

D e c e m b e r 2 0 1 6

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00
www.facebook.com/273938523674

THE IMAGE

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them”
(Genesis 1:27).

Theologians often talk about the Protestant Reformation as if it were all the change ever needed in Christianity. However, if we take an honest look at the world today, we can only conclude that we need another Reformation plus a Transformation.

By the time of Martin Luther the churches had become so corrupt they were worse than the secular governing bodies. There were many parishioners that knew there was something wrong but felt powerless to make corrections. Most of the citizens were illiterate and the people who could read did not have the Scriptures in their own language.

When Martin Luther made his appearance, that had changed for the better. The printing press had come into widespread use so people had books, pamphlets, and news items in the common language. When Martin Luther translated the Bible to the German language it was met with great joy by many pastors and their congregations. It was met with skepticism and animosity by the established church and theologians; they had lost control of

their oppressive ways. The Reformation did not come about without some great spiritual and physical upheavals but it worked; for the most part.

The churches in the United States of America have become so inculturated and politically correct they do not resemble what the Bible teaches about how we as Christians should live. As we live our short lives here on earth, we should have one main goal; to glorify God. In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ is upon us. In all the rush to celebrate Christmas in a secular-humanist manner, we Christians very often forget or ignore the real reason for the birth of the Christ Child; it was for our salvation.

In John 3:18 Jesus said, “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.”

We were made in the image of God. Sin defiled and partly obscured that image. Every person has a sin nature and stands condemned before a holy and righteous God; we have no resources to remove that condemnation. Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, our Savior, came to take that sin upon Himself; He became our sin. When Jesus died on the cross and was buried, our sin went with Him; that is, if we confessed our sin to Him and asked forgiveness of that sin and turned from it. When Christ arose from the grave, He came up in resurrection glory

and perfection, and our sin stayed in the grave. The condemnation is lifted for those who are true believers in Jesus Christ.

In Romans 8:1 the Bible says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

The birth of Jesus Christ, born of a woman of the seed of God, in sinless perfection, gave His life to restore the image of God in mankind. This being the case, the churches need a Reformation; they need to preach and teach the truth of this magnificent event. For churches to incorporate Santa Clause, elves and other secular things into such an event is paganism and idolatry, which things God has soundly condemned. If anyone thinks they can have both it is because they do not have a good understanding of the magnitude of the events that brought salvation to those who come by faith to God’s throne of grace.

Besides Reformation of the churches we need Transformation of the Christian mindset. In Romans 12:1-2 the Bible says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The Transformation of the mind comes from regular Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with other believers. To not do so is being out of God’s will for your life and eternity. That is not how a Christian is to celebrate the birth of the King of the universe, who is Jesus Christ our Lord and Master.

May you have a blessed and holy Christmas. Pastor Jim.

TRUSTEE MEETING 11-16-16

In attendance: Ralph Olney, Dale Rowley, John Curtis, Gary House, Bev Olney, Tony Callari, Marilyn Kundra

Meeting was opened at 7:40 pm.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Gary to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bev.

The Financial Report was reviewed. All line items are on budget. The proceeds of the Harvest Dinner were deposited into the checking account. No changes recommended at this time. Tony made a motion to approve, Gary seconded.

It was agreed to fund Missions the same as last year. \$200 – United Mission, \$25 – World Mission, \$25 – America for Christ, \$200 – Fairport Baptist Home, \$35 – One Great Hour of Sharing.

Morton Baptist Church has been named as the beneficiary of Jim Bliss's insurance policy. Ralph has completed the paperwork to expedite the transaction.

Per the new Constitution, we are to perform a financial audit each year. Gary House has volunteered to do the audit in December.

The proposed Budget for 2017 was reviewed. With an increase in building insurance, disability, postage, copier expenses, and a decrease in gas, electric, workmen's comp and gifts there would be a .4% decrease in expenditures from this year. No raises were recommended. Gary made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Bev seconded.

Ralph will send out a stewardship letter next month.

It was recommended that in lieu of Christmas gifts to committee members a donation be made to the youth group as most committee members decline gifts anyway.

The Nominating Committee will be seeking 2 Trustees, 2 Deacons, 1 Kitchen Committee member and 2 members for the Pastoral Committee. The Pastoral Committee will consist of 3 people to meet with Pastor Jim quarterly (or as needed) to discuss church issues and report to the congregation. Ralph has volunteered to be a member of the Pastoral Committee.

Stone Soup will be held December 4th as a luncheon after church with tree trimming and carol singing. John Curtis will get the tree.

The Fire Marshall contacted Pastor Jim about an inspection. 8 year CO2 detectors will have to be installed.

Marilynn typed the membership roll on an excel spreadsheet and will print it out so the congregation will be able to review the roll and add dates, names, etc. to update our records. Todd and Gary Young will try to repair the ceiling fan in the sanctuary, it may need to be replaced.

Tony suggested we advertise in the Pennysaver or Hamlin Herald. The Pennysaver would cost \$15/month and covers a large area. The Hamlin Herald is not as widely distributed but is a nicer publication. We would have to purchase \$500 in advertising to get on the "church" page. Advertising for the dinners, rummage sale and other fundraisers may be worth the expense.

It was suggested that we go back to serving pie for the church dinners.

Meeting closed 9:00pm.

Next meeting: December 14th, 7:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Masonic Lodge Dinner

The Kendall Masonic Lodge will be having their annual Pork Loin Dinner at the Morton Baptist Church on Saturday, December 3rd from 4:30 – 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults (13 & up) and \$5 for children (5-12).

Stone Soup Supper

This year, we have made some changes to our usual Stone Soup Supper. On December 4th, we will have a potluck lunch after church, and everyone is invited to bring their favorite dish to pass! After lunch, we will decorate the church and the Christmas tree. Our annual singing of Christmas Carols will follow. After the decorating, we will enjoy cookies, coffee, punch in the fellowship hall. We will not have a visit from Santa this year. If you have any questions, please see one of the Deacons. Thank you, and hope to see everyone there!

The Deacons Committee,

Barb Miller, Carolyn House, Pam Dutton, Ann Bartel, Carol Duerr



Kendall Food Cupboard

It's time again for the Fall Food Challenge for the Kendall Food Cupboard. If everyone could bring just one item, imagine the multiples we'll receive! Please bring the following items:

December 4th – Cereal & Mayonnaise



Children's Clothing Closet

There will be a free Children's Clothing Closet held on Tuesday, December 6th from 6:30-8:00 PM and Saturday, December 17th from 9:00AM-12:00PM at Concordia Lutheran Church. Children's clothing for infants through age 18 will be available.

Kendall Tree Lighting

On Wednesday, December 7th, the Lions Club will be hosting a tree lighting celebration at the Kendall Gazebo at 7:00 PM. The Kendall Community Band and the Lawn Chair Ladies will be performing at the Kendall Fire Hall starting at 7:30 PM.



Hilton Gazebo Band

The Kendall Community Band will be having a band concert on December 9th at the Hilton Baptist Church at 7pm.

Life Ladies

The Life Ladies will meet at Cindy Curtis' house right after church on December 11th for their annual Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share (drinks will be provided). An invitation is extended to all who would like to join us!



Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service will be held at the church on December 24th at 7:00 PM. Come listen and enjoy the Christmas story told by Pastor Jim and the choir in a musical cantata. Bird and deer food will be available after!

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>).

Church Supplies

The church is in constant need of **paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, any size Ziplock bags, and trash bags (13-gal and 30-gal)**. If we all could contribute a little it would take the burden off those who are constantly purchasing these things for the church. These items go fast, and we all use them so if you're able, please contribute. If you'd like to contribute money for these items please see Bev Olney or Dan Cater. Thank you!



December Birthdays:

2nd Austin Wakefield
3rd Angela Cater
17th Todd Young
19th Lank Dobbins
25th Alice Richardson
28th Ann Bartel



December Greeters:

4th Lizzie Pearson & Lauren Miller
11th Brad & Barb Miller
18th John Curtis
25th Alice Richardson & Pam Dutton



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for December is:
Kleenex

THE IMAGE

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them”

(Genesis 1:27)

If we had as much desire for the Scriptures as we have need of the Scriptures, we would become a transformed people; transformed back into the image of God.

Pastor Jim

In and Around the Community

The annual bake sale at the Harvest Supper made a profit of \$400! How wonderful!

We are thrilled to have Katie Kundrata home from Malaysia for a few weeks. It's so nice to have her back with us!

Please continue praying for Tammy Cook's aunt, Wendy, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer for the third time. She began chemotherapy at the beginning of November.

Keep Amanda Johncox in your prayers. She was diagnosed with gestational diabetes.

Ralph Olney has none of his own cells left, which means he remains leukemia free!

Please keep the Campbell family in your prayers. Mary Campbell's mother, Helen Persia, passed away on November 12th at the age of 99.

Todd Rath's mother had hip surgery last month, and we're thrilled to hear that she's recovering well.

Lizzie Pearson has set up an account at the Hamlin can and bottle return across from Pizza Shack. The proceeds will go to the Youth Group.

Please keep the Driesel family in your prayers. Mark Driesel, teacher at Kendall High School, lost his grandmother last month.

The season has begun for the Salvation Army bell-ringing mission. If you would like to be a bell ringer, see Tom Ingraham.

Please remember the Curtis family in your prayers. George Curtis, John Curtis' uncle, passed away on November 16th at the age of 76.

Continue to pray for Linda Pray, friend of Ann Bartel. She had back surgery last month.

Keep the Zittle family in your prayers. Lisa Zittle's mother went into hospice care last month.

Please keep the Prince family in your prayers. Yvonne Prince passed away from breast cancer after a six-year battle at the age of 45. She leaves behind her husband, Scott, and 4 children.

We're ecstatic to hear that Amber Bartel is thriving in her new school! She was on the high honor roll for the first quarter!

Alycia Davenport, youth group member, had an allergic reaction last month, which led to an accidental overdose on Benadryl, and then seizures on the way to the hospital. We're glad to hear she's doing much better now. They're waiting for test results to make sure there's no lasting damage.

Congratulations to Andrew Cook's fiancé, Natalie, for graduating from her nursing program! She already has job offers lined up.

A big thanks goes out to Mary Callari for donating \$210 to the church from her PartyLite sale!

Congratulations to Pastor Jim and Alice's granddaughter, Molly, for getting a deer on her first day hunting!

Continue praying for Dan Cater's father, Kevin Foley. He's beginning his chemotherapy, and they're not sure how well he'll handle the treatments. We pray he'll remain strong.

We're pleased to hear that Dwayne Preset is cancer free! He was able to babysit his granddaughter again.

A huge thank you goes out to Brad Miller, Todd Rath, and John Cook for provided us with Sunday messages while Pastor Jim has been on vacation. We're truly blessed to have such a great congregation with members willing to help. Thank you for your messages!

The service the Sunday before Thanksgiving we had a hymn sing and scripture share. It was sincerely a faithful and uplifting time of singing and sharing inspirational stories.

It is time to consider our stewardship to support the Morton Baptist Church. Please see the letter below. If you have any questions at all, please contact Ralph Olney either by **email** (roret60@gmail.com) or **phone (585-349-1817)**. Thank you, Ralph E. Olney III, Treasurer, MBC

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees is in the process of finalizing a budget for 2017. So far in 2016, the capital expenditures and repairs for the Church have been minimal, well under \$500. Because capital spending has been small compared to other years, the Trustees have not had to use monies from the Endowment Fund or the Memorial Fund to pay for any of the capital work. The Trustees did take \$5000 in profits from the Endowment Fund gains to help pay for ongoing monthly expenses to run the Church. The monthly donations, both pledged and unpledged, continue to be less than what is needed to operate the Church on an ongoing basis. In addition, they took another \$10,000 in profits from the Endowment Fund and placed them in the Capital Fund Savings Account for possible future maintenance items.

During our analysis of income versus expenses for 2016, we noticed that when Church is cancelled or held at a venue other than the Morton Baptist Church, Church members are fully making up their pledge for the missed week. This gesture has been very helpful in insuring the funds are available for all of our salary and Property expense commitments. The trustees want to sincerely thank the congregation for being willing to make this additional financial commitment.

Less than 50% of our total income comes from pledges. The fundraisers continue to generate over \$5000 a year in income for the Church. Unpledged donations are also significant (over \$10,000 a year). Because the unpledged donations and the fundraisers cannot be 100% counted on, it is somewhat difficult to put the budget together for 2017. The Trustees continue to make thoughtful decisions on how to spend and invest the funds available to them to keep the Church operational and in excellent physical shape.

The congregation continues to make generous contributions to the church through both pledges and generous offerings in the collection plates on Sunday mornings. The checking account is stable (after the \$5000 infusion of cash from the Endowment Fund) at the moment and we are not anticipating any additional major repairs. Reductions in expenses continue to help the Trustees manage overall costs. Salaries and salary related items continue to account for over 70% of the total operating budget for the Church.

The Trustees have done their best to estimate the budget for 2017. It is difficult to do with energy costs and winter plowing being difficult to predict. Due to tight cost management, our spending for 2017 will most likely **decrease** by about \$305. This is remarkable when you consider the effects of inflation and general global economic conditions. The Trustees appreciate your thoughtful consideration to fund the Church expenses as you decide if and how much you wish to pledge for the next year. I am sure that the generous nature that the congregation of Morton Baptist Church has displayed in the past will once again come through to fulfill the needs that the Church faces in the future.

Thank you for your generosity,

God Bless ...

Ralph E. Olney III, Treasurer
Morton Baptist Church

December

2016

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." - Matthew 9:37-38

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Annual Masonic Lodge Pork Loin Dinner @ 4:30-7
4 Communion Sunday Pot luck lunch & decorating (Cereal & Mayonnaise)	5	6 Children's Clothing Closet @ 6:30-8	7 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Kendall Tree Lighting @ 7:00	8	9 Hilton Gazebo Band Concert @ 7	10
11 Life Ladies at Cindy's after church	12	13	14 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Trustee Meeting @ 7:30	15	16	17 Children's Clothing Closet @ 9-12
18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

December 2016

