

### REPORT FROM THE SESSION

At the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Stated Session meeting, the Mandarin Presbyterian Church Session:

- Approved the Souper Bowl of Caring to be on 2/5, to benefit World Relief, a Jacksonville organization helping refugee families recently moved to America.
- Acknowledged and commended the completion of the Missions Wall in the narthex, showing those around the world supported by MPC Missions;
- Approved the curriculum 'SKY' by Group Publishing for SCAMP, to be held 7/23 – 27;
- Approved the Middle School Summer Mission Trip to DogWood Acres in Vernon, FL, 6/17 – 22;
- Approved Student Discovery classes to begin 2/5 for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders;
- Approved the High School D-Now weekend, 2/10 – 12;
- Approved proposed changes to the Medical Leave Policy for staff;
- Received the 2011 Year-end Finance Report:
 

Contributions	\$1,984,431
Expenses	\$1,986,438
Net gain/(loss)	(\$2,007)
- Received the current Stewardship Report (a final report is included separately in this newsletter);
- Received an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee;
- Received and discussed a report from the Trustees on facility needs not included in the Operating Budget; follow-up with the Trustees is planned.
- Approved removing the original restrictions to the Session-established Endowment Fund, related to the disbursement and minimum balance, but kept the intent and purpose of the Fund intact, to allow these monies to be used if necessary to cover major facility needs.
- Elected Elder Commissioners to attend the 2/4 meeting of Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church of Ocala;
- Approved the 2012 Operating Budget, as recommended by the Finance Team. This budget was presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on 1/29.
- Recorded the death of MPC member Betty Ertmann on 1/11/12.

Members of Session: Craig Henderson-Clerk, Bryan Benton, Frances Berry, John Crowell, Bob Gillander, Vic Halbach, Bev Hawkins, David Middleton, Bill Murphy, Paul Niager, Buffy Smith, John Walker, Rev. Kevin Pound, Rev. Jeff Arnold, Rev. Jenn Arnold

*We have previously made available on the website a Quarterly Report of Session. In an effort to keep the congregation better informed, the monthly MPC newsletter will now include a monthly report on Session activity.*

**STUDENT DISCOVERY CLASS** - The purpose of Student Discovery is to lead students to know and understand Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, as well as examine what it means to join and become faithful members of God's Church. This class is open to any student in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and will include weekly classes as well as assignments and/or projects to complete during the week. We will start our time with a meeting for students AND parents on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Krista Knott, 680-9954 or [kknott@mandarinpres.com](mailto:kknott@mandarinpres.com) to register.

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREAT BANQUET

Have you heard about the Northeast Florida Great Banquet Weekends? There are still guest openings for the men's Banquet Weekend, March 1-4. Currently, there is a wait list for the women's Weekend, but if you have an interest in attending a future Banquet, it is recommended that you go ahead and fill out a Reservation Request Form and turn it in to the church office. Those who are placed on a wait list will be contacted to see if they'd like to attend the next Banquet once the date has been set. Registration forms and brochures may be obtained at the Information Center in the Lobby, online through the MPC website ([mandarinpres.com/Get Involved/Great Banquet](http://mandarinpres.com/Get Involved/Great Banquet)), or at the church office. General information is also available at [nefgb.com](http://nefgb.com). If you have questions, you may submit them online by selecting the "Contact Us" tab on the menu or calling 680-9981.

**THE J.O.Y. TRAVEL CENTER** – A special escorted tour of Spain is currently being offered for J.O.Y. members and other interested travelers. Departure time will be February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the usual MPC departure station. The renowned Host and Tour Guide, Senor Michael Heard, will enhance your experiential journey with his rich travel background and life in Spain. As we travel through Spain, you will enjoy the exquisite culinary magic of Chef Sharon. Fees for this trip are \$5. Reservation: 680-9944.

**MPC LADIES** – Save the date! April 20-21 – Women's Retreat! Look for detailed information soon!

**NEW THURSDAY STUDY – FAITH UNDER FIRE** - If you've had questions about the reliability of the Christian faith or even if you're just curious about what can be defended, come join us in Lee Strobel's DVD study, "Faith Under Fire," and learn how to defend our faith together! Join MPC member, Kristen Davis, as she leads these discussions on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of February and March from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in room 137/138 on the East Campus. Signup at the Information Booth in the Lobby or contact Barbara Frye, [bfrye@mandarinpres.com](mailto:bfrye@mandarinpres.com) or 680-9951.

**MOMS ON MONDAY IS BACK WITH A NEW STUDY** – Join us for "The Frazzled Female" by author/speaker, Cindi Wood, as we learn how to find God's peace in our daily chaos. We begin Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> in room 138 on the East Campus from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Childcare is available and the study book is \$15. Contact Tina Sicheloff, [tegoodmans@yahoo.com](mailto:tegoodmans@yahoo.com).

### NEW STUDY BEGINS FOR THURSDAY NIGHT WOMEN

A new 14 week study of Philip Yancey's, "The Jesus I Never Knew" will begin on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in room 136 on the East Campus.  
Contact Katharine Bowlus, 268-5777  
with questions.

**MPC'S HUGS MINISTRY** is starting the new year with excitement to serve. We will be meeting on Saturdays, February 4<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. in Woody's on the East Campus. Our first meeting will include coffee, scones and conversation about our ministry as well as blanket making and shawl knitting. The cost for materials is \$20. Contacts for HUGS are: Cheryl Peck, [cheryl.peck220@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.peck220@gmail.com)  
Lynn Bidleman, [lynn.bidleman@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.bidleman@gmail.com)  
Sandy Hund, [sandyhund74@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyhund74@yahoo.com)

### PRELIMINARY FINANCE REPORT – 1/30/2012

	<u>January</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
Contributions	\$185,008	\$1,336,295
Expenses	\$143,372	\$1,353,035
Net income/(loss)	\$41,636	(\$16,740)

#### Stewardship:

Goal:	500 pledges	\$1,900,000
As of 1/31	408 pledges	\$1,640,553

## KIDMIN

We are starting a new year and KIDMIN (Children's Ministry) is as busy as ever. Sunday mornings, FRAT House for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Children's Music programs... and Eggstravaganza is right around the corner.

**Mark your calendars!** S.C.A.M. P. is the week of July 23 – 27, 2012.

**New Stuff:** Our very own, first ever "K Camp" - A sleepover camp for 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Camp Montgomery. "K-Camp" will intersect all that kids love about summer camp with a week to pull away and experience God. There will be worship and speaker times designed just for them, and Bible Studies and cabin discussions focused on what it means to have a relationship with Christ! Students will develop deeper relationships with God, each other and their counselors (adults and teen leaders from our church!) Pick up a brochure at the church office, Information Booth in the Lobby or online at [www.mandarinpres.com](http://www.mandarinpres.com). The dates are June 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

We are very blessed to have all the children that come to our church each week. As the number of children who attend grows, so do our needs in Children's Ministry. We need leaders who love Christ and love kids: teachers, helpers, and people behind the scenes to help us get ready for Sundays, special events and keep our classrooms organized. If you have a heart for kids, we have a place for you! Contact Kris Murphy, [kmurphy@mandarinpres.com](mailto:kmurphy@mandarinpres.com).

**FLOWER CALENDAR 2012** - If you would like to reserve a Sunday on the Flower Calendar, please contact Barbara Frye at 680-9951. The cost is \$45 and flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service, or the Deacon Ministry is happy to take them to a member in need if you wish. This ministry is a great way to honor, memorialize or celebrate a loved one or special event.

### NEW STUDY BEGINS FOR TUESDAY GROUP

The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study Group will be starting a new study on the "Four Short Letters" near the end of the New Testament. The study will start with a look at James. All are welcome to come beginning Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Room 137 on the East Campus. For questions, contact Frances Berry, 732-7433.

**MPP NEWS** – Registration: Our Preschool is currently registering students for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are the parent of a 2, 3, or 4 year old child and would like information about our preschool, please call Mellanie Henderson at 680-6406.

**MPP BOOKFAIR** – Book Fair Luau...It's a Reading Celebration! Come check out the wonderful selection of books Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel on the East Campus from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. daily. Scholastic offers a wide variety of affordable, good quality books for children of all ages. Contact Mellanie Henderson at 680-6406.

### NEW MEMBER DISCOVERY CLASSES

Discovery classes are open to all visitors who are seeking information about the Presbyterian Church in general and MPC in particular. After attending Discovery classes, those interested in membership are invited to a New Member Dinner. The next classes are Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and the New Member Dinner will be Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. All begin at 6:30 p.m. and are in Woody's on the East Campus. Childcare is available by reservation. To register for the classes contact Barbara Frye, [bfrye@mandarinpres.com](mailto:bfrye@mandarinpres.com) or 680-9951.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MINISTRY

**HIGH SCHOOL D-NOW "LIVE LOVE" WEEKEND** – Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. The activities begin on Friday evening on the MPC East Campus at 7:30 p.m. and will end after church on Sunday. The cost is \$85. Please turn in the fee and complete the registration forms online at [www.mandarinpres.com](http://www.mandarinpres.com). Register by Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>; contact Krista Knott, at 680-9954 or [kknott@mandarinpres.com](mailto:kknott@mandarinpres.com).

**THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – CHIP IN FOR YOUTH!** - Please help support our High School Mission Trip to Costa Rica by purchasing your TPC tickets through us. **One Day Grounds Tickets** are available for only \$40 per ticket (regular price is \$55.) Contact Mike Mason [mmason@mandarinpres.com](mailto:mmason@mandarinpres.com), or 680-9958 for tickets or more information.

**MULCH 4 MISSIONS** – Order forms are available at the Information Center, church office or online. Help us raise money for our High School Mission Trip to Costa Rica.

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Help kick hunger in our community on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. This year we will support a local organization, World Relief, which helps refugee families that have recently moved to America. Youth will be at the entrances of the church dressed in football jerseys to accept your donations on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT MINISTRY

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION CAMP** – June 17 – June 22 – Cost: \$299. – (Participate in workday and cost is only \$199.) We will travel to DogWood Acres Summer Camp in Vernon, FL where Daniel and Tiffany worked as counselors for 3 summers. We will be immersed in the world of missions and camps – taking daily trips to various mission sites, learning about what it really means to serve, and sleeping in cabins in the woods, swimming in the lake and pool, and doing arts and crafts, archery, and other camp activities. We will also have times of worship, and Bible study. Contact Krista Knott at [kknott@mandarinpres.com](mailto:kknott@mandarinpres.com). Your deposit of \$100 will reserve your spot. Registration deadline is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**FRUIT BOWL** – Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>- 6-8p.m. – Lots of fruit, lots of fun! A wild night of new games and more ways to get messy so wear clothes that you can get dirty and in your team colors! **6<sup>th</sup> guys red, 7<sup>th</sup> guys orange, 8<sup>th</sup> guys blue, 6<sup>th</sup> girls yellow, 7<sup>th</sup> girls purple and 8<sup>th</sup> girls green.**

### SUMMER INTERNS

We have 3 positions available working with our children and youth ministries. Applications are available on-line at [www.mandarinpres.com](http://www.mandarinpres.com). Contact Krista, [kknott@mandarinpres.com](mailto:kknott@mandarinpres.com) or 680-9954.

## MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Continued prayers are requested for MPC military and their families: Alaina Clay, Chad Coursey, Geoff Cunningham, **Jeremy Etheridge**, Peter Flynt, **Joshua France**, Becky Gallant, Richard Gallant, Russell Gallant, Michael Hahn, **Christopher Hicks**, **Scott Hoffman**, **Bobby Hughes**, **Les McNellie**, Yancey Montgomery, A.J. Moss, **Nick Sawall**, Jonathon Scott, **Richard V. Shirley, II**, **Jeremy Sluser**, Derek Smith, Walter Weaver, Louis Wilcox, Jr. & **John Winkler** (Bold denotes active duty deployed.)



## **Report on the Annual Meeting of the Congregation Mandarin Presbyterian Church - January 29, 2012**

Over 160 members of MPC gathered for lunch in the Fellowship Hall of the East Campus on Sunday, January 29, 2012, to look back at 2011 and ahead to 2012, during the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**. Thanks to Sharon Dingle for a wonderful lunch, as well as to the many volunteers who helped in a variety of ways. During lunch, we watched a slide show of 2011 events, from the Golf Outing, Youth Daytona Trip, Eggstravaganza, youth camps and trips in the summer, various women's groups' activities and Pumpkin Jam in the fall, through the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and various Advent activities.

Rev. Kevin Pound talked about membership changes through 2011. There were 13 births to members, and 27 baptisms. Nine MPC members died during 2011: Dan Unger, Page Stern, Lynn Abstein, Clarice Knopf, Robin Challberg, Vernon Wendorph, Betty Higginbotham, Ben Carrie, and Myrtice Holmes. Ninety-two (92) new members joined MPC, 36 of whom were youth who went through Confirmation classes in the spring and fall.

Rev. Kevin Pound then called on Reverends Jenn and Jeff Arnold to report on their ministries during 2011. Jenn reviewed the Next Generation activities. An average of more than 240 youth attended high school and middle school activities each week, assisted by 53 volunteer leaders. Over 400 kids went on a total of 9 overnight trips during the year, including 33 high school students on 2 separate Costa Rica mission trips. We had our third annual Family Camp over the Labor Day holiday, when 100 people participated in weekend activities. During 2012, we will host the first K-Kamp, for elementary age children at Camp Montgomery, staffed by MPC's own leaders. We will also begin a family ministry called Faithprints in the fall.

Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool, which began in 1964, is now 48 years old. It offers 13 different classes for children aged 2 – 5 years, and currently serves 158 students from 138 families, with a staff of 23.

Rev. Jeff Arnold reported that there are now 18 active Stephen Ministers and 64 active Deacons providing care to our congregation. The MUGS group (Men Under God's Service) has now logged over 11,000 hours of service since their inception in 2002.

As has happened for many years, 10% of the Operating Budget of the church goes to Benevolences. In addition to those supported missions and missionaries, we had numerous donation drives: the congregation supported The Souper Bowl of Caring with \$1,442 for Waste Not, Want Not; more than 85 members rang the bell during the Salvation Army's Red Kettle drive, and 100 'Angels' were provided large gift-filled bags through the annual Salvation Army Angel Tree. City Rescue Mission was given \$1,918 to purchase turkeys for holiday meals. Women's Ministry drives supported Ronald McDonald House, St. Clair Evans Academy, First Coast Women's Services, and Dignity U Wear. Presbyterian supported Thornwell Home in SC was sent \$825 during the annual November drive and Mandarin Food Bank deliveries were made regularly throughout the year. In addition, more than 30 local and international missions and missionaries received regular financial support through the year, and several of these were targeted for donations through the annual Alternative Gift Market.

Rev. Kevin Pound introduced Elder Craig Henderson, Clerk of Session, who presented the 2012 Nominating Committee of the Congregation: Bob Gillander, Kurt Hammond, Craig Henderson, Claudine Owen, Ellen Petersen, Susanna Vance, and Al Watson. The congregation elected them by acclamation. Craig then thanked the 2011 Nominating Committee of Bob Gillander, Bob Givens, Craig Henderson, Diana Hoelle, Eric Lentz, Greig Moyer, and Danielle Walker.

Elder Bob Gillander, representing the Finance Team and the Session, reported on 2011 contributions and expenses. He also thanked Bryan Benton for his leadership during the 2011 Stewardship Campaign; we currently have received pledges for 2012 in the amount of \$1,640,553, which is a record for pledges.

We received contributions in 2011 totaling \$1,984,431; expenses for 2011 were \$1,986,438. Bobby then presented the 2012 operating budget, as approved by the Session on January 23. The operating budget for 2011 was \$2,020,686, while the 2012 operating budget was approved at \$2,040,000. It was pointed out that this budget figure includes salary and benefits for the Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship position; a search committee to fill this position was elected in July, 2010. No staff salary increases are included in the budget. Copies of the 2012 Operating Budget are available in the church office.

Kevin then showed the video from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 30, 2011, and talked about MPC's core values. Kevin encouraged the congregation to focus on these core values and to be the best that we can be as a church, and he encouraged us to be Christ-centered and focused on our Vision and Mission. Kevin thanked all in attendance, and acknowledged the Session and the Staff for their contributions to the church. He thanked the church for the opportunity to continue to serve as pastor of Mandarin Presbyterian.

**MPC GOLF OUTING – MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>** - Last year, the MPC Annual Golf Tournament in March was a wonderful day in many ways: no rain, great golf, great friends and an incredible way to raise funds for the MPC Youth programs. We loved the March date so much we scheduled it for March 12<sup>th</sup> this year at Palencia. All proceeds from this event will benefit the MPC Youth programs. To be even more successful this year, we ask that all golfers mark their calendars for the event. We want you to sign up, recruit a few friends or new players and we hope that you will consider sponsoring a hole or a team. Anyone who wishes to help with the youth ministry should consider being part of the organizational team. You don't need to know anything about golf; you just need to be ready to assist recruiting sponsors or donors and share a passion for the youth and future of MPC. For more information about the Outing contact Melissa Nelson, [mnelson@hopsproblemsolving.com](mailto:mnelson@hopsproblemsolving.com) or 910-6442. Registration forms will be available in the Lobby beginning Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BETH MOORE STUDY** – "James – Mercy Triumphs" study meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in room 137 on the East Campus. Contact Kathy Reifers, [kreifers@bellsouth.net](mailto:kreifers@bellsouth.net).

**FROM THE SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE** – The Special Gifts Center in the Lobby offers opportunities for designated giving to purchase specific items for the church. Call Rosa Heard, 680-9953 if you are interested in selecting an item or if you have questions.

**Featured Special Gift:  
Video Camera**

MPC Communications wishes to expand our ministry. We want to purchase a dedicated video camera to record the worship services, which could be shown live via our website. It would also allow us to capture the same video and use it for anyone to review and to show this video on the church screens so people in the back of the church can see what is going on up front (children's messages, events, plays). We hope to reach more people with the message of Christ and allow those who are shut-in or away to watch the services.

**Estimated Cost: \$2,400**

**"MOMS ON FRIDAY" NEW STUDY** - "You Matter More Than You Think" by author, Dr. Leslie Parrott. In this book Leslie helps you see that the more you understand the difference you are making, the bigger the difference will be. Study begins Friday, February 10, from 9:15am - 11:30am in Room 138 on the East Campus. Childcare is provided. Questions or to sign-up contact Susan Nordin, 477-4839 or [wheelersusan@yahoo.com](mailto:wheelersusan@yahoo.com).

## PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATES

In August, 2010 we published a MPC Picture Directory in a 3 ring binder, with plans to add pages as we gained new members. Our first update pages are now ready for pick up! These represent people who joined in New Member classes from October, 2010 through Fall, 2011. Packets of the update pages are available in the lobby on Sundays and in the church office during the week. We do have some directories too, if you did not receive one.