MTP NEWSLETTER

6516 Old Greensboro Rd. | Thomasville, NC 27360 MtPleasant.Church | 336-475-6757

Look at the headlines or the nightly news. In today's world people tend to think that the most important events happening on earth on a given day involve things like nations at or considering going to war, like evil men plotting against those they hate or whose wealth they envy, like earthquakes, like weather patterns, like epidemics (actual or feared), like the rising and falling of economics indicators, like political scandals and intrigues, like much debated items of public policy and legislation, and like the latest off-field, offstage antics of sports heroes and entertainers. Those are the kind of high-profile things the 'news' outlets focus on.



Building a Legacy

Pastor Tim Starbuck

"Go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." (Genesis 24:4).

I have some shocking news for you. Did you know that the truly important things which occur on any given day, those with the longest lasting consequences, do not take place in the public eye?

Did you know that the most significant events that occur in the world are likely never going to be discussed on the evening news.

Look at the headlines or the nightly news. In today's world people tend to think that the most important events happening on earth on a given day involve things like nations at or considering going to war, like evil men plotting against those they hate or whose wealth they envy, like earthquakes, like weather patterns, like epidemics (actual or feared), like the rising and falling of economics indicators, like political scandals and intrigues, like much debated items of public policy and legislation, and like the latest off-field, offstage antics of sports heroes and entertainers. Those are the kind of high-profile things the 'news' outlets focus on.

But the things I have listed, these things which attract the attention of news sites, publishers, television producers and, sad to say, most human beings on the planet are seldom if ever anywhere near the most important things happening on earth.

Those things that I mentioned, all belong to the realm of "under the sun". As the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote, there is nothing really new in the "under the sun" realm. Hence, everything in the "under the sun" realm is "vanity of vanities" (a fleeting wisp of wind).

So why do they call that stuff news? And why do people sit entranced before their phones, magazines, televisions and computer screens watching it? And why do people get all stressed, and worked up about what so-and-so human being said and so-and-so issue or situation or so-and-so real or imagined problem?

What then are the truly most important events taking place on earth on a given day, you ask? Great question! They are things like what we read about in scriptures about the life of Abraham.

The above scripture reading happened after the death of Sarah. The words Abraham spoke and the actions he took will change the world forever. Keep in mind that on the day Abraham spoke these words there were probably several wars raging and any number of famines and pestilences threatening. There was probably, somewhere on earth, either an earthquake rumbling, a violent storm brewing, a forest fire or two burning out of control and a volcano spouting ash if not lava. There were probably kings and public officials misbehaving, and well-known public figures of all kinds getting caught doing scandalous things. There were probably any number of evil men doing what they do (plotting evil).

But scripture looks past all those things to tell us what was going on in the world that was really important, world history making, and destiny shaping.

What truly important event was going on in the world? The answer may surprise you. Far off the public stage, in a tent in the desert near Beersheba, a private conversation that would change the world was taking place between a man and his most trusted personal assistant.

The man in question was not a king. He was not even a politician. He was neither young nor handsome, nor athletic. He was not planning to overthrow any kingdom. He was not plotting evil against anyone. He was a simple sheepherder, a stranger in a strange land. While he was by no means poor, he was also not rich by the world's standards. And his only desire was to, before he died, find a matriarch-worthy bride for his son. Scripture lets us know that for Abraham the death of his beloved wife Sarah caused him to do some serious thinking about his own mortality. "And Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the Holy One had blessed Abraham with everything." (Genesis 24:1).

We are not told that Abraham was senile, or decrepit, or invalid. He was none of those things. He was just facing the fact that he was getting old.

I imagine his mind was still sharp as a tack. And his body and spirit were both still strong enough. But with Sarah's passing the reality suddenly hit home that the sand in his hourglass of life was succumbing to the pull of gravity at an alarming pace.

He had lived 137 years; how many years could he have left? And what did he want to be the legacy he left behind for Isaac, and the world?

The realization of the inevitability of diminishing health and death do different things to different people. Some people go into deep depression and become sullen and reclusive; others buy sports cars, go to rock concerts, start eyeing younger women (or men as the case may be) and try desperately to lay hold of the image of one last set of 'glory days.'

Some people just go with the flow and keep on doing whatever they've been doing for years; others spend a fortune on nip and tuck procedures and try to make believe that aging is only a state of mind.

Some people suddenly feel driven to micromanage their children's lives out of a desperate attempt to hold onto a sense of importance; others mentally write their children off as failures and ingrates, ignore them as much as possible, and dote on grandchildren.

But Abraham is not just any man. He is the earthly partner in an eternal covenant with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. When he realized he had more days on earth behind him than in front of him his focus turned to one thing and one alone: the promises the Lord had given him.

The Lord had promised him that he would have descendants as numerous as the sands on the shore and the stars in the heavens. All he had thus far on that promise was a down payment in the form of Isaac.

The Lord had promised Abraham that through the multitude of descendants he would have all the people of the world be blessed. How would that occur? What would that look like?

Abraham therefore focused his passion, his efforts, and his resources from that day forward on something very unusual. Instead of taking steps to assure his own comfort or pleasure in his old age, he determined in his heart to lay the foundation for the generations the Lord promised would surely come. If all nations would be blessed through his descendants, someone besides his aged self was going to need to get busy making descendants.

And that meant Isaac needed a bride, and not just any bride, but the choice of the Lord's for a bride. After all, in order to fulfill the will of the Lord on earth the generation of descendants promised but yet unborn were going to need much more than a pretty face, an alluring shape, and a fertile womb. What they were going to need was nothing short of a true matriarch like Sarah.

And so Abraham set about to find something very precious. He was not interested in finding merely an attractive woman. He set his sights on finding for Isaac, at whatever cost it took, a 2nd generation matriarch of the Covenant. The one Abraham sought to birth and nurture the next generation of covenant people would have to be a wise and powerfully-gifted yet humble and a pure vessel who would then surrender all for the joy of the privilege of receiving, cherishing, nurturing, training up and guiding to maturity the grace-filled seed of the Creator of the Universe as well as the physical, and natural seed of Isaac, son of Abraham.

Where, and how, could Abraham possible find such a woman? A brave, talented, strong, virtuous woman, who can find?

Abraham would clearly need Divine guidance. But since the Word of the Lord was at stake, Abraham had every confidence that Divine guidance would certainly not be withheld.

As I watched our children sing to us at Mt. Pleasant the good news of great joy on December 12th, I couldn't help but think about Abraham and his heart for the next generation. Could it be that our children who were singing to us were inviting us to count our days, open our eyes to what is truly important and be about the task of raising up the next generation in the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ?



"The Shepherd's Staff"

Mt. Pleasant Elder Update

The Elders would like to welcome Jay, Jon and Kevin to our group! Jay, Jon and Kevin have been a part of the MTP family for quite a while. It is an honor for the congregation to recognize the spiritual gifts that you have and we look forward to having you serve with us in the next several years.

The Elders and Deacons held a joint nominations meeting to fill out the vacancies in our committees. This was a great time in that we had so many gifted and talented people to consider that we had several good candidates for each opening. 2022 will be a busy year at MTP and we have the team assembled to keep our work for God moving ahead to meet the challenges.

As part of beginning the new year the Elders will have another vision-setting meeting to take stock of where we are and how we should focus our attention for the new year. Our primary mission is that the spiritual needs of those attending MTP are being met with Biblical teaching and practical, loving helps. We will continue our efforts to do the best we can with both elements of our ministry as we look at programs and opportunities for 2022.

The Elders would also like to recognize Danny, Bill and Tommy for their dedication on this first year of our new structure. Each man contributed his gifts to our discussions and brought excellent perspectives, wisdom and insight. It is always a challenge to be part of a new team, and all three men jumped into the challenge without reservation. Thank you all for being part of the MTP ministry of the Elders.

Bo SinkJoe HayworthEric HiltonSteve CranfordJay PayneJon SloanVince BrownDaniel RichKevin Logan

Col 2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Mt. Pleasant Family -

It has been an honor to serve the Lord and Mt. Pleasant Church as the Administrative Council President for the past 4 years. The vision of the leadership and direction in which God continues to lead MTP is one of opportunity and excitement. In 4 years we have seen a tremendous amount of growth; not only in the church as a whole, but more importantly in our kids and youth-student ministries. Our staff has also grown during this time with the addition of a Children's Director, Youth Director, Facilities Manager and Associate Pastor.

Mt. Pleasant continues to be a church seeking to do God's will, and a church completely focused on ensuring that God's word is presented as authoritative. Church leadership has continued to share the unfailing love of Jesus and has done so in a variety of ways. Just to name a few;

the addition of small groups at all 3 services, Bold Essential Conferences, Youth Rallies, Sunday Fun-days, Princess Day, Dinner with Santa and Christmas Express, adoption of families/Mills Home, Backpack Ministry, packed thousands of meals to send overseas, Shoebox Ministries, Light up the Night, Fox 8 Gifts for Kids, Salem-Crisis Pregnancy, Wildlife Banquet, security cameras installed, enhanced video production and online services, concerts and special music pushed through online streaming, creation of MTP app, prayer room established, care packages for teacher appreciation and first responders, numerous celebration Sunday's with baptisms and new members, and most importantly a stand on Faith and the Promise of God's word through disaffiliating from the Methodist denomination and becoming Mt. Pleasant Church.

I have been blessed with so many amazing committee members and leaders who have not only continued to grow the kingdom of God, but have also found ways for Mt. Pleasant to be better stewards and servants in this great community in which we live. It has been a collective effort by each leader and committee member and more importantly, by individuals who support this church week in and week out with their time, their money and their prayers. Mt. Pleasant is like no other church, and the love that pours out of the hearts of each person who attends resembles the love that Jesus has for us.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of the Administrative Council. I am excited about the continued growth, success and direction that God is taking our church, Mt. Pleasant. We truly are a family.

Sincerely

Christopher Fitzgerald



It's not about my performance. It's about Jesus' performance for me. Grace isn't there for some future me but for the real me. The me who struggled. The me who was messy....He loves me in my mess; He was not waiting until I cleaned myself up. Jefferson Bethke

MTP Youth Parent Newsletter



What's Happening ...

Youth New Years Eve Party

December 31st. 7-10:30P

Bring a finger food dish to share and \$20 per family or \$5 per student.

Youth Parent Meeting

January 9th, 5-7:30P

For all parents and students, new or old! We'll be going over some BIG changes in our youth structure, spring and summer calendar, and talk about Parenting in a Tech World.

Youth Outings

January 23rd & January 30th, 5-7:30P

Family Night

January 12th, 19th & 26th, 5:30-7:30P

Youth Super Bowl Party

February 13th, 6-9:30P

All students and parents are invited. Bring a Chili/Soup or a dish to share.



Youth & Parent Meeting

January 9th, 5-7:30P | This meeting is for ALL PARENTS & YOUTH, rising 5th-12th grade. We'll be going over some **BIG changes** in our youth structure, spring and summer calendar, and talk about Parenting in a Tech World. New to MTP or old, you don't want to miss this event.

MEMORY VERSE

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Colossians 3:13, NLT

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

Had a rough start to the day - kids on edge, running late, etc.? Or maybe a heated conversation the night before carried over to a new day? It happens. Make some time today for apologies and reconciliation.



Meal Time

At a meal this week, share about a time when someone said or did something to you that was difficult to forgive, and how you handled it.



Their Time

When your teen wants to talk, be mindful of your facial expression.



Red Time

Pray for your teen (and for you) to heal from past wounds in healthy ways - spiritually, emotionally, mentally.



Sneak Peek!!!

1/23-Family Fun Day

2/13-Family Fun Day

3/12-Daddy
Daughter Dance

Thank You

I want to say a huge "Thank you" to each of you for all the love and support you show me and the Kids Klub. We are so blessed with such a loving congregation that truly loves the kids of our church and wants the absolute best for them. I also want to say a huge "Thank you" for the very kind gift you blessed our family with. I am so very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church. I pray you have a wonderful New Year and I pray God continues to bless our church and each of you. I love you all

MTP Women ...

We started our December meeting with a covered dish meal and fellowship. At the December meeting we did two blessing boxes. Our mission project was the family we had adopted for Christmas. We also approved the donations given at the end of the year.

The January meeting will be held on January 24, 2022. At that meeting we will have a soup and sandwich meal. The cost of the meal will be \$8.00. The money earned will get our treasure on track for our 2022 mission projects. We will also do two blessing boxes to be brought to that meeting.

We wish each of you a Christmas where the joy and peace of Christ is felt. As we celebrate and praise God, we thank Him for the many ways He has been part of our lives; and the life of our church. We pray for His grace, guidance and peace for us, and for our world as we serve Him in the new year.

Greetings from MTP Men ...

Greetings from MTP Men. On Sunday Dec. 5th we had our Christmas Breakfast meeting with wives invited, Carroll Flack was our speaker and he had a great message that included him singing and also sharing his talent of playing the guitar. Thanks Carrol!

We voted as a group to donate \$7000 to the FLC that was made possible by our fundraising events from this year. Thank you to our generous MTP Family and friends for making these events successful.

Our fearless leader Robert Harden has stepped down from being our president for the past 10 years. Thank you Robert for your hard work and dedication for making MTP Men what it is today and working so hard to make our events successful here at church.

Stay tuned as our next event will be our annual Wildlife Banquet which is always a great time of fellowship.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from MTP Men. Respectfully submitted, Greg Moore



-- Given to the Family Life Center in Memory of Nancy White by Floyd White



January 12 - March 2 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Family Night is a time to enjoy a meal and fellowship before breaking off into classes. We will have classes for Nursery - Adults.

Meal is \$5 Per Person / \$20 Per Family - Kids 6 and Under Eat Free

RSVP Online @ MtPleasant.Church/Family-Night

6 Adult Studies to Choose From:

A Study on the Book of James - led by Pastor Chris & Eric Hilton
The Cry of the Human Heart - led by Pastor Tim
Forgiving What You Can't Forget by Lysa Terkeurst - led by Megan Williams
Sign Language - led by Stephanie Godwin
God's Got Your Six - led by Joey Driggers
Scripture Song - led bu Brenda Flack

<u>If you are interested in providing a meal for one of the evenings, please contact Pastor Chris</u>

We are asking for volunteers to help with leading:

- Nursery
- Preschool
- Kindergarten 1st Grade
- 2nd 4th Grade
- Junior High Youth Devotion
- Senior High Youth Devotion

Operation Christmas Child

YEAR-ROUND

By preparing shoebox gifts all year long, we will be able to send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boy and girls around the world!

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL White the second of the seco





WE WILL HAVE A DONATION BOX IN THE LOBBY FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO BRING IN YOUR ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO PACK 200+ BOXES!

Teacher Appreciation

For our first C2 event of 2022, we will be bringing back our teacher appreciation breakfast for some of our local schools. We will bless local teachers and staff with water, fruit, and muffins on the morning of January 31st. Please help us by donating supplies or helping write MTP cards of encouragement to our local school teachers and staff.

More details to come after the first Evangelism Committee meeting after the first of the year. Please check our social media page, website, and announcements for details to come.

C2 Community Connection

We are expanding our efforts of the Prayer Shawl Ministry to include making scarves for the Salem Crisis Pregnancy Center so we can tangibly let these moms know they are loved and supported by our church.

If making an entire shawl seems too big a project or you are new and would like to learn with something smaller to get started, or you have some spare yarn but not enough to make a whole shawl, this might be a great use of your time, efforts and yarn stash.

We are looking for scarves about 5 feet long and about 8 inches wide. Knitted or crochet or even using a loom to knit.... All are avenues that can help up create this gift.

If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, please let me know. I would love to help you get started.

In Christ -

Suzann Hedgecock 336-971-0269 | sbhmailbin@gmail.com

Reminders for those working on regular shawls--- dimensions should be about 25-27 inches wide and at least 5 feet long.



Thank you to everyone for sharing their talents & the beautiful message during this holiday season.





- 2 Taylor Parks
- 3 Danielle Cecil, Kathryn Binkley
- 4 Sean Taylor, Ken Woempner
- 5 Bobby Miller, Greg Moore
- 6 Diannah Kearns, Kevan Hedgecock
- 7 Anna Kennedy
- 9 Stacey Blackwood, J Mark Hilton, Ryan Hilton
- 10 Benny Hilton, Kaci Hedgecock
- 11 Bob Boswell, Colson Sink
- 12 Brynlee Hall, Bill Miller
- 13 Kameron Conrad
- 14 Brenda Moore
- 15 Phil Fitzgerald, Gary Hinkle
- 16 Brooke Clark
- 17 Julie Peacock, Emily Elrod
- 18 Tim Swaim
- 19 Charlotte Hall, Lee Koontz, Glen Morgan, Josh Hartley
- 21 Meredith McDaniel, Morgan McDaniel, Courtney Swartz
- 23 Roger Black
- 25 Tim Swicegood
- 26 Holly Ferree
- 27 Paul Edwards, Wesley Sink
- 28 Cam Clark, Briana Sanders, Ian Shively
- 29 Jacob Edwards, Davy Owens, Lauren Putnam
- 30 Sierra White
- 31 Evan Ayers, Alyssa James, Caleb Starbuck

ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP

November 28, 2021

8:30 Worship - 175

9:45 Worship - 221

11:00 Worship - 35

Saturday Night Group - 9

Total Weekend Worship - 440

Sunday Small Groups - 310

General Offering - \$10,850.00

FLC Offering - \$1,429.00

December 5, 2021

8:30 Worship - 235

9:45 Worship - 278

11:00 Worship - 180

Saturday Night Group - 8

Total Weekend Worship - 704

Sunday Small Groups - Cantata

General Offering - \$17,112.25

FLC Offering -\$17,610.00

December 12, 2021:

8:30 Worship -192

9:45 Worship - 487

11:00 Worship - 36

Saturday Night Group - 10

Total Weekend Worship - 725

Sunday Small Groups - Kids Christmas Program

General Offering - \$12,636.00

FLC Offering - \$1,725.00

December 19, 2021:

8:30 Worship - 156

9:45 Worship - 324

11:00 Worship -58

Saturday Night Group - 8

Total Weekend Worship - 546

Sunday Small Groups - 296

General Offering - \$15,947.20

FLC Offering - \$5,922.50

SERVING THE CHURCH IN JANUARY

Ushers:

January 2: Adam Buckner & Joe Hayworth

January 9: Greg Moore & Bryan Bray

January 16: Ronnie Russell & Gary Hilton

January 23: Gary Craven & Tim Starbuck

January 30: Joe Hayworth & Greg Moore

Greeters: 8:30AM	9:45AM	11:00AM	
January 2: Doug & Gail Aderhold	John & Kathy Butt	Ester Skiff & Joanne Baughn	
January 9: Wendy Harper	Danny & Denise Roberts	Greg Moore	
January 16: Karen & Stan Bowen	The Shufelt Family	Ronnie & Dot Russell	
January 23: Lin & Terri Blevins	Chet & Lorrie Varner	Nell Ferree & Doris Blair	
January 30: Stephanie Payne	Jeff Huntsman & Bo Sink	Joe Hayworth	

MTP KIDS KLUB SERVERS:

MIP KIDS KLUB SERVERS.		
Nursery: 8:30AM	9:45AM	11:00AM
January 2: Phil & Sue Fitzgerald	Laura Gregg & Jamie Proctor	Tricia Anderson
January 9: Jescena & Allison Sink	Kim Walser & Pam Hall	Jennifer Driggers
January 16: Julie Motsinger & Jane Payne	Ellen Hilton & Megan Williams	Courtney Lake
January 23: Wendy Harper & Teresa Harde	n Steve & Mitzie Turner	Jennifer Driggers
January 30: Samantha Bruno	Kristi Burnette & Megan Nobles	Kailey Swaim
2 Year Old Class:	3 Year Old Class:	4 Year Old Class:
January 2: Cameron & Katie Koontz	Melissa Swaney & Alura Trail	Keri Everhart & Danielle Whittington
January 9: Amy Johnson & Christian Craver	Megan W., Mae H., & Valerie N.	Josh & Chelsea Kearns
January 16: Micah & Jessica Moore	Rachel B., Tiffany W. & Tammy V.	Janet & Spence Wood
January 23: Amy & Samuel Nifong	Michael & Amber Bridges	Tony & Karen Hyde
January 30: Youth	Youth	Youth
Kindergarten:	1st Grade:	2nd Grade:
January 2: Misty Carr & Victoria McCrary	Tiffany Brister	Eileen Sloan
January 9: Jill Murphy & Brenda Flack	Leandra Glance	Dianne Reid
January 16: Tobbie Lanning & Laura Camer	on Kelly Kiger	Jane Mendenhall
January 23: Keith & Paula Knolmayer	Josh & Heather Beasley	Emily Sanders
January 30: Youth	Youth	Youth
3rd Grade:	4th Grade:	
January 2: Sidnee Bruner	Jenny Hagee	
January 9: Stephanie Comer	Amy McDevitt	
January 16: Misty Petree	Jenny Hagee	
January 23: Erica Martin	Amy McDevitt	
January 30: Youth	Youth	
Children's Church:		
8:30AM:	11:00AM:	
January 2: Diana Payne	Josh & Chelsea Kearns & Trina Sprink	tle
January 9: Christine Turner	Cindy Buckner	
January 16: Clay & Sarah Fowler	Amy Johnson & Julie Butt	
January 23: Lisa Lane	Kristen Hagee	
January 30: Lisa Lane	Melissa Moser	

January Youth Servers: Debbie Hoffman, Susan Morgan, Bonnie Darr, Sue Fitzgerald, Jane Mendenhall, Kathy Sloan

Mark Your Calendars

January 2022 Events

Tuesday's	Prayer Group Meeting	10:00 AM
Wednesday's	Youth Breakfast	7:00 AM
Wednesday's	Coffee with Pastor Starbuck - Grief Group	1:00 PM
Friday's	Men's Bible Study	6:15 AM
Sunday, January 2	Celebration Sunday	
Sunday, January 9	Youth Parent Meeting	5:00 - 7:30 PM
January 11 - January 15	Church Directory Pictures	
Tuesday, January 11	Choir Practice	
Wednesday, January 12	Family Night Meal & Bible Study	5:30 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, January 15	Women Offering Worship	9:30 - 11 AM
Tuesday, January 18	Choir Practice	
Wednesday, January 19	Family Night Meal & Bible Study	5:30 - 7:30 PM
Monday, January 24	MTP Women's Meeting	6:30 PM
Tuesday, January 25	Choir Practice	
Wednesday, January 26	Family Night Meal & Bible Study	5:30 - 7:30 PM

STAFF

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