



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church
3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd. Roanoke, VA 24014

SEPTEMBER 2019
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

New 6-week basic Bible study starts soon!

Good news! An exciting new Bible study – **EXPLORING THE BIBLE** – is coming to Mount Pleasant! This is a basic, non-denominational study that is good for anyone. You don't have to have any previous Bible study experience. We will offer the first course in this series – **"What Is The Bible?"** – beginning in October. The day and time will be announced based on your preferences.

If we pick a time that does NOT work for you, we will offer it again in 2020 if needed. Since this is a non-denominational study, you will want to share the info with friends and neighbors, regardless of their



background. **"What Is The Bible?"** gives a basic overview of the entire Bible. Learn how to select a Bible. Learn how the Bible is organized. Learn how the books were selected. Learn how different people approach the texts. Learn what archaeology has to tell us.

The course book (**"What Is The Bible?"** by Anne Robertson) may be ordered for \$11. Less expensive used copies may be available online. Family members may share a book. Let Pastor Robert know ASAP if you think you might be interested, and also what time would be best for you! Look at some of the comments by those who have taken this course in other places!

I was expecting boring academic stuff--but it wasn't dusty!

The Study Guide helped me wade through a Bible that I had thought was 'dreary' and 'dull.'

I now have a greater respect for the complexity, layers of meaning and subtleties.

I have more appreciation of how these 'primitive' writings actually have such a sophisticated understanding of human nature.

I lacked a lot of basic knowledge about the Bible. Now I am inspired to keep learning.

The study was fascinating and it makes the Bible less intimidating.

The material was presented in an entertaining way.

It was a high point in my week. Valuable and fun!

The course opened up a whole new world for me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 1	Genesis 3:1-24 <i>Adam and Eve's disobedience</i>
SEPTEMBER 8	Genesis 4:1-24 <i>Cain and Abel</i>
SEPTEMBER 15	guest preacher
SEPTEMBER 22	Genesis 9:1-29 <i>The rainbow covenant with Noah</i>
SEPTEMBER 29	Genesis 11:1-32 <i>The tower of Babel</i>
OCTOBER 6	Genesis 37:1-36 <i>Young Joseph</i>

BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 1-7	Psalms 135-150 Judges 1-3, 2 Corinthians 11-13, John 1-2
SEPTEMBER 8-14	Judges 4-21 John 3:1—6:21
SEPTEMBER 15-21	Lamentations 1-5 Amos 1-9, Ezekiel 1-4, John 6:22—9:23
SEPTEMBER 22-28	Ezekiel 5-21 John 9:24—12:50
SEPT. 29 – OCT. 5	Ezekiel 22-39 John 13:1—18:18

The complete day-by-day list is available in printed form or online at vaumc.org.

NOTE: If you have items for the October newsletter, prepare in written form by September 29 and give or email to Robert or Jenny!

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

August 4	45	AUGUST 2019 AVG.	53
August 11	58*		
August 18	46	AUGUST 2018 AVG.	62
August 25	64		

* includes Second Saturday

OUR GIFTS

August Budget Offerings	\$ 7,031.50
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,826.00
Other August Income	\$ 1,013.00
Backpack Ministry (\$909), Fundraiser (\$75), Communion (\$19), Fundraiser (\$10)	

OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

Thank you for your daily prayers for the ministries of MPUMC, for sharing your prayer requests and praise reports, for giving time, energy and talents to make a positive witness for Christ and his church!

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!

Over the last few months we have presented several videos about the international mission movement called "GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS." It has been amazing to see the enthusiasm and the diversity of these young men and women in their twenties. This is the time in life when they could be most able to jump into well-paying professions. Instead, they are giving two years of their lives to serve in a country that is new to them! We used to think about missionaries as being U.S. folks who go to another country. These videos have taught us that missionaries can come from anywhere! It is a true reminder of the spirit of the New Testament where Paul and Barnabas and others left familiar places to break new ground in ministry. That same spirit brought circuit riders to Virginia. Pray for these young Global Mission Fellows, and be grateful that our giving helps make their ministry possible.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Arabella "Peanut" Manuel
3	Kenley Coleman
4	Jane Taylor
6	Landon Dyess
10	Linda Schoonover
11	Jacob Jennings
12	Isaac St. Clair, Betsy Stutes, <i>Pat & Brenda Musselwhite</i>
13	Jenny Basham, John Leslie
14	Kim Gembala, Tom McCann
15	Ryan Krawczyk
16	John Cline
18	Mike Gray, Greg Jackson, Amanda Holmes, Ryan Nicholas Krawczyk
21	Jase Beckner
22	Nicole Jennings, David Krawczyk
24	James Dillon, Shayna Hastings
30	Brandi Smith

NOTE: We include birthdays and anniversaries which are on file. Our list is not complete, so see Jenny Basham to make sure we have your info!

Bishop Lewis prepares for return

After a six-month medical leave, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis is scheduled to return as of this month. Her medical leave began in March as she underwent several hip surgeries. During this time retired Bishop Peter D. Weaver covered the area. Lewis said she is appreciative of all the prayers and gestures of care and concern she received from around the conference and United Methodist connection. She has steadily improved in her recovery and her return is contingent on continued progress. She also shared her appreciation to Bishop Weaver for his calm and steady leadership in this interim period. She asks that the conference be in prayer and give thanks for the ways that Bishop Weaver has led and served this conference. Cards may be sent to Bishop Sharma Lewis, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

Cultivate beloved community

"Cultivate Beloved Community" is an open event planned by "Virginia Methodists For a New Thing," a group seeking God's help for being an inclusive and welcoming church in light of General Conference 2019. The event includes worship, fellowship, sharing and training. All are welcome as this group provides "space for connecting" – Sunday, Sept. 8, 1:30 – 4 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC.

Events near and far...

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT (age 18-40) Sept. 13-14 at Camp Overlook (info from Phyllis Geoghegan 804-896-6297).

OPIOID EPIDEMIC STUDY runs six weeks beginning Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at South Roanoke UMC (register with Kathy 540-344-4437).

BISHOP'S CONVOCATION ON PRAYER Sept. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity UMC in Richmond.

HERMITAGE GUILD FUNDRAISER Sept. 21 – save the date and watch for more info!

DISTRICT YOUTH KICKOFF Sept. 22, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC (see article).

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED FALL FORUM Sept. 27 at 9:30 a.m. at Cave Spring UMC.

VIRGINIA MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE Sept. 27-28 in Virginia Beach. See Pastor Robert for info!

DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION trip to Puerto Rico Oct. 7-14 to "share the light." Contact Pastor R. J. Jun at 540-344-6011.

CROP WALK October 13 at 1:30 p.m., raising funds for local and global hunger relief.

CHARGE CONFERENCE FOR MPUMC October 30 at 6:30 p.m. at West End UMC.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. at Thrasher UMC.

VISIT THE HOLY LAND with Bishop Sharma Lewis in February 2020. See Pastor Robert for a brochure.

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

Children & youth ministry update from Krae!



MP Youth (6th-12th) resumes meeting each Sunday at 5 p.m. starting on Sept. 8. Keep in touch with the MP Youth Facebook (@mtpleasantyouth) page for updates on various special activities or any changes.

All area youth groups are invited to the DISTRICT FALL YOUTH KICKOFF EVENT on Sunday, Sept. 22, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC. There will be Giant Jenga, Gaga Ball, Corn Hole, Kickball, Laster Tag, Giant UNO, catered food, Giant Spoons, and a concert by the band “RELINQUISH.” There will be an offering for the conference Youth Service Fund. More details to follow. Let Krae or Pastor Robert know ASAP if you think you will be going!

Kids Church (K-5th) will have a slight schedule change for September. We'll meet on Sept. 1 and Sept. 22. We go downstairs after the offering time for a special age-friendly lesson! On other Sundays, we work to include kids in special ways!

Welcome to Meredith Simmons!

On Sunday, Sept. 15 we welcome Meredith Simmons to MPUMC to bring us our Sunday message. Meredith has been program coordinator at Camp Alta Mons since 2013, and she lives and serves there year round. She has been active in local United Methodist ministries for a long time, and she brings a contagious enthusiasm for camping ministry and faith development! Come be inspired by Meredith!

Pastor Robert and Betsy will be WAY out of town on that Sunday, as they will be on vacation in Thailand September 9-18. We will have neighbor pastors available on call for any special ministry needs. Cell service in Thailand will be very limited, but Pastor Robert will be able to check emails occasionally.

Community safety awareness

You are invited to a FREE Community Safety Awareness Class and Q&A on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Elementary Gym. This is sponsored by the MP PTA. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Department will share regarding both school and personal safety issues, with tips for gaining awareness of our surroundings and how to safely deal with encounters. Meals will be available for purchase from the Chick-fil-A food truck from 5 to 6 p.m. Thanks to the PTA and the Sheriff's Department for their assistance with this!

A note of thanks

Your gift of \$279 to the Samaritan Program helps us fulfill a promise we've made since our first resident moved in. Over the last ten years, benevolent care support for residents in Virginia communities has exceeded \$8 million! This ministry assures peace of mind to residents who have been blessed by longevity but have outlived their financial resources. On behalf of our residents, thank you for your gift!

Charles W. Wickham
Pinnacle Living (804-474-8724)

Mark these dates...

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next Step – a 15-20 minute online devo for men on Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. We continue the series “Lessons From Football For the Game of Life.” See Pastor Robert for info.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

“Second Sunday” reception after worship to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Meet at 11 a.m. to carpool to “Dutch treat” lunch at 2nd Helpings, or join us there at 11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m., with food and fellowship afterward! Our guest speaker is law enforcement chaplain Darren Potter. All are welcome!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

UMW business meeting right after worship. Women of all ages are welcome!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Senior Fellowship meets at 12 noon for lunch and a program. This is our first meeting after a summer break. This event is open to the community, so invite a neighbor!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Church Council meets at 7 p.m. “Open meeting” – you are welcome to attend!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Lunch Bunch at K&W Tanglewood – meet in entrance area at 11:30 a.m. All are invited!

MOUNT PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd.
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

As a kid I was a bit of a “Sunday School nerd.” I still remember the variety of lessons we were given, and the complex hymns we learned. I can even vividly recall a quarterly from my 8th grade Sunday School class that gave me new insights on conflicts in the Middle East!

**PASTOR
CHATTER**

More recently I was impressed to review the goals of a particular series of resources for ministry with elementary-age children. The

folks who came up with this seemed to do a pretty good job of focusing on a simple task.

The learning resources were designed to help each youngster trust in Jesus in a way that transforms how they love God, love themselves, and love the world around them. They are challenged to make wiser decisions, build stronger relationships, and develop a deeper faith, and to do all this alongside a group and a guide.

You know what I noticed? I noticed that this would be a pretty good goal for adults as well! Read those words again. Now imagine your progress report. Where are you shining? Where you do need work? Where are you still a beginner? What might you start doing this fall to step things up in your life of following Jesus? How might MPUMC be a part of making that happen? How do we help that to happen for children, teens AND adults? Good questions to ponder!

Pastor Robert

PASTOR OUT & ABOUT

Stop by for chat, coffee or prayer. This can also be an opportunity to bring a friend to “meet your pastor” in a friendly setting.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
6:30 p.m. WBHS Stadium
2902 E. Washington Ave.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
3 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Library
2918 Jae Valley Rd.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
11:30 a.m. Hope’s Cafe
3327 Garden City Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
12:30 p.m. Lucy Kat’s
3808 Yellow Mountain Rd.

