

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 7

The

# Connection

**Morton Baptist Church**

Pastor Jim's Phone: 585-880-6433  
Church Telephone: 585-659-8459  
[mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com)

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

## **WHOM DO YOU SERVE?**

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

Like the nations before us and around us, we serve many gods here in the United States of America. There may be names given to some of these gods or religions but most of them do not go by the name of a god; they go by the name of what is popular at the time.

How do you tell who or what your god is? Who or what is in first place in your life? If it is not the God who created the universe and all it contains, then something else or someone else is in first place and God is in second place, at best.

If anyone is a true Christian, they will have a desire to serve God. To serve God is a lifestyle and an attitude of the heart. It is a directive for life from the Holy Spirit that leads to Bible reading, prayer, corporate worship, and perhaps serving other people in some way. Serving God is allowing Jesus Christ to live His life through you, and it is a choice.

If you are a Christian it is because God offered you His very best for your salvation; Jesus Christ, His Son. He did not offer you His second best, nor did He offer an alternative sacrifice. For that reason, we owe God our very best. We are to live a life that honors God by what we do, what we say, where we go, and how we use our resources. If we tell people we worship God at Morton Baptist Church they may very well wonder what is wrong with Morton Baptist Church if we are not there on Sunday morning.

If we spend all kinds of money on entertainment but do not tithe our income for God's work, what kind of testimony is that? A tithe is one tenth. A pledge or gift is above one tenth already given. To give the tithe to a secular institution of any kind is apostasy.

Now, I suppose there may be some people who would say I am trying to tell them how to live their lives and use their resources. No, but if anyone will read their Bible on a regular basis they will discover that God is telling them how to live life that will honor Him. What I have written is only a short reminder to those who do not read their Bibles very often, if at all. And here is the rationale behind it all in Romans 12:1-2: "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."

Live a redeemed life. Serving Christ and the Community,  
Pastor Jim

## 8-16-17 TRUSTEE MEETING

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

Meeting was opened with prayer at 7:00 pm.

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

Ralph presented the Treasurer's Report. The Endowment fund is up, all line items are on or below budget. \$4000 was transferred to checking to be used for the steeple repair (residing, replaced support beams). No investment changes were recommended. Gary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Sandy seconded, approved.

A special thank you to Ralph and Bev for their devoted time with painting the doors of the church entrance and back exit door.

It was agreed that the front bathroom in McQueen Hall needs to be "freshened" up, and Ralph is willing to tackle this project, when the cooler weather starts (help would be appreciated). The cost would be around \$400.

Tony will check on prices to redo the floor in the dining hall.

Ralph & Tom will be trimming the Weeping Willow tree next to the church.

Tom and Tony recently checked out the sump pump outside and agreed it should be replaced; Tom will purchase a new one – approximately \$150.

Pastor Jim will be participating in the Community Service at the Kendall Gazebo on Sunday, Aug. 20.

Pastor Jim will give a special service on the importance of supporting the church financially, by means of tithes and offerings, on September 24. A notice of this service will be sent out to the congregation in the September Newsletter, hoping that everyone will realize the importance of this matter.

The Trustees approved Pastor Jim's request for taking his vacation starting August 27 – September 17. He will be asking a few candidates to fill in for him during this time.

The next meeting will be September 13 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7:45 pm

*To all Morton Baptist Church Congregation Members:*

*On Sunday, September 24, Pastor Jim's Sermon will be focused on how to continue to do the Lord's work and our Ministry at MBC through tithing and gift giving. In order to explain why this sermon is so important to doing God's work, the trustees have prepared the following letter for you to read and understand prior to Pastor Jim's sermon. If you have any questions about its content, contact any trustee or myself. I have included my contact information in the letter below.*

*God Bless,  
Ralph Olney Treasurer*

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees are in the process of formalizing a budget for 2018. The Church is in a transition that many may not be aware of. Several members of our Church have either passed away, have retired or are relocating from the Morton area post retirement. As the Trustees prepare for 2018 and beyond, we did an analysis of how these changes may impact expected income for 2018. Below, I summarized the situation we will be facing as a Congregation in 2018. It is critical that each Congregation member read the following summary:

**Current Situation:**

1. There are 28 families or individuals who are listed as those who contribute financially to support the church. Of the 28, Only 23 actually give money and only 9 individuals make a formal pledge each year totaling about \$46,000 / yr.:
  - a. 1 family pledges over \$5,000 a year
  - b. 4 families pledge or give between \$3,000 - \$4,999 a year
  - c. 14 families pledge or give between \$1,000 and \$2,999 a year
  - d. 4 families pledge or give less than \$1,000 a year
2. 5 of the families or individuals above give over \$21,000 of the \$46,000 pledged (46% of Income).
3. Loose money (or Unpledged Income): \$8,000 / yr.
4. Fund Raising Income: \$8,500 / yr.
5. Building Use Income: \$2,500 / yr.
6. Mission Income: \$70 / yr.
7. Special Offering Income: \$2,000 / yr.
8. **Total Income minus the Nursery School: Approximately \$67000**
9. About \$65,000 in Endowment Fund gains have been moved to the Checking account to supplement the short fall in giving so budget can be met.

**2018 Expected Situation:**

1. Income from Pledged and Loose or Unpledged donations are expected to drop between \$4,500 - \$7,000 due to changes in individuals ability to give to the Church
2. The expected budget is still being worked on, but will be about \$75,000 - \$76,500.
3. **Early indications is that without the Endowment Fund gains supplementing the yearly budget, we will have a shortfall of between \$8,000 - \$9,500**

4. The Endowment Fund was created by bequeaths to the Morton Baptist Church and the sale of the Parsonage. The estate of Tom Timmerman left MBC \$100,000, the estate of Dorthea Maiubaum left MBC \$25,000 and more recently the estate of Jim Bliss left MBC \$12,675. Without these generous bequeaths, the Church could not sustain itself financially.
5. The current Endowment Fund Balance is approximately \$115,000. It would last 7 – 10 years if we started supplementing current expenses with principle from the endowment fund. This would be dependent on any major building repair expense. Once this fund is depleted, the Church would have to shut its doors.
6. IF the endowment fund balance was around \$300,000, most of this amount could be put into an account that would pay about 6% (\$18,000 / yr.) interest. The extra income would also more than make up the current shortfall and preserve the principle.

So far in 2017, the capital expenditures and repairs for the Church have been close to \$7,000 due to the steeple and McQueen Hall exit door repair, replacement of sump pumps, lights and painting. The Trustees did use \$5,600 in Endowment Fund profits to pay for this work. The Trustees also took \$6,500 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.

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 fact is that we have cut every line item in the budget during the past 3 – 4 years by changing vendors, negotiating lower rates with suppliers, insulating the building, delaying payment of salaries till the end of the month, etc. The budget is really modest for a building of this size and there are no other areas we know of to cut expenses. Salaries and salary related items account for over 70% of the total operating budget for the Congregation. We have not been able to give raises to our hard working employees for several years now. The equation is rather simple...either we increase income or we have to lower expenses. As a congregation, we need to decide how we want to serve the Lord and where we want to serve Him from.

The Trustees will do their best to estimate the budget for 2018. It is difficult to do with energy costs and winter plowing being difficult to predict. 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. It will be helpful if you could make a pledge so the Trustees have a better idea what the shortfall in income may be. 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.

Feel free to contact either myself or any of the Trustees with any clarifying questions you may have. My contact information: Cell Phone: 585-978-0546, Home Phone: 585-349-1817, email: roret60@gmail.com.

Thank you for your generosity. God Bless,

Ralph E. Olney III, Treasurer  
Morton Baptist Church

## 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 Carolyn House) and **lay readers** (see Pastor Jim).



### Sunday School

The calendar for the elementary Sunday school program teachers is posted in McQueen Hall! If you are interested in becoming a teacher, please see Brad Miller or Dan Cater.

### Church Directory

Please send digital photos to Tammy Cook of church events (chicken BBQ, CURE Picnic, Veteran's luncheon, etc.) to be included in the new church directory.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kendall Schools Open House

On Thursday, August 31<sup>ST</sup>, there will be Open Houses at both the Elementary School (ES) and Junior/Senior High School (JSHS). The ES Open House will be from 5:30-7 p.m. and the JSHS Open House will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Students can drop off their school supplies and meet their teachers. Families can also enjoy a chicken BBQ dinner or a root beer float as fundraisers for the Sports Boosters and PTSA, respectively. There will also be a clothing exchange in the ES Cafeteria during the ES Open House. Families can also participate in the clothing exchange at the Kendall Clothing Closet, located in the Concordia Lutheran Church, from 5:30-7 p.m. on August 31<sup>ST</sup>.



### CURE Picnic

Our annual CURE Picnic will be held **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 12:00-5:00. Lunch will be from 12:00-1:00 at the church, and activities will be from 1:00-5:00 at the Morton Fireman's Field. Activities include wagon rides to an apple orchard and pumpkin patch, crafts, games, and more! Sign up sheets for food and volunteers are posted in McQueen Hall.

### Kendall Scarecrow Festival

The annual Kendall Scarecrow Festival will be held **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 AM -3:00 PM rain or shine. This year's theme is "Your Favorite Song". For more information, visit the town of Kendall webpage: [www.townofkendall.com](http://www.townofkendall.com).



### Youth Group Talent Show

The Youth Group will be hosting a talent/art show in October (more information to follow). We can't wait to see it!

## *In and Around the Community*

Katie Richardson left in late August for a study abroad experience in Singapore! She will return to the US on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a wonderful and safe time, Katie!

Natalie Cook's aunt has been diagnosed with lung cancer, which has spread throughout her body. Please keep her in your prayers.

Bob Kandrata's best friend, Joseph Kapral, died unexpectedly while on a fishing trip. The two were together on the trip. Joe was the best man in Bob and Marilyn's wedding, and Bob and Joe also worked together. Please keep the Kandrata and Kapral families in your prayers as they struggle through this difficult time.

The Kendall Community Worship Service, held August 20<sup>th</sup>, was a wonderful time of fellowship with our neighboring churches. Members from Kendall Concordia Lutheran Church, Kendall United Method Church, St. Mark's/St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church were in attendance. Pastor Jim provided an uplifting message about being the Light the world. Pastor Steve Meyer, Pastor Sara Merle, and Deacon Jonah Jackson contributed to the service with prayer and children's message.

Mary Callari's best friend's daughter, Ayanna Herrold was involved in a care accident on the parkway in early August. Ayanna was put in a medically induced coma to help with her recovery. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

The Cook family's friend, Sandy Perkins, has been given six months to live after her 14-year battle with cancer. Please keep Sandy and her family and friends in your prayers.

Please remember to keep the family and friends of Kendall Jr/Sr High School sophomore, Nick Wright, in your prayers. Nick died unexpectedly on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Nick was an extremely kind-hearted young man with a love of nature. His death is a devastating loss to all who knew him.

Sue Rayburn's brother's father-in-law, Vince Patane, has been placed in Hospice care. Please pray for his comfort and for the family.

We're thrilled to hear that Sandy Smith, who had liver cancer, is cancer free after a transplant! That's wonderful news!

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

### **September Birthdays:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Ava Ingraham  
Jason Miller
- 6<sup>th</sup> Robert Cook
- 7<sup>th</sup> Victoria Knaak
- 11<sup>th</sup> Louyse Lee
- 14<sup>th</sup> Matthew Cook  
Carol Duerr
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jan Fabry
- 19<sup>th</sup> Fred Conradt  
Dennis Duerr
- 20<sup>th</sup> Linda Farrow
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jim Richardson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Cindy Curtis  
Kathy Scroger
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sally Shiffer
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ralph Olney



### **Kitchen Item:**

The kitchen item for September is:  
Paper Towels

*as I have  
loved YOU,  
LOVE one  
another  
John 13:34*

### **“CONSIDER YOUR WAYS”**

Now therefore, thus says the  
LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!  
You have sown much, and bring in little;  
You eat, but do not have enough;  
You drink, but you are not filled with drink;  
You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;  
And he who earns wages, earns wages to  
put into a bag with holes.”  
Thus says the LORD of hosts:  
“Consider your ways!” (Haggai 1:5-7)

As you live your short life,  
Consider your ways.  
Life has gone quickly;  
It seems like mere days.

So you hoard up your goods,  
But your tithes you don't pay;  
What good will it do,  
On God's judgment day?

Consider now; the Christ Child;  
Came from heaven to earth.  
What if He had given,  
One-tenth of New Birth?

If, when life's over,  
(You know it soon will)  
God said, “Hand it all over,  
Here is your unpaid bill.”

But the LORD isn't like that,  
As you'll see Face to face,  
‘Cause God gave you all,  
Not one-tenth of His grace.

Christ offered salvation,  
And a recycled heart;  
He cried, “It is finished!”  
Not finished in part.

Then consider your ways,  
Before earth you depart;  
Make sure that Jesus,  
Is lodged in your heart.

And if you love Jesus;  
As you claim that you do  
Nine-tenths of your income,  
Is sufficient for you.

Pastor Jim

### **JUST A BIT MORE**

However much you have  
Of this world's stuff,  
Compared to what is left,  
It's never quite enough.

So you work a little harder,  
And you stash it in the bank.  
You're proud of what you have;  
There's no one else to thank.

You start to swell with pride;  
You've accumulated wealth;  
You've purchased what you wanted;  
Except for peace and health.

Perhaps a short vacation  
In the sun would make you fit;  
But your mind is on the money  
And the constant card of it.

The economy went sour,  
And your health is getting worse;  
Caring for your holdings  
Is nothing but a curse.

In this world of woe,  
The going *does* get tough;  
So turn your eyes on Jesus,  
Who always is enough.

Pastor Jim



# September

2017

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." - Ephesians 2:8-9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 <b>Labor Day</b>	5 First Day of School	6 Bible Study @ 12:00  Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	7	8	9
10 Rally Day	11 <b>Patriot Day</b>	12	13 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Trustee Meeting @ 7:30	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Bible Study @ 12:00  Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	21	22 <b>First Day of Autumn</b>	23 CURE Picnic @ MBC 12:00-5:00
24	25	26	27 Bible Study @ 12:00  Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	28	29 Kendall JSHS Homecoming Parade and Carnival	30 Kendall Scarecrow Festival 10:00-3:00

Morton Baptist Church  
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September 2017

