

A p r i l 2 0 1 6

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com

Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:30
www.facebook.com/273938523674

Living on the edge of disaster,
A place where I shouldn't be...
The lust of the flesh;
The lust of the eyes;
And the pride of life (1 John 2:16);
I'm afflicted with each of these three.
I've come to God for my cleansing,
He said He would do this for me (1 John 1:9).
I don't understand my sin nature,
And the way it leads me astray (Romans 7:13-25);
But thanks be to God and my Savior,
There is no condemnation today (Romans 8:1-4).

Mankind is born with a restless heart; to remain stationary is not an option. Some people say they do not like change but change is inevitable, even in those who resist change. If this were not so, tell me why people go on vacations to distant lands, or build a new house, or buy a new car; indeed, why not continue to use horses for transportation and agriculture?

The reason is simply because man has the desire and the means to change his lot, which has been to my advantage in many cases. If medical science had not seen some great strides

in different kinds of medical procedures and interventions, I would not be alive right now. In fact, I would not be a pastor because I would have died of cancer before I would have had a chance to switch careers. I also would not have had any cardiac events as I wouldn't have lived long enough to have them develop. Thank You, my heavenly Father, for this time in history.

Much more could be said about the above things, but let me take you on a tour of the American Dream. The American Dream says that if one works hard, one can have a good job with sufficient income to marry, raise a family, build a nice house, have a car or two, send the kids to college, take vacations to see more of this great land, and maybe even relocate to a different climate for retirement; but you don't have to. You can even buy your own cemetery plot and headstone, which is something everyone will eventually need.

However, there is a down side to all of this that I have seen all too often, and that is a lack of preparation for eternity. Too many people leave that important step to chance. Not good!

The Bible tells us that we need to come to God on His terms to enter His eternal home, which we call heaven (and so does He), and we have a tendency to not address that issue until we sense life has become an emergency situation. In reality, God wants us to live our lives here on earth for Him, to worship and serve Him, and He has promised to stay with us for the whole journey.

But as natural creatures here on this earth, here is our condition according to Jesus Christ, "He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

The most important part of anyone’s long range planning is to walk through this temporal life with Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. That way you can worship and serve God here and be assured of a place in His presence in the hereafter. And the way is not difficult according to the Bible. But what does the Bible say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:8-13).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Trying to reach God without Jesus Christ is like a door to door salesman trying to make a living by knocking on his own door.

Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

Why Easter Matters

Johann Christoph Arnold

The Easter story is the most important story in the history of the world. And it does not belong only to Christians; it is for everyone.

Easter celebrates Jesus’ resurrection from the dead three days after he was executed. What was his crime? He healed the sick, raised the dead, and preached the coming of God’s kingdom of justice, peace, and forgiveness.

After Jesus was crucified his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb, which was then sealed with a huge stone so that no one could steal the body. But on Easter morning an angel came and rolled the stone away. Jesus rose from the dead and appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then to his disciples.

The disciples were afraid. They did not want to be associated with Jesus, because he had just been condemned and executed. They had experienced this personally, and were terrified. So even though they knew that Jesus had risen, they met secretly behind locked doors. But Jesus suddenly appeared among them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Like the disciples, many people today are afraid. Even though, in most countries, we now have the freedom to believe in Jesus, we hide our faith behind closed doors. Like the disciples, we also long for peace without knowing where to find it. Jesus offers this peace to us, a peace that will take away all our burdens and sins.

May this peace excite us and fill us with hope and love. This peace is the answer to all our political and social problems. We live in a fractured society, where everybody is divided from everybody else, and simple joy in life is often squeezed out of us. This particularly affects children. When we take God away from them, and don't let them come to Jesus, they are afraid.

The battle between good and evil has been raging since the beginning of time, but today it is impossible to ignore. Warfare is everywhere. In the impoverished nations of Africa there is war over water and other resources. Millions of people are dying because they do not have access to the basic necessities of life. Every day we hear of more atrocities occurring all over the world, such as of the killing of four nuns in Yemen as they were caring for the elderly.

Jesus came to end all suffering and human need. He loved us so much that he was willing to die for us. As the apostle John writes, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear." This is the gift that Jesus offers us. When we celebrate Easter this year, let's remember that Jesus was victorious over death and over fear. We can claim this same victory and receive his gift of life and peace.

Shortly before Easter last year, my daughter Margrit died of cancer. Many times during her last days and hours my wife and I, together with her own family, gathered around her bed and thought of the Easter story. The following words of scripture, which my son Heinrich later put to music, became a trumpet call of victory for us:

Now we see through a glass dimly, but then face-to-face, now I know in part, just as I am also known, but then I shall be known, as I am known. Blessed be the God, father of our Jesus Christ who comforts us in trials. He will still deliver us!

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And he shall stand at the end upon the earth. And though the worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God!

Martha called Jesus to Lazarus, but yet did he die; when she heard he came, then she said unto her Lord, "If thou had'st been here my brother had not died." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die!"

Behold, I tell to you a mystery: We shall all be changed. At the last trumpet the dead shall all be raised, and we shall be changed, shall all be changed. Thanks be to God, death has been swallowed up, he gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Yes, Jesus lives, and we can all live with him.

3-13-2016 TRUSTEE MEETING

In attendance: Ralph Olney, John Curtis, Beverly Olney, Tony Callari, Gary House, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilyn Kundra

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:40am.

Treasurer's Report: the Endowment Fund earned \$2,000 in February. The checking account balance is low partly because of the inclement weather closing of the church in February. We have exceeded the budget for plowing. Even though we have had a mild winter, the parking lot had to be plowed multiple times during the severe storm. Tony made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Gary seconded, approved.

Ralph suggested we transfer money from the Endowment Fund to the checking account to cover bills. Last year we transferred \$4,000 and have been paying it back \$300 per month. Tony made a motion to transfer \$5,000, Gary seconded, all were in favor.

Ralph also suggested paying bills and salaries at the end of the month to help with cash flow problems. Tony suggested paying employees monthly instead of weekly to alleviate problems when we have 5 paycheck months. Tony made a motion to accept, Bev seconded. Ralph will contact employees.

Kathy Scroger requested that money from the Life Ladies Fund be donated to the following: \$300 to the Youth Group, \$100 to Paul and Bonnie Miller for their generosity to the Youth Group, \$100 to the Kendall Food Cupboard, \$100 to Life Solutions.

John Cook and Brad Miller would like MBC to host VBS this summer.

The Church Constitution needs to be reviewed. Ralph volunteered to chair the committee. A Trustee, Deacon and 2-3 church members should be on the committee.

A Pastoral Relations Committee would be beneficial so the congregation can give feedback on church proceedings and have a way to voice concerns. In the past, this committee was chaired by Deacons.

The concrete on the ramp has cracked and needs repair. Gary volunteered to patch it.

Gary suggested a "welcome" packet for visitors. Ralph will ask Kaitlyn Curtis if this is something she would be willing to do.

Gary asked to use McQueen Hall on April 2nd for a birthday party, approved.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 12:15 pm.

In and Around the Community

Our church raised \$638.50 during the Care Net bottle drive. Great job! The annual Care Net banquet will be April 21st from 6:00-9:00 at Hickory Ridge.

Robert and Matthew Cook, along with 8 others, participated in a 30-hour fast at the end of February. They were able to raise around \$1,800 for the World Vision organization. Thank you to all who sponsored them!

Penny Gibson's son, Robert, recently had a colon test during which they found cancerous polyps. They caught them early, and were able to remove the cancer. The doctor's called him "one of the lucky ones".

Brad Miller and the youth group would like to thank everyone for their support and donations to the youth group. They would especially like to thank Ralph and Bev Olney for donating a television. The group has been using the TV for a video series. In addition, Brad's parents sent a letter to thank the youth group for their visit when the group stayed at their home for Winter Jam.

Andrew Cook began an internship with Judge Craig Doran. He will be spending 7 weeks for a total of 90 hours in the courthouse for school. We wish you luck, Andrew!

Please keep John Prevost, friend of Jason and Amanda Johncox, who is battling terminal brain cancer.

Fred Conradt had a knee replacement in early March and is doing well. We hope you heal quickly!

Ralph Olney underwent five more days of chemotherapy this month. It was a joy to see Lizzie Pearson while she was at work on one of his chemo days!

Congratulations to Lank & Audrey Dobbins for celebrating their 64th anniversary!

Kate Ingraham had her pacemaker replaced, and we're pleased to hear that everything went well! Remember Katie Kundrata, currently teaching English in Malaysia, in your prayers. March brings the end of the rainy season there, during which many students are unable to make it to school because of severe flooding.

Chevelle Hicks and her family would like to extend their gratitude for all donations and support for her mother's memorial. She states how blessed she is to have her church family. We've been blessed to have you back Chevelle!

Please keep the Bartel family in your prayers as they are going through a tough time.

Kendall High School presenting Seussical the musical in early March. Many of the youth group kids participated in the show. It is evident that we have great talent among our youth! It was a great show, and it was clear all involved had fun and enjoyed performing.

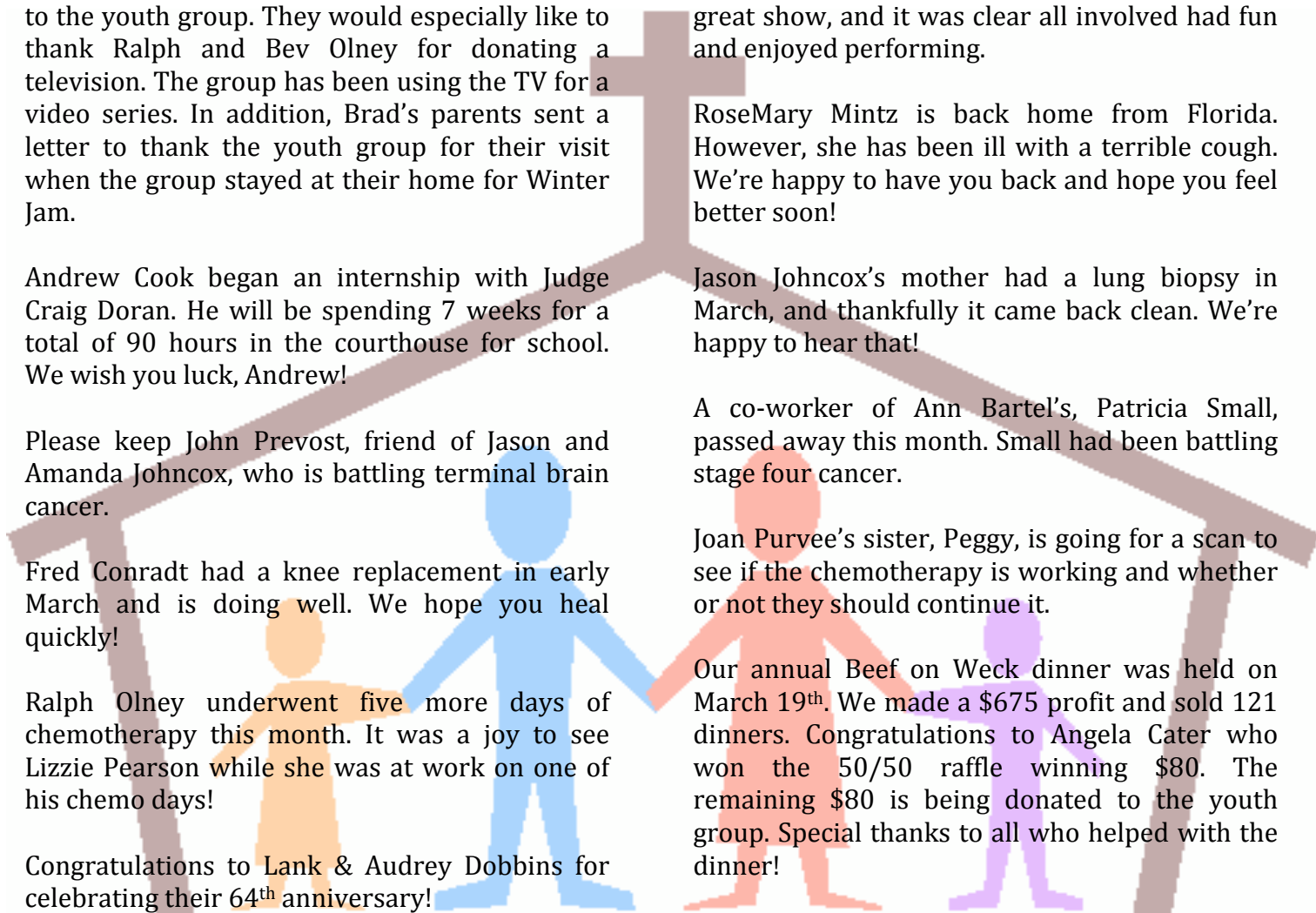
RoseMary Mintz is back home from Florida. However, she has been ill with a terrible cough. We're happy to have you back and hope you feel better soon!

Jason Johncox's mother had a lung biopsy in March, and thankfully it came back clean. We're happy to hear that!

A co-worker of Ann Bartel's, Patricia Small, passed away this month. Small had been battling stage four cancer.

Joan Purvee's sister, Peggy, is going for a scan to see if the chemotherapy is working and whether or not they should continue it.

Our annual Beef on Weck dinner was held on March 19th. We made a \$675 profit and sold 121 dinners. Congratulations to Angela Cater who won the 50/50 raffle winning \$80. The remaining \$80 is being donated to the youth group. Special thanks to all who helped with the dinner!





We continue to remember in prayer: the Ashberry family, Jim Bliss, Fred & Wilma Conradt, Chap & Jan Fabry, Helen Mattern, RoseMary Mintz, Ralph Olney, Ed & Joan Purvee, Eleanor Reynolds, Larry & Sandy Richardson, Pastor Jim, and the youth group. Cards, notes, and visits are always welcome.



April Birthdays:

- 2nd Jennifer Clay Anderson
- 9th Penny Gibson
- 10th Kate Ingraham
- 12th Karley Robb
Kylie Davenport
- 17th Robbie Henry
- 19th Brianna Wakefield
- 29th Pam Dutton



April Anniversaries:

- 10th Dave & Sandy Strassenburgh
- 22nd Linda Farrow & Roosevelt
Washington
- 30th Dale & Lisa Rowley



April Greeters:

- 3rd Skip & Kathy Scroger
- 10th Dale Rowley & Todd Young
- 17th Jason & Amanda Johncox
- 24th Tony & Mary Callari



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for April is:
Ziploc Bags

ATTENTION!



Recorded Messages

The church services are recorded every Sunday and are now can be accessed through the church Facebook page and can be downloaded from Soundcloud

<https://soundcloud.com/ortonaptisthurchermons>).

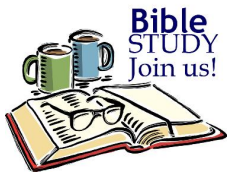
Volunteer's Needed!

We continue to need people to sign up to make coffee and cookies for **coffee hour** after church. Sign-up sheets are in McQueen Hall. We also need volunteers to be **greeters** (see Carol Duerr) and **lay readers** (see Pastor Jim).



Church Email Address

The church email address (mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com) is now being utilized as the source for the electronic monthly newsletter, prayer chain, and emergency closing information.



Bible Study

Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays at 12:30 until May. Please take note of the time change from 12:00 to 12:30.

Church Cancellation

If church is cancelled due to the weather or other issues, please remember to still give your pledge money. This money is budgeted and used to pay church bills and salaries. If a week is missed, it makes it difficult to maintain these payments. Thank you!



MBC Constitution Committee

During the latest Trustee meeting, it was decided that we should rewrite the Church Constitution this year. Ralph Olney agreed to take responsibility to pull a committee together and rewrite the Church Constitution for ratification by the members of the Church. He would like to try to get a draft together before summer, if possible, so we can share it with the congregation, get feedback, modify during the summer months and be ready to vote in the September timeframe.

The MBC Constitution Committee structure we agreed to is as follows:

Chair – Ralph Olney
1 Trustee (to be named)
1 Deacon (to be named)

2 Church Members at Large (to be named)
Church Clerk or Church Secretary (to be decided)

If you have an interest to be a member of this committee, please contact Ralph either through e-mail or by phone:

E-mail: RORET60@gmail.com
Cell: 585-978-0546
Home Phone: 585-349-1817

UPCOMING EVENTS

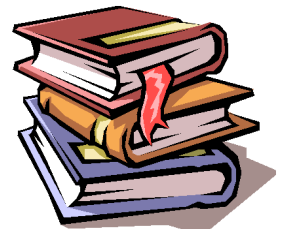


Chicken BBQ

The annual Chicken BBQ and Baked Food Sale will be held on Saturday, May 21st. We will be serving dine-in and take-outs from 4:00-7:00. Sign-up sheets are located in MacQueen Hall for those who would like to help. More information to follow!

Kendall Town Library

The Town Of Kendall Library is now open at the Town Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Eileen Grah is available to help on those evenings. Additionally, self-check out of materials are available any time the Town Hall is open.



April

2016

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies above proclaim the work of His hands". Psalm 19:1

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|---|---|------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Communion Sunday | 4 | 5 | 6 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 | 21 Care Net Banquet @ Hickory Ridge | 22 Earth Day | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 | 28 | 29 Arbor Day | 30 |

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

April 2016

He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom
what God has done from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11-12
NIV



Photo by Dave French