

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2024



## ALL CHURCH RETREAT

This Labor Day weekend, join MPC at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island! We'll stay in hotel-style accommodations on this beautiful property, just a short drive from the beach. Expect fun and connection as we grow in Christ together!

### What's Included:

- Gatherings for worship
- Adult speaker
- Kids and Student Ministry programming
- Plenty of afternoon activities (beach, pool, putt putt golf, crafting and more)
- All meals provided by Epworth
- Evening fun for the whole family – Bingo, Glow in the Dark games, campfire and a Square Dance!

The All Church Retreat will start on Saturday at 11:15am with a Welcome & Gathering and end on Monday at 10:30am with a special closing and departure at 11:00am. For more details and registration, go to [mandarinpres.com/retreat](http://mandarinpres.com/retreat). We can't wait!



In this newsletter you will find: upcoming events, financial update, mission spotlight, events recap and more. Keep Reading!

# Daily Bread Food Pantry Update



Through the first quarter of 2024, guest visitations to our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet remain vibrant. Our faithful volunteers have contributed to the weekly distribution of three grocery bags full of canned and packaged dry goods, bread & pastries, fresh fruits & vegetables, dairy products – and occasionally some meat, fish, and poultry items!! Weekly distribution has averaged just over 55 households (inclusive of 120+ individuals) so far this year. Additionally, nearly 20+ guests each week have taken advantage of a vast array of garments from the Clothes Closet. We are genuinely blessed to be a blessing to those in our community who need food and clothing assistance!

**Total 2024  
Food Pantry  
Distributions  
to Guests**

<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>
930	273

Thanks to the steady donations from our congregation, the Daily Bread Food Pantry has been able to serve our community for nearly 11 years. Your contributions have been the fuel that has kept our ministry going, making a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

Rotary Club of Mandarin, BSA Troop 321, Stetson Kennedy Foundation, and numerous other groups (Bible Study, Quilters, and others) and many individuals (members and neighbors of MPC) have also combined to contribute with food, clothing, and monetary gifts to power Daily Bread Food Pantry operations.

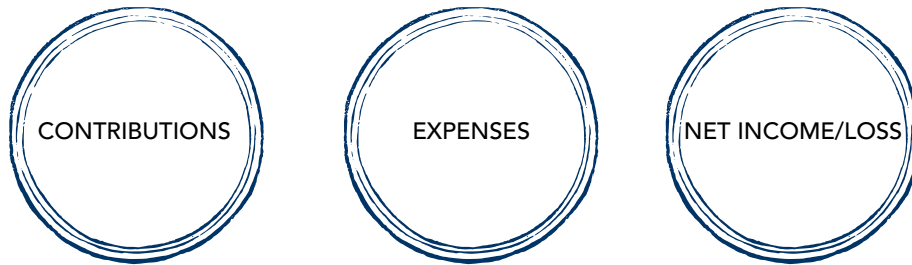
We appreciate and are grateful for your prayers for this ministry and our guests as we continue stepping joyfully toward Jesus to support our neighbors in need. God has indeed shown his light on this ministry. The love and support our covenant partners have consistently given since our first day has enabled us to be a steady beacon and positive provisioner in our community.

Praises to all with blessings and gratitude,  
Daily Bread Food Ministry (Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteers)

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Praise God for All of Our Blessings

### 2024 Financial Update



March 2024	\$218,462	\$215,156	\$3,306
Year-to-Date	\$820,587	\$625,097	\$195,490

*Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!*

### Jesus First Sermon Series



At Mandarin Presbyterian Church, we long to be a part of something bigger than us and bigger than all the uncertainties around us. What does it look like to be a part of a community where the Spirit of God is at work and Jesus is being honored?

Join us this spring as we explore how God has uniquely wired Mandarin Presbyterian Church to glorify Him and share His Good News. Come hear incredible testimony from MPC members and invite your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or anyone else who wants to experience what MPC is all about!



## MPC Men's Luncheon

THANK YOU, MPC!!! Your generosity enabled 23 women and 26 men to attend Great Banquet weekends in April. The 72-hour immersion in God's Grace was Tony the Tiger Grrrrreat! While the "goodie table" was a hit, and the fine cuisine made on site was scrumptious, they FEASTED on Jesus. Welcome to the northeast Florida Great Banquet community!

The Great Banquet fall dates are yet to be determined, but should be in place by the end of May. For information, visit [nefgb.com](http://nefgb.com) or contact Jeff Arnold at [jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com](mailto:jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com).

The MPC Men's Fellowship Luncheon is held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from noon until 1:15pm. We strive to have a guest speaker at one of the monthly meetings and have a discussion based on the previous Sunday's sermon at alternate meetings.

We have a lunch of sub sandwiches with the fixings on the side, along with potato salad, chips, drinks and dessert. The cost of lunch is \$8.00.

All men of our church and guests are invited to join us. Please consider joining us for fellowship, prayer, interesting guest speakers and discussion.

Please contact Randy Hester (904-859-4996/[hesterrandy632@gmail.com](mailto:hesterrandy632@gmail.com)) or Wayne Gaff (904-318-0002/[w.gaff@comcast.net](mailto:w.gaff@comcast.net)) with any questions.

## J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



Join us for the May J.O.Y. lunch with Kentucky Derby traditional foods and prizes for Best Hat, Best Bowtie, Winner of our Derby Race and more! Ladies, put on your favorite hat and Gentlemen, grab your craziest bowtie and come enjoy the food, fun & fellowship.

**KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY**  
Thursday, May 9th at 11:30am  
Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$7.00 per person  
Please RSVP by May 7th  
Contact us at 904-680-9944

# Mission Spotlight: Bethany International

*Mandarin Presbyterian Church supports a variety of missions around the world and locally.  
The focus this month is on Bethany International*

Hi, we are Gary and Sherry Hauter, missionaries with Bethany International in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have served in Brazil with Bethany Evangelical Seminary as professors, academic deans, mechanics, and mentors for almost 37 years.

Our training center will celebrate its 24th anniversary in Petrolina in northeast Brazil this year. We are busy training and equipping young men and women to evangelize, disciple, pastor churches and "...be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1.8)

Since moving to Petrolina in 2000, Bethany Seminary has had 190 graduates, 140 of whom are involved in ministry. We have 31 ordained pastors working in many different denominational churches. Sixteen of our graduates work as professors at our Seminary. Fourteen of them are transcultural missionaries working in seven different countries in South America, Europe, Asia, & Africa.

In 1993, Sherry and I organized the Brazilian missionary sending agency JUMIB. In 1995, we sent five missionaries to Dakar, Senegal, to start a mission. Today, JUMIB has grown and has a Mission Base in Campinas, São Paulo, where there are now 58 missionaries working in 10 different countries, including Brazil. In April, I will visit our graduates who are missionaries in Senegal and see firsthand all the ministries that have come to be since 1995.

We have received many reassuring words and comments from pastors and leaders about our graduates and interns, their work ethic and proactive attitudes, and their humility and teachability. There seems to be a demand for our graduates and it's growing. Our Seminary has 72% of its graduates in ministry. Much of our success is hands-on training and hours of one-on-one discipleship from the leadership team.

Our leadership team works very hard, and it shows in our graduates. Please remember them in your prayers. It's a very different world today, and the new students are bringing lots of additional personal and emotional baggage with them. Only the Holy Spirit and prayer can set them free.

Thank you, Mandarin Presbyterian Church! These statistics would be almost impossible if it weren't for your financial and prayer support. We humbly thank you and hope to continue our partnership for many more years! We love and appreciate each one of you. - Gary & Sherry



Bethany Evangelical Seminary  
Petrolina, Brazil



The Hauters



Missionaries and Volunteers on Staff

# MPC Next Gen Ministry

## Join Our Team!



**Kids Ministry Assistant:** This 20-hour/week position provides support for our Kids Ministry. The job includes preparing curriculum, weekly updating of database, website, and social media, communication with parents, and Sunday morning support. Contact Wendy Greer at [wgreer@mandarinpres.com](mailto:wgreer@mandarinpres.com).

**Sunday Morning Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults (18 and older) with childcare experience to work on our Sunday morning nursery team. This position includes implementing curriculum, communicating with parents and caring for children 0-2 years old. Contact Wendy Greer at [wgreer@mandarinpres.com](mailto:wgreer@mandarinpres.com) for details.

**Next Gen Summer Intern:** Are you able to bring energy and enthusiasm wherever you are? Do you like a challenge? Do you want to have a purposeful summer where you grow in your faith and impact our community for Jesus? If so, go to [mandarinpres.com/jobs](http://mandarinpres.com/jobs) for more details about joining our team of interns.

## MPC Kids Camps



It's going to be an exciting summer! There are spots still open for Summer Camps at MPC!

For Kids Camps, go to [mandarinpres.com/kidsevents](http://mandarinpres.com/kidsevents) to register. For any questions, contact Wendy Greer at [wgreer@mandarinpres.com](mailto:wgreer@mandarinpres.com).

- K-Kamp: June 9-13
- SCAMP: June 24-28 (waitlist available)
- WinShape: July 15-19

For our Middle School Camp, go to [mandarinpres.com/msevents](http://mandarinpres.com/msevents) to register. For any questions, contact Jen Loehle at [jloehle@mandarinpres.com](mailto:jloehle@mandarinpres.com)

- Southwind: July 16-21



There are adult and teen volunteer opportunities for Kids Min camps. For details, go to [mandarinpres.com/kidsevents](http://mandarinpres.com/kidsevents) or contact Wendy Greer at [wgreer@mandarinpres.com](mailto:wgreer@mandarinpres.com).

# April Events Recap



Our first Serve the City event on April 13th was a great success! More than 300 MPC volunteers served at various organizations, including City Rescue Mission, Montgomery Conference Center, Meals on Wheels (20 goodie bags), Mulch 4 Missions, J1:9 Shrimp Boil, Seamark Ranch, Mission of Hope Meal Packing (20,000 meals), HabiJax (40 welcome baskets), Waste Not, Want Not, and more. Thank you to all who participated and continuously support our mission partners!

In addition, we hosted our first MPC Plan it Forward Event on April 25th, where many gathered to hear best practices from fellow MPC members on how to invest wisely in our future and create a lasting legacy.



## Just a note from the Session



(Left to right)

Front Row: Curt Etheridge, Tami Shepler, Rev. Jenn Arnold, Danielle Caplin, Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp

Middle Row: Frank Talbot, Carol Yelinek, Rosa Heard, Kim Harris, Penny Kievet, Chris Davis

Back Row: Rev. Jeff Arnold, Matt Balanky, Hawley Smith III, Bob Gillander

Here are a few key notes from the April Session meeting.

On May 5th, we will proudly recognize the students from the confirmation class who, through their statements of faith in late April, have become Covenant partners of MPC. Their commitment and dedication are truly commendable, and we are thrilled to welcome these students to MPC.

Many of us are on the brink of completing our journey through the Bible with the Cover to Cover in 100 Days initiative. This has been a remarkable journey, one that we undertook together as MPC family. Let's celebrate our collective success on Tuesday, May 7th, and Wednesday, May 8th.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated in our first Serve the City event. Your selfless service and dedication were instrumental in making this event a success. With 324 people at 11 serve sites, we witnessed the power of God's work within the MPC family.

Our current sermon series, 'Jesus First,' introduces MPC's new core values. These values were established after a sticky note exercise in April of last year. The Pastors and the Session are excited to share these new values with everyone this spring.

We want to hear from you! At any time when you may have a question or just want to say hello, you can reach out to us individually or you can email the Session at [elders@mandarinpres.com](mailto:elders@mandarinpres.com).

### The Fellowship of the Believers (Acts 2:42-47)

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Please join the Session as we continue to pray for our church, our community, our world.

Church Office  
11844 Mandarin Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32223  
904.680.9944  
[info@mandarinpres.com](mailto:info@mandarinpres.com)

Sanctuary Address  
2501 Loretto Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32223



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