

MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER September 2016
3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd., Roanoke, Virginia 24014
Phone: 540-427-3064 website: mpumc.church

“HELP PASTOR ROBERT - Yep, Pastor Robert needs your help with his latest project – helping focus our ministry priorities for the next few years. To do that, he needs your feedback by filling out a rather detailed feedback survey form.

PLEASE help by attending a session (about 45 minutes) to hear a brief intro to the project, plus a guided opportunity to complete the survey. It will be much easier if we do this in group sessions!

The survey session is open to ANYONE – member (active or inactive), attender, guest, or neighborhood resident. All feedback helps! There’s a special form for youth (6th-12th) and youth may attend a survey session OR complete the form at an upcoming Sunday evening MP Youth gathering. Choose one of these times:

- THUR., SEPT. 15, 6:30 p.m. (before Council)
- SUN, SEPT. 18, 9:45 a.m. (in sanctuary)
- MON., SEPT. 19, 11:00 a.m.
- WED., SEPT. 21 6:45 p.m.

CHARGE CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 28 - This year our annual Charge Conference will be a “joint session” with our neighbors from Rockingham Court UMC. It takes place on Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 p.m., in the MPUMC sanctuary. All are welcome!

This is our annual opportunity to meet with our district superintendent, Kathleen Overby Webster, to celebrate where God has been at work, and to set our course for the coming year. Paperwork and business items are submitted in advance, so this is now more of a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

Let’s have a good turnout to welcome our superintendent and our neighbors from Rockingham Court.

“ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM” SERIES CONTINUES!

The last three messages in the message series on home and family are REALLY IMPORTANT! Think of someone you can invite each week!

SEPT. 11 A Word for Moms and Dads
 You don’t have to be the “perfect parent,” but there are some basic things that a kid needs from a parent.

SEPT. 18 A Word for Teens and Twenties
 The changes of the last fifty years have drastically affected the lives of our teens and twenty-somethings and have claimed many victims.

SEPT. 25 A Word for Husbands and Wives
 You don’t have to be the “perfect spouse,” but there are some basic things that husbands and wives need from each other.

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON CARE TOPICS - Pastor Robert’s Wednesday Bible study for the fall starts October 5 and lasts for six weeks. Each study will focus on special care and prayer issues:

- 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

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for August

Aug. 7	58	Aug. 21	100
Aug. 13/14	85**	Aug. 28	76

(**includes Second Saturday)

August 2016 Average 80 August 2015 Average 76

Thanks for making August a GREAT MONTH!

OUR GIFTS

August Offerings/Income	\$ 8,266.75
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,961.00
**Other August Offerings	\$ 1,075.64

**Other offerings/income for the month include Backpack (547.64), Anniversary (300), Ghana (155), Barton (60), and Communion (13).

THANK YOU to those who continued regular giving during the summer months. Let’s all do our best to have a strong September so that our ministries can be fully supported!

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 MAKE IT HAPPEN - Our gifts to disaster relief on several occasions have empowered the relief efforts of UMCOR in Louisiana. 2,950 flood buckets were released, with 2,000 more on the way. Several churches are being used as shelters. UMCOR works hand in hand with other relief groups like Red Cross, so that services are not duplicated. UMCOR has a special focus on long-term recovery efforts, so your donations are always welcomed. Our September Communion offering goes toward relief efforts in Louisiana and elsewhere. You can also donate online by going to la-umc.org.

“SECOND SATURDAY” SEPTEMBER 10 - September 10 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 Eric Spano from MP Baptist! 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!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Pastor Robert will offer a brief Baptism/Membership orientation after worship on Sunday, September 18. This is great for anyone interested in knowing more about church membership, baptism (for yourself or for a child), first-time faith commitments, rededication, or Methodist beliefs and customs.

PASTOR CHATTER

I need your help! I am working on a project to help focus ministry priorities for me and for our church family for the next few years. In order to do that, I need your input.

Please help me out by attending a presentation called "HELP PASTOR ROBERT!" The very first opportunity to do this is on Thursday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. (before our Council meeting). There will be additional opportunities if you can't make this one. (See the front page article for those times.) The whole thing should last about 45 minutes. There is a feedback survey which you will fill out, and I will need to guide you through it.

This is for anyone – member, attender, guest – age 18 and up. The feedback from our teens is VERY important, but the survey for teens will be different, so we will handle that at another time and place!

Robert Stutes

REC CLUB BBQ – SEPTEMBER 17 - One of the biggest annual neighborhood events is the Fall Barbecue fundraiser for the MP Rec Club. The churches of the community will also be represented at this event. You can be a "local missionary" by not only supporting the fundraiser, but also by being present and connecting community friends and church friends. It's Saturday, September 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the elementary school. Be there or be square!

STEP BY STEP TO A HEALTHIER FAMILY - There is a great new DVD resource for families with school-age children. It is a FUN video for parents and kids to watch together, with strategies for cooperation and communication. We have copies available to borrow, or you can purchase the video for only five dollars. Pastor Robert will lead an "INTRO" session to those who might be interested. Come at your choice of times:

Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6:45 p.m. (downstairs)

Sunday, Sept. 25, at 9:45 a.m. (sanctuary)

OUR KIDS. OUR SCHOOLS. OUR SOLUTIONS - Delegate Sam Rasoul is hosting a town hall on education for any interested persons from the community. Concerned about public school budget issues and state education mandates? Join parents, students, educators, and community leaders to find ways we can work together to improve our public schools. Thursday, September 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Gainsboro branch library.

OUT AND ABOUT IN SEPTEMBER

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 6 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Market Building Food Court, 32 Market Square

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Hardee's, 605 Ninth St.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Market Square Outdoors, 110 Market Square
(weather permitting)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

William Byrd HS Stadium, 2902 E. Washington Ave.

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

FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

I'm not sure about anyone else, but for me, September brings back the routines that I love so much. That's in my personal, professional and spiritual life and I'm so glad to have it back! While I love all the time that I have with the kids in the summer (mine and everyone else's) I love the calmness of back to school! This fall we have some amazing things happening with the Children and Youth at Mt. Pleasant!

First and foremost... I'm **praying for our Sunday school and 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? 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 kicks it back into high gear on Sunday, September 11**, with the start of our series **"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? Join us on September 18, October 2, and 16 for the remainder of the lessons!

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. **RSVP by Sunday, September 18.**

We've got a **fundraiser** going on now through September 20. The children and youth are selling Large Utility Totes for \$36. These are great for personal use and make great Christmas presents! Money earned from this fundraiser will go toward Winter Camp in December or Resurrection in January. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs. If you would like to assist in selling totes for our fundraiser, please see Meagan Creel or me for an order form. We thank you in advance for the support!

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

SECOND SUNDAY, September 11. Join us as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with a reception after worship.

LUNCH BUNCH, Monday, September 12. Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet on September 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL will meet on September 15, at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend as this will be the last meeting before charge conference. There will also be a general meeting prior to administrative council at 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP will meet on Tuesday, September 20, at noon, for lunch and a program. The community is welcome!

SAMARITAN INN needs contributions of peanut butter and jelly and men's underwear (boxers or briefs, size M, L, or XL). We will be collecting these items until Sunday, October 30. There will be a collection box in the downstairs hallway. Please help!

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

- FALL FLING at The Hermitage, 1009 Old Country Club Rd., is Friday, September 23, 9:00 to 2:00 p.m., featuring a book sale, vendors, music and food. Proceeds help this ministry with older adults.
- A handout is available giving highlights of the recent annual conference session in Roanoke. It is a stapled handout, and you can find it on the table near the upstairs streetside entrance to the sanctuary!
- Bishop Sharma D. Lewis is the new bishop of the Virginia Conference, beginning September 1. A welcome service will take place Saturday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m., at Reville UMC in Richmond. We will be able to welcome her to the Roanoke District at the fall district conference on Sunday, November 20!
- Sunday, October 2, is the district United Methodist Women annual meeting at 3:00 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC.
- Alta Mons Family Camp – with fun and activities for all ages – is October 14-16. More info at altamons.org or call 286-2409.
- Upcoming Lay Servant training focuses on UMC Heritage (September 24 with Martha Stokes) and Preaching (October 8 with Jonathan Page). Attend live in Richmond or participate online. See Pastor Robert for more info. And mark your calendar for the 2017 Lay Servant Academy, March 31 – April 2, at the 4H Center on Smith Mountain Lake.



In less than two months we will be **“Celebrating 175 Years of God’s Work”** at Mt. Pleasant. Tickets are now on sale!

Yes, we are selling tickets for the bargain price of \$1 ... but better yet, the monies DO NOT go to pay for the meal. Every dollar bill collected will be given to the Backpack Fund to provide food for many of the children at Mt. Pleasant Elementary. We are “selling” tickets to ensure we obtain a good headcount for the catered meal.

Several former pastors have confirmed their attendance, including Bill Pollack, Faith Weedling, and Dave Boger. We also have confirmations from Marc Brown, R.C. Wagner, Eddie Arthur, and Ed Watkins, men who did not serve our church but who were called into ministry while attending our church. In addition, our DS, The Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster, will join us for worship.

A friendly “meet and greet” will be held in lieu of Sunday School, followed by our Morning Worship and lunch on the lawn. Invitations will be in the mail to our church family and friends this weekend.

HOLD THE DATE now! Sunday, October 23. How you can help? Spread the word. Invite your family and friends. And pray for the celebration ... and for a beautiful fall day!

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank all of my church family for their prayers, thoughts, and cards during my brother Robert's illness and passing. Thank each of you.

Love in Christ,
Mike Jenkins and the Jenkins family

September Birthdays

- (2) Kirk Gibson
- (4) Jane Taylor
- (6) Landon Dyess
- (10) Linda Schoonover
- (12) Isaac St. Clair; Betsy Stutes
- (13) Jenny Basham; John Leslie
- (14) Tom McCann; Kim Gembala
- (16) John Cline
- (18) Mike Gray; Greg Jackson; Amanda Holmes
- (24) James Dillon
- (30) Brandi Smith

September Anniversaries

- (9) David & Liz Mortlock
- (12) Pat & Brenda Musselwhite

DEADLINE for the October newsletter is **September 25**.