worship.

HYMNS ON TAP

Thursday, Nov. 9, 6-8 p.m.

Hobcaw Brewing Co.

The Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Music Ministry invites the church and community to a night of singing, food and drinks at Hobcaw Brewing Co. (496 Long Point Rd. Mt Pleasant, SC 29464). Join us as we sing some of our favorite songs, as well as a few new ones, and enjoy fellowship together!

*Food & drink not provided by the church.



Children's Choirs to Sing in Worship

Both the Children's Choir and Kinder Choir will be singing on **Sunday, October 15 for Children's Sunday** at the 11 a.m. worship service!



THE **Village**
CONCERT SERIES
**VILLAGE CONCERT
SERIES PRESENTS:**

**Mark
Valenti**

FRIDAY, NOV. 3 AT 7 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Village Concert Series on Friday, November 3 at 7 pm

Join us on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 pm at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church for an amazing performance by pianist, Mark Valenti.

Mark Valenti received his Master of Music from Northwestern University, Bachelor of Music from the Philadelphia Musical Academy and has studied with such notable teachers as Benjamin Whitten, Zoltan Kocsis, and Mary Sauer. In addition to giving solo recitals in cities throughout the U.S., Mr. Valenti has performed in France, Belgium, Hungary and Luxembourg, as well as for former First Lady Barbara Bush in Washington, D.C.

connected through mission

14,040 Meals Packed for Rise Against Hunger!



On Sunday, Sept. 24, we hosted a Rise Against Hunger Mission Event in the Fellowship Hall. There, we packed 14,040 meals for those facing hunger around the world! It was an amazing turnout of church members, old and young, and the only reason we had to stop was because we ran out of items to pack!

Globally, 2.4 billion people face food insecurity, and our congregations actions on September 24th helped make that number a little smaller! Now on to planning for next year, where we will lower it even more.

Help a Child in Haiti Attend School



Attending school in Haiti is a privilege, not a right. In September, the Haiti Outreach Ministries schools reopened their doors for the 2023-24 year with much joy and enthusiasm! But our friends at HOM need our help! They are having sponsorship shortages. These student sponsorships are how HOM keeps school doors open, lunches provided, books furnished, and young minds expanded.

Three generous donors have come together again this year to DOUBLE your impact. They will donate \$15,000 towards sponsorship - IF that amount is matched by new sponsorship funds. This will cover school costs for 71 students. Now more than ever, education is the hope for Haiti. Visit haitiom.org to help.

Missions
MPPC
Fair

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
10 AM IN THE ROUNDABOUT

connected through hope

God Continues to Bless Hope House

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord, rather than for people.

Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." - Colossians 3:23-24

There are so many benefits of living on the Coast in the Lowcountry! The beauties of nature surround us! We are so blessed...and we were blessed again to have had no damage from the last hurricane! There is always A LOT of preparation that needs to be done to secure our 115-year-old Hope House and Hope Cottage before a storm, and the work is not easy for our ministry team.

Although our volunteer numbers are the lowest they've been in 13 years, the ones we have are willing and ready to tackle any task put before them. Five people responded to my plea for help to get ready for the hurricane.

Following, read one of the many messages sent to our team of volunteers before and after the storm...

"We had angels visit Hope House before the last hurricane was heading for Charleston!"

Sara, Miff and Dean prepared the house for the storm! They moved porch furniture, heavy planters, sandbags around the front door of the Cottage and removed mattresses from the beds in the Cottage...to name just a few of the many tasks they completed!

Rick Porter, a former guest and now a volunteer, showed up for his caretaker duty the morning after the storm and put EVERYTHING back in place...all by himself! Truly, a difficult task for one person!

We are so very blessed to be a part of this ministry and a part of this volunteer family! Enjoy this beautiful day after the storm with blue skies and sunshine!"

With Love,

Beth Moore

Director of Hope House



If you would like to be a part of this ministry team, please contact: Beth Moore, Director of Hope House, (843) 532-4892, bmoore@carolinaone.com.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

OCTOBER 3

In Honor of our Grandson Andrew "Gil" Arnold; Given by his Grandparents Andy and Libba

OCTOBER 5

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Gary Swancey

OCTOBER 8

In Honor of Hope House; Given by The Griffith Family

OCTOBER 9

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Brian and Margaret French

OCTOBER 10

In Honor of Hope House; Given by George and Ashley Magrath

OCTOBER 12

In Honor of our grandson "Gil" Arnold; Given by his Grandparents Andy and Libba

OCTOBER 15

In Honor of Hope House; Given by a guest of Hope House, Jennifer Hsia

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



connected through community

From the Prayer Team for the Pastoral Nominating Committee:

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) prayer team would like to encourage you to keep in your prayers our MPPC Pastoral Nominating Committee, as they continue to faithfully serve our congregation. As the busy fall season kicks in, stretching their commitments to family, other church work, jobs, and community, we offer our heartfelt thanks for their service, and we pray that God will give them a supernatural strength to do their work.

We pray as always for His wisdom and discernment to sit with each of them; we pray He makes their paths straight and easy, and we pray that we as a congregation be led to be as faithful in our support of the PNC as they have been to our congregation and to GOD. Thanks be to God for His wisdom in this process!

PACESETTERS:
ROBBIE ROYALL & FRIENDS
Friday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
RSVP to Susan Mellichamp by Monday, Oct. 9
Pot luck meal, bring your favorite dish! \$5/person



Pacesetters: Robbie Royall & Friends

MPPC's very own, Robbie Royall, and Friends return from last year for another Pacesetters performance on **Friday, Oct. 13!** This is a casual group of local musicians who play various local venues with a focus on country and bluegrass.

Light refreshments will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and will be pot luck, the program at 7 p.m.

A \$5 fee is requested at the door to cover incidentals. **RSVP by Monday, Oct. 9** to Susan Mellichamp at SusanMell@mac.com.

Endowment Gifts for October:

In Memory of Donna
Simpson:

Circle 5, Sisters in Christ

In Memory of Angi Case:
Circle 5, Sisters in Christ

Stephen Ministers, Here for You!

Stephen Ministers are available if you or someone you know needs someone to talk to or pray with. Call Alanna Barrett at the church office for a referral or visit mppc.net/stephen-ministry for more information.



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



American
Red Cross



Red Cross Blood Drive

MPPC - Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 23

2 – 7 p.m.

Visit redcrossblood.org and in the top right corner, enter zip code 29464 or sponsor code MPPC to register.

Breakfast is Back!

(for good)



Enjoy a few bites between bible lessons!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall between services for doughnuts, coffee & other assorted breakfast items.

cough, cheese grits, cough



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Alternative Service in Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. Education Hour + Fellowship Time

11 a.m. Sanctuary Service + Live Stream

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