

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2024



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Upcoming Events
 - Financial Update
 - Mission Spotlight
 - September Events Recap
-



MPC Fall Fest Celebration

MPC will be celebrating Fall with a festival on the St. Johns River! Come join the fun from 4-7pm on Sunday, October 13th at our beautiful River House Property, behind BOB on the Mandarin Road Campus. Live music, delicious BBQ, yummy desserts, games and fun for ALL ages! Admission is one non-perishable food item for our Daily Bread Food Pantry or a monetary donation for our Daily Bread Food Pantry. This is a church-wide event so be sure to register at mandarinpres.com/fallfest or on the Church Center App!



Join us on a mission to Guatemala this December to grow in your faith, shine the light of Jesus and serve others! The details and application are available at mandarinpres.com/adultmission.

Upcoming Event Highlights

- October 4-6: Middle School Hang 10 Weekend
- October 13: Fall Fest on the River!
- October 13 & 20: Discovery Classes
- October 24-27: Women's Great Banquet

For more information and details, visit mandarinpres.com or the Church Center app.

Meals on Wheels



Hello Church! It's been a little while since we've shared information with you about your Meals on Wheels ministry. It's been an eventful year since we transitioned to Aging True.

I'll explain. MPC supports a Meals on Wheels ministry that serves as many as 20 residents daily Monday - Friday in the Mandarin area (32223 and 32257 zip codes), for a lunchtime meal. We currently serve 12 clients. You may recall we transitioned to Aging True, the non-profit federally funded organization to support the national Meals on Wheels program in Duval and Clay Counties, as our food service provider last year. We became a "drop site" for them on October 1, 2023.

We still use an army of volunteers to deliver the meals, a smile and some brief conversation in a routine that now takes about an hour and a half from start to finish. We've lost a few of our faithful volunteers in the last several months and are in need of a couple of new volunteer teams. Currently the third Tuesday of every month is open for a permanent team. We begin the route at the MPC offices on Mandarin Road between 11:30am and 11:45am depending on food arrival, and most of our volunteers deliver just once a month. It's a great volunteer opportunity for retired couples. If you know of someone who might need our services or if you'd like to explore volunteering yourself, please give the church office a call at 904-680-9944 and they will put you in contact with an MPC Meals on Wheels coordinator.

Please consider supporting this ministry with your prayers for our clients and the army of volunteers who serve them!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

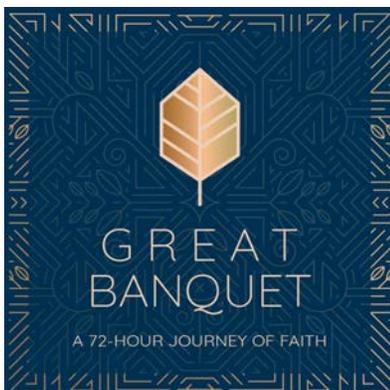
Praise God for All of Our Blessings

2024 Financial Update

| | CONTRIBUTIONS | EXPENSES | NET INCOME/LOSS |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| August 2024 | \$157,735 | \$227,407 | (\$69,672) |
| Year-to-Date | \$1,724,839 | \$1,750,923 | (\$26,084) |

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

Great Banquet



TIME OUT. A pause, a break, a breather. Children know it well! As do athletes. Do YOU? The Great Banquet provides a wonderful opportunity to pause, breathe, step out of the maelstrom of life. Another intention of TIME OUT is to consider, to reflect, to "right the ship." All of which happen on a Great Banquet weekend - time to pause, to breathe, to consider and pull closer to Jesus.

Find out more at nefgb.com. The Women's weekend is October 24-27 and the Men's is Nov. 14-17.



Daily Bread Food Pantry Update

Through the first nine months of 2024, our **Daily Bread Food Pantry** and **Clothes Closet** have seen consistently high guest visitation rates. Our dedicated volunteers continue their weekly distribution of **three** grocery bags filled with a variety of items. These include canned goods, packaged dry goods, bread & pastries, fresh fruits & vegetables, as well as dairy products. Occasionally, meat, fish, and poultry items are also available.

So far this year, our weekly distribution averages have been impressive, serving over 58 households and impacting more than 135 individuals with 20+ guests taking advantage of the Clothes Closet! We are truly grateful for the opportunity to support those in our community who need assistance with food and clothing. Thanks for all of prayers and support!

**Total 2024
Distributions
to Guests**
(as of 9/17/24)

| Food | Clothing |
|---|---|
| 2214 | 657 |
|  |  |

Rotary Club of Mandarin, BSA Troop 321, Stetson Kennedy Foundation, and numerous other "Groups" (Bible Study, Quilters and others) along with countless individual MPC members and community neighbors have combined to contribute mightily with food, clothing and monetary gifts to power Daily Bread Food Pantry operations.

*Praises to all with blessings & gratitude,
Daily Bread Food &
Clothes Closet Volunteers*

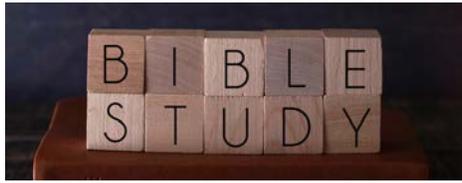
J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



October Luncheon

We hope you will join us for a "Souper" fun J.O.Y. luncheon on Thursday, October 10th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by October 8th at 904-680-9944. See you there!

Men's Bible Study



Looking for a Men's Bible Study?

If so, Rodney Bias (904.236.2221) and Matt Minota (904.872.4195) are leading a Tuesday Night group studying the Galatians Sermon Series from 6-7:30pm on the Mandarin Campus. Meet in the Sanctuary for the weekly Galatians lesson.

Why study Paul's letter to the Galatians? The church in Galatia was torn between the view that their efforts saved them, and the Gospel, which told them that it was Christ's work, not theirs, that mattered. The choice still confronts us today making this a hugely relevant and exciting book to study.

MPC Men's Luncheon

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 at 904-859-4996 or hesterrandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002 or w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

Huddle Up!



Men's Huddle Up! is at V's Pizza in Mandarin from 6:30-8:30pm on October 14th.

Hang out with your brothers, every second Monday of the month.

Contact Mike or Bob to connect with the Men's Ministry and get MPC Men announcements
MichaelKash@hotmail.com | Mobile: 704.654.5258
Bob.Graumann@ironsharpensiron.net | Mobile: 860.573.5195

Mission Spotlight: Seamark Ranch

*MPC supports various missions around the world and here at home.
This month's Mission Spotlight is Seamark Ranch.*

Seamark Ranch is a nurturing Christian home and family system that gives children from families in crisis the tools they need for a brighter future. Through a family home model, a specialized residential school, and the lessons of life in a working farm community, Seamark Ranch provides the ideal setting for love, stabilization, healing, education, and empowerment.

Seamark Ranch provides services to children and families in crisis. Our residents are foster care children and private placements who have experienced life-altering abuse and neglect at a young age. We currently have six loving homes and families to serve the young people in our program. We also provide parenting classes and counseling to their family members to support reunification when that is an option.

Our programs not only meet residents' basic needs, but also provide mental well-being services, academic instruction, spiritual training, and workforce development. The most rewarding part of our work is witnessing the transformation in our residents. As a long-term placement program, we have supported over 180 children and families through the most challenging times of their lives. We celebrate the growth that all of our children have experienced and look forward to serving more children and their families in the future, inspiring hope and a brighter future.

Seamark Ranch's programs have received numerous awards. We are accredited by the Council on Accreditation and maintain licensure with the Department of Children and Families.

We are deeply grateful for the many partners from MPC who generously give and volunteer to make Seamark Ranch's high-quality services free to children and families when they need them most. Your support is integral to our mission and we thank you for partnering with us to do God's work to serve the least of these!



Mark Your Calendars



Join our MPC Fall Celebration on October 13th from 4-7pm at the River House Property! We will have live music, delicious BBQ, yummy desserts, games and fun for ALL ages! Register at mandarinpres.com/fallfest.

DISCOVERY Classes



For those interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members of MPC.

Visit our website at mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass

If you are interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members of MPC, join our upcoming Discovery Classes on October 13th and 20th. For more details and to register: mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass.

The logo for Plan it Forward features a stylized tree with green leaves and a blue circle with "mpc" inside. Below the tree, the text "Plan it Forward" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font, and "INVESTING FOR YOUR FUTURE & LEGACY" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Plan it Forward

INVESTING FOR YOUR FUTURE & LEGACY

Thursday, November 7th (6:00 - 7:30pm)
mandarinpres.com/planitforward

Plan it Forward is a unique event aimed at helping you invest in your future and leave a meaningful legacy. You are invited to join us for an evening of sharing best practices on various financial and future planning topics. Register at mandarinpres.com/planitforward.



The Women's Ministry Team needs your creative skills to make our Jingle & Mingle silent auction a success! We need unique, high-quality items that showcase your talent. If you are interested in crafting, creating and donating, please contact Anne Petrone at apetrone@mandarinpres.com.

The logo for Getaway with God & the Gals features the text "GETAWAY WITH GOD & the gals" in a white, sans-serif font, and "WOMEN'S RETREAT" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The design is decorated with a white floral wreath.

GETAWAY WITH GOD & the gals

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save your spot for the Women's Ministry January 25th Getaway with God & the Gals retreat in Amelia Island! This is a great opportunity for the ladies of MPC to get together, laugh, enjoy fellowship and spend time with God. There is a discounted hotel option (1/24-1/26) available until Dec. 13th. Go to mandarinpres.com/womensministry for more details and registration.

September Events Recap



We held our first All Church Retreat from August 31st to September 2nd at St. Simons Island. We enjoyed gathering together for worship and connecting with fun activities such as square dancing, bingo, MPC Olympic games, a campfire and more!



We were blessed to hear from Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli on September 22nd as he shared what God is doing around the world, especially in Iran and the Persian diaspora. Please join us in praying for hope for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

There is so much going on in the life of MPC. To stay updated, subscribe to the weekly "News to Me" e-newsletter at mandarinpres.com/enews. It's filled with events and opportunities for you to connect and serve.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members of MPC, we will offer our next Discovery Class meetings on October 13th and 20th. More information is available at mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass.

It's fall, so what does that mean!? Pumpkin Spice Girls!! Our annual Fall Fest on the River is on October 13th from 4-7pm at the River House. There will be food, live music, games and fun for all ages. You might even catch a glimpse of the world-renowned Pumpkin Spice Girls! This an event you don't want to miss! Register at mandarinpres.com/fallfest.

Even though the end of the year is just around the corner, God is continuing to use MPC for His purposes. We will host the fall Women's and Men's Northeast Florida Great Banquet, a 72-hour journey of faith. Plan it Forward will be offered again in November. Our very own Kids Min Director Wendy Greer will be ordained in November. And before you know it, it will be the Season of Advent, a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

"Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them. But transgressors stumble in them." – Hosea 14:9 KJV

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



Seamark Ranch is a Christian home in Green Cove Springs that helps children from families in crisis and is supported by MPC Missions. If you are interested in visiting and taking supplies to Seamark, please contact Joyce, stullsandra8@gmail.com or Rosa, mheard@bellsouth.net. A trip is planned for Thursday October 17, 9:30 am; we will carpool from the church parking lot.

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11844 Mandarin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-680-9944
info@mandarinpres.com

Sanctuary Address
2501 Loretto Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223



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