

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



June, 2022



## A Mulch 4 Missions Thank You!

The Missions team and MPC High School Summer Missions teams wanted to thank everyone who supported our 'Mulch 4 Missions' fundraiser over the past few months. Thanks to you, this year's fundraiser was the most suc-



cessful one in the 15 years we have been doing it! Almost **26,000** units of mulch, pine bark nuggets and pine straw were sold.

With the funds raised, we will have mission teams of students going to Tennessee and Costa Rica this summer, serving communities and people in need in those areas. Look for updates and recap videos later this summer from the teams as they return from those trips and share their experiences, loving people to love Jesus Christ!

## Inside this issue



### Meet the New Senior Pastor!

Meet Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp and his family. Check out his bio and find out what his secret hidden talent is!

Page 2



### Meet the New Children's Ministry Director!

Get to know Wendy Greer and her husband, Wes!

Page 5



### See the update from the Session of MPC.

The Session of MPC shares news and updates regarding MPC in the next few months.

Page 6



*Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp and family - (L to R) Daughter, Channing; Wife, Cauleen; Andrew; Son, Shepherd*

## MEET THE NEW SENIOR PASTOR OF MPC

It is with gratitude that the Pastor Nominating Committee introduces our candidate for senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp, to the Mandarin Presbyterian Church Family. He comes to us with remarkable pastoral experience, gifts in building relational community, a missional heart, and a love for the Lord which is foundational to how he ministers.

Andrew grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida, where his father was the senior pastor at Memorial Presbyterian Church for 29 years. Though he cannot remember a time when he did not know Jesus, his faith began to take deeper roots in his teenage years through youth ministry. From the earliest stages of his faith, God was shaping in him a heart for service. Through the example of his parents in ministry and mission experiences as a teenager in Brazil, Peru, and Haiti, God sealed in him the call he would later accept.

During his first year of college, God called Andrew to serve in full-time ministry. It was a life-changing experience that altered his career direction from international business to ministry. He graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies from Columbia International University. God sharpened his heart for ministry on the mission field in Brazil as he spent his summers serving at a leadership training institute that equipped church planters and pastors among the indigenous tribes. Andrew loved exploring the different cultures, learning the languages, and sharing the Gospel.

Cauleen grew up in the central valley of California and graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.S. in Biology and from University of the Pacific School of Dentistry with a Doctorate in Dental Surgery. During her career as a dentist, she spent several years working in non-profit settings and, in 2017, opened her private practice – Stepp Family Dentistry. The Stepps have two children. Channing is entering sixth grade and Shepherd is entering third grade.

You can read more about the Stepp Family and watch their introduction video by visiting [mandarinpres.com/pastoraltransition](http://mandarinpres.com/pastoraltransition).





*Scout John Jax stands on the completed bridge project.*

# Eagle Scout Project Completed

Recently, you may have noticed a newly constructed bridge from the parking lot of the Loretto Road Campus to Mandarin Road. This project was completed by a Scout from MPC's Troop 321.

John Jax is working to obtain his Eagle Rank before summer and as part of the project, he raised funds and managed an all volunteer work crew to complete the bridge.

John shared that what started out as a bridge repair ended up a near

complete replacement. He added a personal touch by constructing the new railings to reflect a sunburst pattern. Thank you John!



## What's the latest from the Daily Bread Food Pantry?

We wanted to share a story that will touch your heart. Recently, the distribution team was able to see firsthand the type of impact the Food Pantry has. An older woman came through the pick-up line for the first time with her two young adult children. The young woman in the back seat was literally brought to tears when she realized the amount of food they were getting in the two bags being handed out. It is through the grace of God we are able to see such joy.

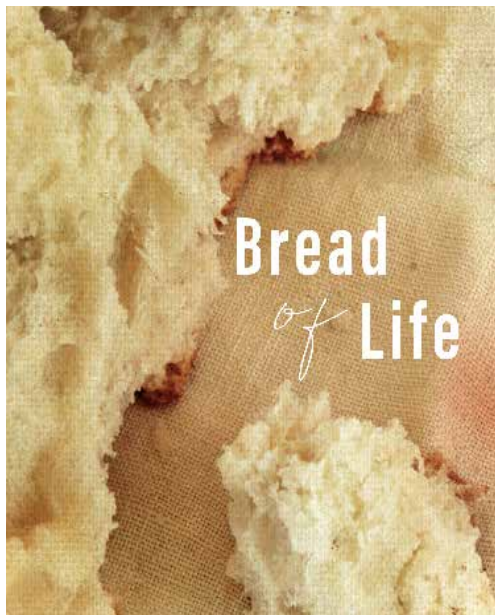


It takes a village for this ministry to thrive. The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are blessed to have regional partners, volunteers, and congregational support to meet the needs of those in the community who rely on the variety of food products and clothing. Providing for the needs of others brings joy!

If you are able to help us bring these special moments to our guests, we are always in need of donations such as canned vegetables, meats, spaghetti sauce, soup, fruits, cereal, rice, bars, oatmeal, grits, pasta, cookies, crackers, and snack items. If you like it, there is a good possibility our guests will also. Occasionally, more substantial distributed items, which are very welcomed by our guests, include cooking oil (48oz size), bagged coffee and fruit juices. In addition, we have seen an uptick in guests, so we have a need for paper bags.

Due to space limitations, we do ask that any donated clothing be gently worn, and not include shoes, lingerie, or undergarments. All items can be placed in the bins at the Sanctuary or at the church office. Lastly, we are increasingly aware that our guests are struggling with not only feeding themselves, but their pets, as well. We gratefully will distribute any donated packaged and canned dog and cat food to our guests, with much appreciation!

Service comes in many forms. We are grateful for your support and being part of the village that brings the hands and feet of Jesus to the greater Mandarin area.



## Next Sermon Series for June

### “BREAD OF LIFE”

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” From manna that kept the Israelites trusting God for provision, to stories of the early church gathering together to share meals, bread has been both a staple and symbol throughout scripture. We find physical nourishment in flour, water, yeast and salt, and we find the spiritual nourishment we need in the Son of God.

In this series, we will be looking at passages of scripture that center around bread. Each week we hope you will be able to see God at work and that you will be drawn into deeper discipleship with Him.

Throughout the month we also invite you to find time to bake some bread. It could be cinnamon rolls, breadsticks, or a basic loaf of white. We encourage you to enjoy the process and then share some with a neighbor, a friend, or our food pantry. We also would like baked bread to use for communion the final week of this series!



### Upcoming Summer Men's Event

An event for men hosted by the Men's Ministry of MPC and presented by Brian Doyle, President and Founder of Iron Sharpens Iron.

For Dads and Grandads of ALL AGES!  
Come join our friend Brian Doyle for an engaging Fatherhood Tune Up. Brian will hit on 10 Keys to Great Fatherhood which will include:

- Understanding our Kids “Love Language”
- Teamwork with Their Mother
- Guarding the Gates of our Homes
- Discipling Pathways

**Monday night, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall on the Mandarin Road Campus. 4 Rivers BBQ dinner will be served. \$7.00 per person.**

RSVP - Scan the QR code to register now for this event!

*Let's use this time to build the next great generation of Fathers... TOGETHER!*



### Women's Ministry Event Coming Up



The Women's Ministry of MPC will be hosting a summer event we would love to see you attend!

In July, we'll have our 'Summer Soiree'. Join us for a fun evening this summer. Come for dessert, fellowship and fun with the ladies, Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30 pm in Woody's. Event is \$5 and we'll also have a raffle for some summer gift baskets to benefit Grounds of Grace and East West Ministries International. Childcare provided for those that pre-register.

You can register by visiting the women's ministry webpage or, scanning the QR code!







## K-KAMP IS BACK AND JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

After two years of cancellations due to covid, K-Kamp is back this Summer! MPC will be hosting four days of K-Kamp, coming up June 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>.

K-Kamp is a week focused on relationships – growing kids' relationships with Christ and their fellow campers and leaders. Together we will experience Christian community while participating in activities including worship, Bible study, swimming, tubing, arts and crafts, archery, hiking, and all camp recreation.

You still have a few days to register your children!



## Meet MPC's new Children's Ministry Director



After 2 years of searching, we are excited to announce who God has called to be our next MPC Children's Director... **Wendy Greer!** Wendy is coming to us with over 12 years of Kids Min experience in both large and small church settings. She has an Masters of Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wendy shares, *"Helping people to know and love Jesus has been my passion since I was 8 years old (don't try to guess how long ago that was!). I love building relationships with people and helping parents lead their children to know and love Jesus, too! Kids Ministry is my greatest joy. . . that and my sweet hubby and 2*

*dachshunds, Winston & Bailey!*

*Wes and I love doing anything outdoors as well as being big 'foodies'. So, please pass along your favorite dining spot recommendations! We love trying new places and experimenting in the kitchen ourselves!"*

We can't wait for this next season of ministry and all God has planned for families at MPC!



Husband, Wes, Wendy and their Dachshunds, Winston & Bailey

## PRELIMINARY MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

### CONTRIBUTIONS

**MAY**  
**5/1 - 5/31**  
\$172,809  
**YEAR TO DATE**  
**1/1 - 5/31**  
\$876,221

### EXPENSES

**MAY**  
**5/1 - 5/31**  
\$141,710  
**YEAR TO DATE**  
**1/1 - 5/31**  
\$736,637

### NET INCOME/LOSS

**MAY**  
**5/1 - 5/31**  
\$31,099  
**YEAR TO DATE**  
**1/1 - 5/31**  
\$139,584

# HELLO FROM THE SESSION

Last month we talked about the sense of excitement that was being felt as the Director of Children's Ministry was announced, and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) shared that they had narrowed their list to a preferred candidate. Now our excitement is turning to anticipation. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the congregation voted to call Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp as our next Senior Pastor. We understand he will start sometime in August and begin preaching in September. What great news! We want to thank the members of the PNC for their faithfulness in following God's leading and guidance to find our next Sr. Pastor.

We've one more staffing update to share. After being at Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool (MPP) for 32 years, the last 13 as the Director, Mellanie Henderson is planning to retire in the coming school year. Lee Samuels, a member of MPC for the past 7 years, has been hired as the new Director starting in August. Lee currently teaches Kindergarten at Liberty Pines (K-8). Lee worked at MPP as a teacher for five years (2001-2005) before taking a job at the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County, where she was a classroom assessor, observing preschool classrooms and providing feedback to teachers. Lee comes to the role of MPP Director with experience as a preschool teacher, as a preschool assessor and coach, and as a kindergarten teacher who understands what VPK students need in order to thrive in their next steps. Please join us in welcoming Lee to her new role and thanking Mellanie for her many years of impacting children and families. We pray for them both and MPP for all that God has planned ahead.

We were reminded in May that we have not provided a breakdown of MPC's 2022 budget that we have done by this time in past years.



**Left to right: Front Row - Bobby Schrader, Matt Balanky, Curt Etheridge,**

**Middle Row - Zan Frick, Chris Davis, Tami Shepler,**

**Back Row - Craig Henderson, Rosa Heard, Wayne Gaff, Joan Pooley, Bob Graumann and Danielle Caplin.**

Working through MPC's time of transition and not having the congregational meeting normally held early in the year, not getting the budget information out was an oversight on our part. As you read this update, members of the Finance team are preparing MPC's 2022 budget information to be sent out shortly.

We are so thankful for your faithfulness during our transition time and lean on the words of Ephesians 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Please join us as we pray in anticipation for what God has ahead for MPC. The Session meets next on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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# J.O.Y (Just Older Youth) Ministry- News & Events



## Calling all J.O.Y. Guys and Gals!

Grab your dancing shoes and join us as we *SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL* to the sounds of the 50's and 60's as we celebrate the beginning of summer break at the VARSITY....(Formally known as the Fellowship Hall) Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Cost is \$7 per person. To RSVP please call the church office at 904.680.9944 by Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Get ready to gather around the Soda Bar with your friends and join in 'The Twist' contest! Bring a photo from high school/graduation if you have one!



## S.C.A.M.P Volunteers are still needed!

If you can volunteer for our upcoming summer camp at MPC we can use you!

Go to [mandarinpres.com/scamp](http://mandarinpres.com/scamp) to complete your volunteer registration!



## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE IN JULY 10:00AM

### JULY ONE WORSHIP RETURNS

One worship Sundays will be back in July! As we have for the past several summers, during July we will meet as one church family to worship together at 10:00am.

These services will include components of both the usual traditional and contemporary services.

Watch for further details to come, and plan to join us for One Worship Sundays in July!



## MPC Meals On Wheels

### “Entertaining Angels, Unawares And The Least of These”

by Earl Bittner, Meals on Wheels Coord.

A little over a year ago I was approached by Jeff Arnold about taking over the administration of MPC's Meals on Wheels program. At the time, I was barely aware the church supported such a program. I scheduled a day to observe Asa Ghaemi, the former coordinator, in action. As the route went on that day, Asa struggled more and more just to get in and out of his car, much less carry the meals. Asa was hurting. Asa, the good angelic soldier, needed to step down. I stepped in.

The writer of Hebrews, in 13:2 wrote, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (KJV) And in Matthew's gospel in 25:40, Jesus said “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (NIV) You may want to read those passages in context at some point. There are some very powerful lessons there that dovetail nicely with our recent sermon series on Hospitality.

I bring all this up because truthfully, since ‘assuming command’ of this program, I've experienced some minor challenges with some of our clients, our meal provider and even some of our volunteers. But through it all I am constantly reminded daily by the Holy Spirit of these verses and their corresponding truths. Entertaining angels; the least of these. Time and again, I'll speak with one of our 13 clients at their door or on the phone and they refer to me and our 47 volunteers as their angels. I believe the opposite is true. We're just entertaining angels and providing a blessing to the least of these...

If you'd like to be a blessing to some of our angels, financial gifts are always welcome. If you know of an angel who may need our services or have any questions about MOW, contact:

**Earl Bittner 904.868.6067 / rebittne@bellsouth.net** or **Van Hogan at 904.631.8309 / vhogan@bellsouth.net**. Thanks for your support to this ministry and our angels and the least of these...

## MPC Garden Ministry Assistance Needed



### Looking for a way to serve at our church?

We have the solution for you! We are the “Garden Ladies/Gentlemen”. We have a schedule that tells you when the garden needs you. We share our time on a weekly basis. We water, pull weeds, trim some bushes and replace annuals when needed.

If you are interested in helping, please call, text or email one of the following people.

**Annie Jenkins: 904.891.2881 / anniejgardener1st@gmail.com**  
**Wendy Gaff: 904.318.8722 / wendygaff@comcast.net**

## Upcoming Events

**High School Tennessee Mission Trip -  
June 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**

**High School Costa Rica Mission Trip -  
July 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**

**S.C.A.M.P. - July 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Missions Sunday - July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Loss of Spouse - August 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Griefshare - Fall Class -  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> - November 15<sup>th</sup>**