

J a n u a r y 2 0 1 8

The

# Connection

**Morton Baptist Church**

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM  
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00  
[www.facebook.com/273938523674](http://www.facebook.com/273938523674)

## **New Year's Resolutions**

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are stupid enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by star thistle without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness. Call it stupidity.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan, the old saw goes, then we plan to fail. If you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during from one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.



Morton Baptist Church, Christmas 2017

## 12-17-17 Trustee Meeting

In attendance: John Curtis, Tom Ingraham, Ralph Olney, Gary House, Tony Callari, Sandy Strassenburgh, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilyn Kandrata, Dan Cater

Meeting opened with prayer at 12:10 pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, Sandy made a motion to approve, Gary seconded, approved.

Dan Cater made a request that in light of recent events around the country that for security reasons we lock the doors after church starts. Dan has volunteered to man the front door to let in any latecomers for 10 minutes. An announcement will be made in church to inform the congregation of the change. New locks will also be put on the doors with only necessary personnel having access to keys. Though this may seem extreme for a little church in Morton, NY, it is in our best interest to put preventative measures and emergency procedures in place.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The Endowment fund has earned \$3,000 this month, which brings the earning on investments to 14%. December is a 5-week pay month, and Andrew Cook will be paid for playing Christmas Eve. All accounts are on budget.

Tony made a motion that whenever the Endowment Fund exceeds \$115,000 that interest earned be transferred to the Capital Fund. Ralph routinely requests transfer of interest, this change in process would enable Ralph to move monies when he deems appropriate instead of waiting for a Trustee Meeting and Trustee approval. Sandy seconded the motion, motion approved. Gary made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tony seconded.

A car has been parking overnight in the parking lot. Snowplowing cannot be completed when there are cars parked there. Marilyn will compose a letter to the owner of the car to let them know they will be towed if they park in the lot. Tom will get another, more durable sign. The first "No parking overnight" sign broke.

Jim Richardson installed weather stripping around the door in MacQueen Hall.

Tammy Cook has ordered directories. The church will pay \$540 upfront; directories will be available for \$10 each to the congregation.

Debbie Rockow has requested the use of MacQueen Hall for 5/19 and 8/19 for TOPS.

The back hall light and light by the back door have been left on repeatedly, Sandy has had to come and turn them off. We request all users of the church facilities turn off all lights when they leave.

Tom has taken care of the fire extinguishers. Churchville Electric will install new emergency lights. The Nominating Committee will need to find two Deacons and one Trustee for the coming year.

Lisa Rowley will head the Flower Committee.

The "wish" tree in the narthex was purchased with memorial fund money donated in memory of Eliza Ketchum.

There will be no Trustee meeting in January. The Annual Meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup>. All committee reports will be due to Kaitlyn Curtis by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 1pm.

## January Birthdays:

1<sup>st</sup> Tammy Cook  
6<sup>th</sup> Dan Cater  
Kevin Rowley  
7<sup>th</sup> Skip Scroger



8<sup>th</sup> Larry Richardson  
26<sup>th</sup> Abigail Villalobos  
28<sup>th</sup> David Strassenburgh  
31<sup>st</sup> Kaitlyn Curtis

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> following the church service. **All yearly reports are due to Kaitlyn Curtis by Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and will be available January 21<sup>st</sup>.** You can email your reports to the church email address or put the reports directly in my mailbox. Thank you!

### Annual Baby Bottle Drive

The Care Net Center in Albion began their annual baby bottle drive on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please take a bottle, fill it with loose change (paper money and checks also accepted), and return your bottles to church by Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.



## ATTENTION!



### Kitchen Committee

THANKS SO MUCH, everyone for donating so many useful items, such as paper towels, plastic silverware, paper plates, cups, toilet paper, baggies, and such for the church kitchen and bathrooms in 2017! Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated!

### Food Cupboard

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money to help the Kendall Food Pantry this holiday season. Many people were able to have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



### Recorded Messages

The church services are recorded every Sunday and 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 Carolyn House) and **lay readers** (see Pastor Jim).



### **Church Email Address**

The church email address ([mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com)) is being utilized as the source for the electronic monthly newsletter, prayer chain, and emergency closing information. If you would like to add your email address to the list, please send an email to the above address.

### **Church Safety**

A new process will be put into place beginning on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Dan Cater will now be locking the front door of the church each Sunday at 10:40 AM and the choir will be locking the back door as they come up from the basement. With the current issues in America, this is a step we feel is necessary to take. In the coming weeks, the Trustees will have a procedure in place to let the congregation know what to do if indeed something should happen.



### **Information Requested!**

I would like to update the information I have on file. I would appreciate it if you would please take the time to write down or email me any of following information:



- Name
- Current Address
- Phone Number(s)
- Email Address(es)
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Family births/deaths

I want to make sure we stay connected, and I don't want to leave anyone out. Thank you!



### *In and Around the Community*

Congratulations to Eileen and Todd Young for becoming grandparents again! Shannon (Young) and Kyle Horan brought their daughter, Emerson Alice, into the world on November 28<sup>th</sup> making Harrison a big brother!

Please pray for Marilyn Kundra's son and family as they continue to settle into their new home and community.

Please keep Pastor Jim Richardson in your prayers. He was admitted to Rochester General Hospital on December 22<sup>nd</sup> with chest pains. He was given two more stents (he now has a total of 15) and was able to return home on Christmas Eve. He was taken to the hospital again on December 26<sup>th</sup> and was given an echocardiogram to check on his heart. He is home now and resting. We pray for a speedy recovery and hope you can continue to heal at home!

Thank you to Brad Miller for his willingness to step in while Pastor Jim was unable. We're so incredibly lucky to have such a loving and kind church family.

Please continue prayers for Ashley Ross (neighbor of the Johncox's) who was involved in a horrible car accident. She is currently in rehab recovering.

Natalie Cook's grandfather began chemotherapy and radiation treatments on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He will continue the treatments for six weeks. He is in good spirits, but weak and confused. Keep him and the family in your thoughts.

Joan's grandson's girlfriend, Rachel, had extensive surgery in late November. She is home, but in a great deal of pain and will need chemotherapy. She will be traveling to NYC to consult with specialists.

We're happy to have Gary House back in church with us! Gary now has a pace maker and a defibrillator and is doing (and feeling) much better since his heart attack.

Please keep Caitlin Chatfield (friend of EhLaw Chaw) in your prayers. She is recovering from pneumonia.

The choir is delighted to have welcome new choir members!

We are grateful to have a new wish tree purchased in memory of Eliza Ketchum. Thank you to all who took an angel from the tree to help replenish items for the church.

Please keep the Lee family in your prayers. Louyse (LouAnn) Lee passed away on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the age of 75. LouAnn was the wife of past Pastor Ken Lee. She was a wonderful woman with many ties to our church and community. Her memorial service will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, but she will be buried with her husband in Hamlin in the spring.

Rosemary Mintz has made it safely to Florida for her winter stay. She will return home in February.

Please keep the Manno and Piedmonte families in your prayers. Michelle Manno Piedmonte passed away on December 18<sup>th</sup> after a battle with cancer. Michelle has three children who attend Kendall schools: Joseph (11<sup>th</sup>), Michael (9<sup>th</sup>), and Jenna (6<sup>th</sup>).

We're thrilled to have Katie Richardson back from studying abroad in Singapore!

It was wonderful to have both Jessica and Katie Kundrata home for Christmas!

Please keep Ann Bartel's niece's husband in your prayers. He suffered a massive stroke and a blood clot was discovered on his brain. Doctors are unsure of the next step.

Bob Henry has a small artery blockage. He is currently on medication to try to remove the blockage since they cannot do a bypass procedure. Please remember him in your prayers.

Sue Rayburn's mother had a heart procedure to monitor her heart.

Ralph Olney began his 64<sup>th</sup> round of chemotherapy (33<sup>rd</sup> of the experimental) during the last week of December. He and Bev met with doctors recently who expressed they never thought Ralph would still be here today. We're all very grateful and owe it all to the power of prayer.

*We continue to remember in prayer: the Ashberry family, Fred Conradt, Chap & Jan Fabry, Kevin & Joyce Foley, the Harrier family, Helen Mattern, RoseMary Mintz, Ralph & Bev Olney, Joan Purvee, Eleanor Reynolds, Pastor Jim, and the youth group. Cards, notes, and visits are always welcome.*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things:  
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.  
- Psalm 89:1

# January

2018

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." - Proverbs 19:21

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>New Year's Day</b>	2	3 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8	9	10 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	11	12	13
14 Annual Reports are due	15 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	16	17 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	18	19	20
21 Annual Reports are available	22	23	24 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00			

Morton Baptist Church  
1152 County Line Road  
Hamlin, NY 14464

January 2018



# *Happy* NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11