

MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER October 2016
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF GOD'S WORK!

It's almost here! Sunday, October 23. The celebration of 175 years of ministry at MPUMC! Now we know that in 2041, we will be celebrating a Bicentennial. But what do you call 175? Doesn't sound like the English language has reached consensus on that one, as it can be:

- a dodransbicentennial, a dequabicentennial,
- a dosquicentennial, a demisemiseptcentennial,
- a quartoseptcentennial, a terquasquicentennial,
- or a septaquinquacentennial!

Which one do YOU like the best?

We also don't suppose there's anyone around who was here at that first worship service back in 1841. But you will DEFINITELY want to be present as we celebrate on October 23! Please help us by getting the word out to longtime friends of the church. And be sure and make your RSVP for "lunch on the lawn!" Here's the schedule for the day:

- 9:45 a.m. Informal Meet & Greet with refreshments
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
- 12:15 p.m. Group Picture
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on the Lawn (catered)

Lunch tickets are available for \$1. Your RSVP helps us establish a head count for the catering. All funds from tickets will be a donation to the MPES Backpack Program!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. Please provide a dessert or bread for the meal. Unfortunately, we do not have enough man or woman-power to heat or chill any food. PLEASE bring your contribution ready to serve. If you slice your dessert, kindly do small portions as most folks like to sample several goodies! A sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the sanctuary and another is downstairs on the bulletin board. THANKS SO MUCH!

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON CARE TOPICS - Bible study for the fall starts October 5 and lasts for six weeks. We meet on Wednesdays downstairs from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. Each week will focus on special care and prayer issues. Please come to any topic that interests you. (You don't have to attend the entire series!)

- OCT. 5 – Grief
- OCT. 12 – Family Turmoil
- OCT. 19 – Depression and Suicidal Thoughts
- OCT. 26 – Times of Crisis
- NOV. 2 – Issues of Aging
- NOV. 9 – Listening and Assertiveness Skills

ADVENT PREACHING WORKSHOP - Pastor Robert will be part of the leadership team for an Advent Preaching Workshop sponsored by the conference, on October 11 at Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville. Keep him and this event in your prayers.

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for September

Sept. 4	43	Sept. 18	63
Sept. 10/11	96**	Sept. 25	63

(**includes Second Saturday)

Sept. 2016 Average	66	Sept. 2015 Average	79
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Well September showed a drop from last year. Don't forget! We are open every Sunday. Let's do our best to make the Lord's Day a top priority, and to invite others to share in worship at MPUMC! We know October '16 will be awesome!

OUR GIFTS

September Offerings/Income	\$ 8,367.06
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,961.00
**Other September Offerings	\$ 825.00

Thank you for every effort to be faithful in your weekly or monthly giving to the mission and ministries of MPUMC.

**Other offerings/income for the month include Backpack Program (\$342), Ghana (\$289), Communion--Louisiana flood relief (\$148) and Upper Room (\$46).

OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS - Thank you for your daily prayers for our ministry, for sharing your prayer requests and praise reports, for giving of your time, energy and talents, and for making a positive witness for Christ and his church!

YOU MADE IT HAPPEN - One of our "close to home" missions is the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. This campus ministry is an outreach to students at VT on behalf of Christ and The United Methodist Church. Wesley at VT takes many forms. "Communities of Grace" offer small group experiences at multiple times throughout the week. Weekly worship takes place on Wednesday evening. (Sunday mornings are times of worship at area congregations.) A fall retreat is offered in October at a very low cost. Wesley even has a food pantry for college students who are struggling financially. Then in the spring, Wesley provides the leadership for an annual low-cost weekend retreat for area middle school and high school groups. Our own kids have participated the last few years!

MPUMC directly supports the Wesley Foundation at Tech through our budget. The amount for 2016 is small. Only \$114 is asked from us annually as our share. So keep VT Wesley in your thoughts and prayers, and perhaps there will be a time when we can offer a special blessing beyond this small annual amount! That's a lot of bang for our buck!

"HELP PASTOR ROBERT!!" - A big THANKS to all who completed the lengthy survey in the "Help Pastor Robert" project. We need more folks to complete this. Contact Pastor Robert ASAP to get your copy of the survey, along with the instructions. You may come to a brief orientation to the survey on Sunday, October 9, either before worship (10:30 a.m.) or after worship (12:15 p.m.) and then take the survey home to complete it!

CHRISTIANS IN THE VOTING BOOTH - Churches and pastors should never tell you who to vote for! This year is no exception. But our faith does make a difference in how we vote. Pastor Robert will lead a one-session presentation and Bible study on "Christians in the Voting Booth," Thursday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. You'll receive resources and Scriptures to help you approach your citizenship duties from a faith perspective. This is a totally NON-PARTISAN study and presentation, and all are welcome!

"SECOND SATURDAY" OCTOBER 8 - October 8 is the next "SECOND SATURDAY" – a monthly community-based casual worship time – the second Saturday each month at 5:30 p.m., hosted here at MPUMC. This month's message is shared by Pastor Seung Hae Yoo-Hess from Rockingham Court UMC! Help spread the word about SECOND SATURDAY! Worship is followed by fellowship and food – so feel free to bring munchies to share! Be sure to invite someone you know to experience Second Saturday!

PASTOR CHATTER

I wonder what songs they sang during the first year of worship in Mount Pleasant back in 1841. You might be surprised that few, if any, of your favorites were likely on the list. Why might that be? The answer is simple.

Although many people claim to like the "old songs," most of the ones we call "old" are actually relatively new. Almost all of our "old time" favorites had not yet been written in 1841. Hard to believe, isn't it!

A recent survey uncovered the top ten favorite hymns of United Methodist people. Only one of those top ten songs was in existence with both words and melody as of 1841, and that was Martin Luther's strong hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." We won't quibble about the fact that the popular English translation of this German hymn came along in 1853, because other English forms of this song go back as far as 1539! But truly, if they sang that song in 1841, the words may have been a bit different.

The other real oldie on the list was John Newton's "Amazing Grace." Though the words of his hymn go back to 1779, it was first published with the familiar tune in 1847, just six years after the founding of our church! So if they sang "Amazing Grace" in 1841, we would not have recognized the melody!

I guess this goes to show you that we are better at learning new songs than we might think. That's good, because God's Word does instruct several times in the Psalms to "sing unto the Lord a new song!"

Don't you just love the singing that is a part of our heritage? By the way, the other eight songs on the list were *How Great Thou Art*, *Here I Am Lord*, *Because He Lives*, *Blessed Assurance*, *Be Thou My Vision*, *It Is Well With My Soul*, *Hymn of Promise*, and *In the Garden*!

Robert Stutes



FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

I am continuing to pray for our small groups... and more specifically, that God will call a few men or women who would like the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Would you join me in that prayer and pray about where you can help in children's ministry? I feel God calling us to open a few more doors to reach the families of this community and need a little more manpower! (Don't be surprised if I come and ask you about serving... I've also been asking Him to give me a few names!)

Our **youth ministry is off to a great start!** We've enjoyed partnering with other local churches for both Sunday nights and various events. Our current series is "**What's Your Kryptonite?**" Every superhero has a weakness. Superman has kryptonite. The hulk can both destroy and be destroyed by his anger. Batman can't save Gotham City until he gets over his fear. In the same way, each of us have our own vulnerabilities. We'll dive in and look at our weaknesses and how we can stand firm. Join us at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and stay for the fun, games, and lesson! This series will wrap up on **Sunday, October 30, with a celebration and prizes for the best super hero costume!** (No youth on October 9 and October 23)

Our new **Kids' Church series is "Some Assembly Required"** and we're learning that if we're willing, God will build something awesome with us! Of course, legos are involved.. because... why not? Our last lesson will be on October 16 before we kick off a new series in November.

Our annual family trip to **Layman Family Farms will be on Sunday, November 6**, following the service. It's fun for the **WHOLE** family! Pack a lunch and we'll head to the farm about 12:30 p.m.

Our trip to the **Great Pumpkin Patch (Carowinds) for 6th-12th grade students** happens on Saturday, October 8. We'll leave MPUMC at 6:30 a.m. and arrive home at 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 plus money for lunch and dinner. **There is still room to go! Please let Heather know ASAP!**

How can you help? Currently we are in need of 2 liters for youth group dinners. Please leave in the kitchen for Heather if you have them.

Mark your calendar! Fifth Annual Teen Christmas Party... December 10. More information to follow.

Heather St. Clair,
Director of Children, Teens, and Families



BACKPACK PROGRAM

First, I want to thank everyone for their generosity in supporting the Backpack Program. Our church has a **big** heart!

A second grade teacher came up to me last week and thanked us for helping our children. She added that she has seen how it makes a difference in the children in her class that benefit from this program. I asked her to continue to pray for this program as we serve to meet the needs of the children in our community. And, I also ask that of you!

Second, I needed to let you know that we have switched around a few of the items starting in October. Our church will now be providing the **Beanee-Weenees (individual servings), the small boxes of cereal and the Mac & Cheese!** Remember you can donate these items or make a monetary donation. If you use a check, please note on it that it is for the Backpack Program.

The cost of these items for **one child** is \$2.02 a week or \$8.08 for a month. We are now serving 48 children! There is a real need!

Thank you, everyone, for your prayers, your donations, your help with packing, and your encouragement. God is good! Amen.

Any questions, contact Jenny Basham, 427-5248, wbasham843@aol.com

OUT AND ABOUT IN OCTOBER

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Stop by for chat, coffee, or prayer!

FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Market Square Outdoors, 110 Market Square
(weather permitting)

THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Arby's, 1401 Jameson Ave.

THURSDAY, OCT. 20, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Library, 2918 Jae Valley Rd.

TUESDAY, OCT. 25, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Subway at VWCC

REMEMBER that OUT AND ABOUT can be an opportunity to bring a friend to “meet your pastor” in a non-threatening setting.

SUNDAY, October 2, 2:30 pm, the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S annual DISTRICT meeting will be held at Cave Spring United Methodist Church.

SUNDAY, October 9, after worship, our local unit of UMW will have a short meeting.

MONDAY, October 10, Lunch Bunch. Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, October 18, at noon, SENIOR FELLOWSHIP will meet for lunch and a program by gospel singers from the Life Church. This event is open to the community. Bring a neighbor!

THE COLLECTION of peanut butter and jelly, and men's underwear for SAMARITAN INN will end Sunday, October 30. Please leave contributions in downstairs hallway.

HAWAII 2017

Brochures will soon be available for a group inspirational trip – a cruise around Hawaii sailing on June 10, 2017. Pastor Robert is one of the trip hosts through Educational Opportunities, a leading provider of Holy Land and other learning and leisure trips for faith-based groups. A brochure will soon be available! If you think you might be interested, then hold the date. If you have questions, see Pastor Robert. You'll be hearing more. Help spread the word to friends from other churches!

ACROSS THE DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE

- “Older Adult Ministry on a Shoestring” is a workshop for church leaders, Friday, October 14, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at The Hermitage. Register by October 7 at 767-6801.
- Alta Mons Family Camp – fun and activities for all ages – October 14-16. The cost has been reduced! More info at altamons.org or call 286-2409.
- Thanks to generous donors, the Community Outreach Program has a new van. The previous van was 20 years old, so this is a great blessing.
- Songs of Stage & Screen concert is Sunday, October 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Thrasher Memorial. Elegance & Romance concert is Friday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at South Roanoke UMC.
- District Conference is Sunday, November 20, at 3:00 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC. It is a time of worship, district business, and a fun, shared mission project. This is also our first opportunity to greet Bishop Sharma Lewis and welcome her to Roanoke! The mission project will be the speedy preparation of 10,000 meal kits for STOP HUNGER NOW.

THANK YOU AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ALL

I wish on behalf of our family including the children, I say a big “Thank You”. You have done more than expected. You have been with us for so long helping these children to become somebody in the future. It is my hope that the good Lord will shower the same blessings upon your lives. School has just re-opened and I received lists of books and other items for them to move to the next class.

The good news is that the good Lord who started this good work with you will surely finish on a good note and you will be rewarded abundantly. Amen

Abraham

October Birthdays

- (1) Gary Noble; (6) Nancy Jennings
- (7) Jacob McMillan; Peggy Richardson; Claudine Wagner
- (10) Jason Bradford; (11) Charlotte Myers
- (12) Audrey Kibler; (14) Bill Noble
- (23) Mark Workman; (27) Hunter Musselwhite
- (31) Tommy Booth; Lyn Maley

October Anniversaries

- (16) Danny & Sarah Dyess; (23) Chuck & Della Mattox

DEADLINE for the November newsletter is **October 30**.