

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Board of Trustees

New Ministry Initiatives

The Board of Trustees continue to actively and effectively manage church property, equipment and investments in capital improvements. There are no new large projects scheduled at this time other than the approved elevator modernization project.

Recently Completed Events and Stats

As related to the Disaffiliation Agreement of the United Methodist Church, Mount Pisgah has met all obligations and transitioned all records to the new entity, MP Church, Inc.

General Ministry Progress Update

The modernization of the Church's two elevators are currently under construction at the manufacturer, TKE. The elevators are over 23 years old and require updated supporting controls and new technology to operate faster, more efficient, and safer. Installation is anticipated in May and June 2024.

Caring Ministry

- We celebrated a great National Day of Prayer Service as we collaborated with Alpharetta Methodist and St. James Churches at Brook St. Park in downtown Alpharetta. It was a beautiful evening with about 100 people in attendance. The best turnout for NDP ever. And was beautiful working with the Body of Christ beyond the walls of MP.
- Our Stephen Ministry Training class is about to wrap up. We have a couple of classes left and then we'll commission our first group since Covid on May 19 in both services.
- Our staff group that has been doing a modified version of Stephen Ministry training will finish up the end of this month. It's been a great group of staff learning how to minister to their areas in a deeper and more meaningful way.
- We had a beautiful Day Apart at Camp Lighthouse on April 20. We had 20 people come to invest in their relationship with Jesus for the Day. Ricky Brown did a great job of leading us through some corporate time which led us into some time of silence on the gorgeous property of Camp Lighthouse. Had very favorable comments about the day.

Children's Ministry

- MP Kids & MP Kids Jr staff got to attend the Orange Conference at the end of April. We left the conference feeling very encouraged, full of new knowledge on how to continue discipleship with our kids, and excited for the summer and upcoming year to partner with our families and the community.
- Rachel Campbell, who was formerly working under Parenting and Pisgah Fosters is now a part of the MP Kids staff and her role is MP Kids Program Support.

- We are excited for Summer Serve, our family style VBS happening Wednesday nights in June from 6-7:30 to kick off June 5th!

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Course

We have now taught 3 course sessions of the Equipping Class for Community Engagement. 1 for the staff, 1 on Thursday night and recently one for the Thursday Men's Breakfast fellowship. As more people are trained, the number of capable people to serve in Community Engagement continues to grow out of the number of people who have taken the course. We recently connected with 40 families at the MPCS 5k and we were slated to be sponsors of the Johns Creek International festival to do outreach there but it was cancelled due to rain. The next round of classes will be announced soon!

Johns Creek Police Department Chaplaincy

Pastor Ricky Brown will begin shortly as a volunteer with the Johns Creek Police Department Chaplains service. Roughly 50% of the people they serve experiencing a crisis say they do not have a church or a pastor. Because of this the current chaplains say they end of ministering to families far beyond the crisis event that initially connected them. This gives Mount Pisgah an incredible opportunity. As you know, crisis effects all demographics and socio-economic statuses. We will partner with our Stephens Ministers to provide a first line of support to those who desire it. It should prove to be an excellent on-ramp to discipleship.

Engagement Calendar

We are in the process of creating a robust Community Engagement Calendar so that we can plan far ahead to participate in Community Engagement Events.

DiscipleLife

- Currently we have about 20 closed Discipleship Groups, 3 Connect classes ongoing, 9 Sunday school classes, 12 Wednesday night classes and almost 20 weekday fellowships and groups that meet throughout the week.
- We have met twice now with our Women's leaders and Men's leaders. We included all leaders (not just the Discipleship group leaders) and had a great turnout at these gatherings. It's been a great opportunity for leaders to come together, get to know each other better and discuss curriculum, challenges and triumphs in leading groups and classes at MP. We will continue to meet quarterly.
- As part of our leadership trainings, Pat Thomas and I have met several times with our RightNow Media (RNM) representative to develop and curate a RNM resource page representative of the curriculum and materials our leaders have requested and would recommend to others. On our RNM Mount Pisgah page we now feature resources from the

4:19 website as well as the Connect Series classes. The 4:19 website is still available to all our leaders, but in combining some of its resources with RNM we're able to offer lots of curriculum ideas in one location. We are also looking at including resources from the NarrowGate website. In the near future, our goal is to come up with a more streamlined curriculum for Discipleship groups for those leaders seeking more direction in leadership.

- Connect Series Update:
 - We had 13 people register for Connect to MP on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and we have just completed it with about 10 attending. This is the best response we've had in quite some time! Tony and Beverly Johnson, MJ and Ricky and Mike Broome helped facilitate the 3 week course. Vicki Watts and Chip Hall will facilitate Connect to God starting on May 19th at 9:30. We've had a good group and many will continue to the next class!
 - Cameron and Kristy Pierce are continuing their Connect classes at 11am on Sunday mornings and have just started Connect to the Mission.
 - Pat Thomas continues her Connect class on Sunday evenings at 5 pm. She is currently in Connect to the Bible.
 - Michael Jordan will begin another Connect Series class with the new staff when the timing is right. Right now several of the staff are completing the Stephen Minister training.
- Emmaus Update: Mount Pisgah continues to be very supportive of the Emmaus mission. The NGWTE Summer season kicks off May 22nd with Face to Face at Acworth UMC. The Girls Chrysalis Flight is July 11 and the Boys is July 18th. The Emmaus board meetings take place at MP the first Tuesday of every month. And the Fall Emmaus Gathering will be 10/4 at MP.
- Members of our Discipleship Council finished up meetings with representatives from: MPCS, Summit, Emmaus, Narrow Gate, Beacon of Hope, Pisgah Fosters, Camp Lighthouse, Champions Place and Sunday Supper just to name a few. The goal in connecting with these ministries is to foster closer relationships between ministries and our council in which we hope to have more conversations around discipleship and how others are being discipled within these ministries. We are also very close to finishing "the book" as we're referring to it which is a compilation of all the ministry reports comparing each ministry area to the 5 Keys of Discipleship. This will be a great resource for MP Discipleship moving forward and especially for Pastor Matt as he begins to wrap his head around all things MP!
- BTCL (Bible Training for Church Leaders): This women-only class is seminary level teaching that covers the following courses: Bible Study Methods, Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Bible Doctrine Survey, Personal Spiritual Life and Church Ministry. BTCL has been meeting on Thursday mornings at Mount Pisgah since August 2021. The first community-wide class (including 7 women from MP) graduated on May 2nd! We will be launching a new 3-year offering at MP this August and again we have several ladies from MP that will be taking this offering. This 5 course curriculum is part of a 10 course, world-wide course that is used to training pastors in 92 countries in 41 languages.
- Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) at MP: BSF is an international bible study for men, women, young adults and children. Since August of 2023, MP has partnered with BSF International to host women's and children's groups here on Tuesday Nights. The groups have been well-attended by members of the JC community and our own MP community. BSF finished up their first offering at MP (The Gospel of John) last night with a night of sharing and testimony. It has been wonderful to see about 200 women and children engaged in

discipleship every Tuesday evening. They are gearing up for the new Fall study of Revelation here at MP to launch in September 2024 and are anticipating a serious uptick in the number of participants.

Finance Committee

New Ministry Initiatives:

The 2024-2025 budget timeline has been established and the ministry leaders have begun compiling their budget requests. The Leadership Team has been proactively working with the ministry leaders to discuss staffing and ministry needs.

General Ministry Progress Update:

Our giving initiative, Vision Forward is underway for 2024 with 190 families who have submitted their "estimate of giving for over \$1.8 million. Please join us and others in responding to God's call for our Church and the Vision Forward.

Hospitality

- Partnered with Marketing to update and revamp several key Hospitality and Sanctuary marketing/promotion materials. Cleaned out all previous UMC items from the Sanctuary pews and restocked with newly branded QR welcome cards, offering envelopes and message notes. Added "invitations to worship" cards at all entrances/exits to the Sanctuary.
- Coordinated and helped manage several staff celebrations, including Pastor Steve's retirement, Pastor Jorge's ordainment celebration and the retirement or last day for several beloved staff employees.
- Continue to engage with mission partners in the community for our monthly Outreach of the Month. For March/April we collected books for the prison ministry. For May/June we are collecting four different items for Children's Summer Serve. This will include the annual collection of backpack items for Mount Pisgah in Spanish.
- Continue to assist in coordinating Mount Pisgah in Spanish Lunch de Traje Sundays.
- Worked with fellow staff member and artist, Lea Taylor, to design a set of notecards as a Mother's Day gift and new gift for welcome bags.
- Coordinated Mother's Day Sunday with a student take over to volunteer for all Hospitality positions. Offering specialty teas and a gift for all women in attendance.

Marketing/Communications Update

- Worked on a variety of projects to design and produce graphics, printables, videos, web pages, and social media posts to support our church ministries: Holy Week, new Connect class logo and materials, Mother's Day, 316, Day Apart, Summer Serve, Funny How Faith Works sermon series, Splash Sundays, Musical Theater Camp, Monthly Outreach, Joint National Day of Prayer, Cookie Decorating Class, BTCL, and Bible Study Fellowship.

- Designed New QR code cards for pews that link to a newly designed mobile-responsive webpage that promotes real-time engagement by offering online worship service “check-in” functionality, as well as three choices: Connect (to capture contact info for visitors), Online Bulletin (promotes programs and upcoming events), and Give.
- Promoted “next steps” vote and announced results.
- Worked with members of SPRC to develop communication plan, messaging, and video to announce new senior pastor.
- Continue to work with Pastor Ricky in Community Engagement to provide materials, signage, and strategic support for initiatives, including the Patriot Run, Johns Creek International Festival, and scholarships we are promoting at local school Baccalaureate services as a lead capture strategy.

Membership & Baptisms

- Year to Date 2024, we have celebrated 12 Baptisms and welcomed 49 New Members.

Men’s Ministry

- A group of Mount Pisgah Men and friends (between 30 and 50 men) continue meeting every Thursday morning at Uptown Café for fellowship. We share food, fellowship, prayers, and a message (and we give each other a hard time). All men are welcome to join, young and old!
- The Bridging the Gap Men’s Fellowship Group participated in a “Movie Night” on April 18th in the Underground to learn more about some of the social injustice issues surrounding native Americans and on Saturday, May 4th, we served over 200 meals to the homeless in downtown Atlanta and those in need and offered prayer to all.

Missions/Community Outreach

- Sunday Supper – We continue to serve around 150 meals and 40 -50 families on the 1st Sunday of every month. We also have 3 families make 250 PB&J sandwiches and give oatmeal and snacks, so there will be food on Monday. Each family and person receiving a meal is prayed over. We are blessed to often experience people giving their lives to Christ during the prayers and several of the families we have served have begun coming to Mount Pisgah in Spanish for worship services. This is more than a meal being provided, this is an evangelism event lead we are blessed to serve alongside MPIS. Praise God for those serving and those being served! We have become a part of this community.
- Discipleship Training (Everywhere) – Over the summer months, Hernando Montana will provide discipleship training in Ukraine on 2 different trips.
- We celebrate the opportunity we had to connect and engage with Hillside Elementary in this school year and the last day on May 2nd there was a celebration of , completed projects and year end party. Thank you to Ashlyn Cuthcin, Phil Sain, Blake McBurney, Mark Bundy, Micky Lyons, Jim Wilson, and Mike Broome for stepping into this 8-month commitment to nurture a relationship with one of our local schools. This was coordinated through an

organization called Young Apprentice Construction Club and the goals are to build confidence, build pride, and self-esteem, all through building with your hands. We plan on participating in this community engagement activity again next year, beginning in September. Please let Michael Jordan know if you are interested in being involved in this community engagement.

- Habitat for Humanity – Mount Pisgah's 31st home was completed and dedicated in April. Jim Wilson continues to lead this effort and we hope one of our MPIS families may become recipients of a build.

Mount Pisgah in Spanish

New Ministry Initiatives

- We started again the Bible studies in the homes. We have two homes.
- A liturgical dance group was formed for girls under 10 years of age.
- We want to give basic musical instrument classes (piano, guitar) to children, youth, and adults.
- We want to continue with English and Spanish classes.
- We are starting the second level of discipleship. The teacher will be Hernando Montana
- We will be studying the book of Acts on Wednesdays.

Recent church events that we complete with attendance numbers:

- In the Art with Jesus program for youth (ages 16 and up) "PisgArt". We had an attendance of 11 young people.
- Basic piano lessons were held. The teacher was Omar Neri and about 8 people finished.
- Café con Jesus has an attendance of more than 12 young people every 15 days (Saturdays from 4 to 6 pm).
- In the English classes we have an attendance of more than 15 people and in the Spanish classes we have an attendance of 10 people.
- The theater group of our church, directed by Milena, performed a play on resurrection day and they are preparing to have different plays on special days such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.
- The second level of discipleship (on Mondays at 7:00 pm) is being done by 10 people and we started the first level with 12 people (on Thursdays). Both groups are being taught by Hernando Montana
- In the third level of discipleship by Zoom we have 4 people and in the second level by Zoom we have 1 person.
- The Men's group meets every month with an attendance of 15 people.
- The women's ministry has met and had an attendance of more than 28 women.
- We conducted an information training about student scholarships and about the duties and rights of parents in their children's schools. Attendance of 13 people
- Friday prayer services are attended by more than 23 people in person and broadcast on Facebook (18 people online).
- The three-day retreat with Christ was attended by 7 couples.
- On Wednesdays at the 7:30 p.m. service an average of 25 people attend and we have classes for children (7 children) and youth (8).
- We have the Friday of Glory (last Friday of each month), with an attendance of more than 60 people.

- Weekly we have more than 2 new people arriving and we are giving them a bag with a Bible and information about the services of our church.
- The average attendance to the Sunday services in person is 210 and online is 100 people. Counting the different activities that we do every week, the attendance in person is 400 people and online is 150 people.
- We are accompanying 3 marriages and 4 personal cases in counseling and advice.
- Luz Marina coordinates the Sunday classes for children from 9 to 13 years old. The attendance is 18 to 20 children per Sunday.
- We have Zoom prayer at 10:00 pm, Monday through Thursday of each week. With an attendance of 24 people per day
- We continue with the One Invites One campaign. It is to pray for a family member or friend and model the testimony of what Christ is doing in each one of us and invite them to church so that they learn to have a relationship with God.
- I have periodic meetings with the directors of each ministry, where I follow up on the plans, objectives and support each director of the different ministries of our church.

Updates on the progress of the general ministry in the future:

- We continue with our mission and vision to make disciples here, there and everywhere, passionate and in love with Jesus Christ. To be a Church of life where Jesus heals, restores people, families and we expand the Kingdom of God.
- We continue to motivate, encourage and empower people to follow the model of Jesus (Discipleship). For people to connect with God through prayer, fasting and have a new lifestyle that reflects the life of Christ.
- We continue to focus on giving spiritual nourishment to the members of Mount Pisgah in Spanish, so that they mature and develop a good and solid relationship with God.
- We continue to provide counseling and spiritual guidance to couples, adults, married couples and the younger members of our church.
- Thank you to the Mount Pisgah family for supporting us with all the food, donations and most of all thank you for your love and support to our community.

Thank you and God bless you all!

German Betancourt
Jorge Henao

Music Ministry

Recently Completed

- Choir participated in the Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Easter services.
- The youth led worship in both services on 4/21.
- MP Kids Choirs have their spring concert on Wednesday, May 1.

New Ministry Initiatives

- Hymn Sing Off: Due to the resounding success of the first one, the choir is gearing up for another hymn sing-off in July.

- Travel time! The choir is busy planning a mission trip for October, where we'll come together to make a difference.
- Choir Dinner together is planned for May 8th.
- Day of Prayer service with St. James and Alpharetta.
- Choir performance scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 19th, at Riverside Park.
- We're excited to announce a musical theater camp this summer for rising 3rd grade through rising 8th grade students. More info to come soon.
- Choir will be on a break during the month of July and will resume in August.

Parent Ministry

Worked with parents on how to manage screen time and technology in Wednesday night parenting class.

Concluded Mom's Fellowship for the spring as we all practiced everyday faith through the study of our book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*

Met with 5 parents in crisis and prayer for their families.

Hosting a parent/child hiking event in June for faith engagement and connection with other families at Pisgah

Pisgah Fosters

Through the generosity of our congregation, Pisgah Fosters gifted ALL of Bald Ridge group home teenage boys with Easter baskets and provided an outdoor sound system for praise music while they play sports.

Using our partnership with Promise 686 and Careportal. Congregants were able to directly meet the needs of parents and kept 4 families from entering the foster system.

We continue to grow in relationship with our foster families who have added two more children into their homes. Members and volunteers in the church and community have provided diapers, meals, tutoring, and clothing for the foster children.

Student Life Ministry

Ongoing Programming

- Student Life programming continues weekly heading into the summer with The Summer House on Wednesday nights and Bible Study at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings.
- Small Groups had a final wrap up on May 5, 2024 with each group celebrating the end of the school year and Student Life Staff hosting a celebratory dinner for Seniors as well as their parents and small group leaders. Small Groups will return in August with the launch of school.

Special Events

- On April 21, students that regularly serve on the worship team led worship for both the 9:30 and 11 AM services, with a student hosting the services as well. This was a great culmination of their hard work as student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with the Music Ministry as a whole to develop young worship leaders and musicians.

Staffing Updates

- After an interview process of nine months in partnership with Ministry Architects, Student Life has hired their final member of the team, Christian Hall. He will serve as the Student Life Teaching Pastor, taking the leadership role in facilitating student speakers and Bible Study Leaders.
- In addition, Audrey Goodwin has stepped into the primary leadership role of the Student Life team. She will retain her duties as Student Life Worship Pastor but has also taken on the position of lead pastor in which she will guide the overall ministry.

Student Leadership

- In addition to the traditional Senior Interns, the Student Life team has launched a leadership program that invites all high schoolers to apply to assist in leading the ministry. They are able to choose an area of focus (worship, speaking, tech, hospitality) and will help to facilitate weekly programming as well as learn more in-depth about what leadership in that capacity looks like. Applications went out in March and interviews are being held in May for a leadership launch in August.

TOGETHER Events

- Our next TOGETHER Worship and Fellowship will be held on July 28th in our sanctuary. Plans are to return to Newtown Park for TOGETHER in October.
- MPIS invites everyone to join for food and fellowship in the gathering area for Lunch de Traje. It is the last Sunday of every month. Please bring a dish to share and join in this fellowship.

Collaboration with Alpharetta Methodist and St. James

- The National Day of Prayer in downtown Alpharetta on May 2nd was well attended and it was a wonderful evening of worship and prayer out in the community. Plans will begin for a 2nd community prayer and worship event as we get closer to Election Day in November. This was our first collaboration together as we looked for ways to provide greater impact to our communities by coming together as 3 bodies of faith serving our community, instead of one. Being the Body of Christ together out in our community offering prayer. It was a success!

Women's Ministry

- At our monthly Women's Ministry Council dinner we talked in more detail about the launch of our new vision-casting initiative. While we would like to continue to offer larger scale events we'd also like to make a concerted effort in combining those events with deeper discipleship relationships. This idea flowed out of a desire to see how much awareness there is within our MP community concerning the Women's Ministry and what it has to offer. We also want to be sure that women at MP are being served in meaningful ways by this ministry. The need for our vision casting was validated in effect when last month we had to cancel our 2nd annual cookie decorating party for April 21st due to low registration.
- In the meantime, our service chairs, Lisa Randel and Kim Cooper, are working closely with The Drake House to provide monthly meals for their girls' mentoring program.
- Lunch Bunch meets the last Wednesday of the month at Marlow's on Old Alabama and we typically have around 15+ or so ladies who enjoy lunch and fellowship. This continues to be a valuable way to bring ladies together for prayer, fellowship and encouragement from each other whose paths may not cross otherwise.