

N o v e m b e r 2 0 1 5

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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

November brings to mind and sight harvest time, fall colors now fading, frosty nights and plans for Thanksgiving Day. Even though we have had some natural disasters across our nation, and not everyone has enough to eat or wear, we are a prosperous nation; indeed, there are many resources and opportunities to help the poor.

And even though some of our bridges are in a sad state of affairs, and we do have an abundance of potholes in the roads, and other infrastructure ills, we still have much to be thankful for.

For the most part we have clean, fresh water, fuel for heating, good transportation and highways, good medical facilities and medical personnel, an abundance of worship centers, good clothing and housing, good farms and equipment as never before, good friends and neighbors, and the list could go on for some time. Yes, we have very much to be thankful for; unfortunately, much is often taken for granted, which is wrong.

We, as Christians, must recognize that everything we have at our disposal is a gift from God. We have had upheavals in our society like any other nation that is ruled by mere mortals, but we can do better. We can seek God's face and ask Him for the

proper direction for our nation and also for our own individual lives. “WE THE PEOPLE” are the nation, and “WE THE PEOPLE” are responsible to God for the manner in which we conduct our lives, which in turn will determine the direction for our nation.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle; I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying; a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-7).

“First of all” we are to pray for the leaders of our nation. If we do not take an active part in praying for their salvation and direction in life, how can we expect good leadership? God and only God has the ability to bestow wisdom on local, national and world leaders, and He is more active as those who are His children pray with sincere hearts. The problem seems to be that Christians pray for peace so they can pursue their own pleasure and gain. If we have peace in our land, ease of communication, and ease of travel, it should be used to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It isn’t just the leaders who need the Savior, but the followers as well. If we are not His witnesses, who is?

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure...” Be thankful for that high call in Christ Jesus. Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

Trustee Meeting 10-21-15

In attendance: Ralph Olney, Dale Rowley, John Curtis, Bev Olney, Sandy Strassenburgh, Fred Conradt, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilynn Kundrata

Meeting was opened with prayer at 7:30 pm.

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

The Treasurers Report was reviewed. Because of a significant stock market correction the Endowment Fund was down \$3,200. The checking account is down nearly \$700. Sandy will purchase supplies for the Harvest Dinner. November is a five-paycheck month for employees. Money may need to be transferred from the Endowment fund to cover costs. Expenditures are on budget. The market is on the upswing and hopefully we can recoup our losses.

Now that Ralph is feeling better, he and Bev would like to do some traveling. They requested that the Annual Meeting be moved to January 31st to accommodate their schedule. This was unanimously agreed upon. All reports would have to be turned in to Kaitlyn Curtis by January 9th so Kaitlyn would have time to assemble the report to distribute to the congregation by January 17th.

The light in the baptistery was replaced. Pastor Jim will fill the pool on Friday and will use a heater to keep the water warm. Brad Miller will perform the actual baptisms, as Pastor Jim's health will not permit him to do it. John Curtis will provide a pump and hose to drain the pool. Certificates and bibles will be given to the new members the following Sunday.

Pam Dutton would like to return as a member of the church. She will have her church in Maine send a transfer letter.

Pastor Jim will be taking his vacation in November. We will need subs on Nov. 8, 15 and 22. Pastor Jim will check with Brad Miller, John Cook and Dan Cater.

Ralph presented his budget proposal. His proposal reflects a reduction of 2.6% overall. This is based on no salary increases for the coming year and a reduction in overall spending for gas, electric, workmen's comp/disability, postage and copying. The Trustees have worked hard to implement cost saving measures and have had much success.

Heating the church is still a large expenditure. The thermostats are on timers, but there have been times when the temperature has been adjusted and the heat has been on when there is no one in the church. A cover will be put on the thermostat in the hall and the thermostat in Country Mouse will be checked, as it seems warmer than needed.

Pastor Jim inquired about installing a tankless water heater as a cost saving measure. The initial expenditure would be high, but we would save in actual use and have hot water when needed - i.e. when we have the Harvest Dinner and have to fill the baptistery on the same day.

The next Trustee Meeting will be November 22nd after church.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 8:12pm.



In and Around the Community

The annual CURE picnic, held September 26th, was another success! Those who attended were able to enjoy a petting zoo, participate in numerous activities, and create unique crafts. There were around 80 people served overall. CURE provided our church with beautiful yellow mums as a thank you for hosting this event. Thank you to everyone that helped!

Congratulations to Joan and Ed Purvee for becoming great-grandparents! Their granddaughter recently had a baby boy, Lyric.

We keep the Jenk's family in our prayers as Donald Jenks passed away on September 22nd at the age of 76.

Please keep Alexis Bartel in your prayers. She was going for a run last month on route 31 when she had a seizure. Thankfully, a man saw her fall as was able to get her help. She was scraped up and bit her tongue, but overall she's okay.

Belinda Henry's sister, Bethany, and her niece, Autumn, lost their home in a fire. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin to rebuild what they've lost. If you'd like to help, please visit:

https://www.gofundme.com/ax5tg5u?pc=fb_u
g to give a donation.

We are thrilled to hear that for the first time in four and a half years, Ralph Olney doesn't have any cancer cells! He's been on an experimental treatment, and he's the first one in the country that it has worked for. We couldn't be happier with the news, Ralph!

Pam Dutton has officially moved back in town! It is such a treat to have her back with us for good.

Please continue prayers for Brad Miller's father. He had been having issues with his gallbladder and urinary tract, and they found that it was a kidney stone causing the pain, which will be removed soon.

Pastor Jim and Alice's son, Jim, was having heart problems. Thankfully, this isn't a condition that could cause a heart attack and it is curable with medicine.

Chap and Jan Fabry hosted a barn dance in their carriage house on October 30th. It was truly a wonderful night filled with dancing, laughter, and fun!

Our annual Harvest Dinner was another successful evening. We served over 300 people between dine-ins and take-outs. Profits included around \$1,500 for dinner, \$315 for the baked food sale, and the afghan raffle (won by Valerie Sill) brought in \$43. Special thank you to Sandy Strassenburgh and everyone who helped, especially the youth group for taking care of the dining room.

Please keep the youth group children in your prayers as they continue to struggle with obstacles at home, in school, and financially. Please keep Linda Pray in your thoughts as she just found out she has cancer.

A co-worker of John Cook's who had fought and beat cancer in the past, was diagnosed again this month. Unfortunately, his body is riddled cancer, and he was given 6 months to live. Please pray for his family and for John as he spreads the message of the Lord with his man and his family.

On Sunday, October 25th six youth group members were baptized. It was truly an amazing event to witness these young people share their faith and pledge their lives to God.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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:

November 1st	Cake Mix
November 8th	Turkeys (food boxes go out Saturday, November 14 th @ 9:00 AM)
November 15th	Cereal
November 22nd	Mayonnaise or Miracle Whip
November 29th	Peanut Butter



Fall Feast

On **Thursday, November 5th at 5:30 PM** there will be a Fall Feast with Worship Service to follow at the Kendall United Methodist Church. All churches are invited to participate, with choir specials if you will. All proceeds will be for the Kendall Food Cupboard as they are low on finances. More details will be forthcoming.



Stone Soup Supper

Please join us on Sunday, November 29th at 4:30 for our annual Christmas tree decorating, singing of carols, and reading of the story "The Stone Soup". At 5:00 we will gather in MacQueen Hall for a stone soup supper, followed by a visit from Santa. Please bring your own cups, bowls, and silverware. Sign-up sheets are located in MacQueen Hall.



Fruit Sale

The Kendall Junior High students are selling fruit to help fund school trips. If you would like to purchase fruit, please see any 7th or 8th grade student or contact Kaitlyn Curtis at kcurtis@kendallschools.org or 659-2706 ext. 2203.

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.

THE INCARNATION

When describing the incarnation, one must be careful to not become heretical; we are not the same as Christ.

Jesus Christ was a man, complete in every way and yet had the power, characteristics, purity and majesty of deity; He was still God.

Jesus Christ had the Holy Spirit without measure; the Holy Spirit had a physical man to work in and through that was sinless, so there was nothing to hinder His work.

We are men and women who are complete in Christ but with the impurities of a sinful nature as an admixture; even though we have the same Holy Spirit within us, the dirty lens of life diffuses His light so the image of God in us is distorted.

The incarnation demonstrated that God and man could coexist, and for that reason we know that the Holy Spirit can and does dwell within mankind; if they are born again.

Those who have stood before God or His heavenly messengers and beheld His majesty fell at His feet as if they had died. The incarnation revealed God in a form that would not overwhelm us as we beheld His power at work. The problem with that is, most of the time Christians discuss theological issues as if God were not aware of the discussion and that He were not present.

What would Christians be like; that is, how would they live and what would their attitude toward God be if God made Himself immediately present in our conscious being as He did in Job 38:1-4A14?

What would their attitude be like toward other people, even those who did not profess Christ as Savior, or those who are in public office and make and promote unethical and immoral decisions?

Pray for understanding.

Pastor Jim



November Birthdays:

- 1st Jim Bliss
- 2nd Haley Sullivan
- 13th Alexis Bartel
Beverly Olney
- 14th John Cook
Marge Ellis
- 16th Ed Purvee
- 27th Brad Miller
- 28th Andrew Cook
- 30th Tom Ingraham



November Anniversaries:

- 10th Fred & Wilma Conradt
- 11th John & Cindy Curtis



November Greeters:

- 1st Skip & Kathy Scroger
- 8th Sandy Strassenburgh
- 15th Lee Shields & Lynn Zahn
- 22nd Penny Gibson & Ann Bartel
- 29th Tony & Mary Callari



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for
November is:
Paper Towels

November

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends Communion Sunday (Cake mixes)	2	3 Election Day	4 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	5	6	7
8 (Turkeys)	9	10	11 Veteran's Day Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	12	13	14
15 (Cereal)	16	17	18 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	19	20	21
22 Trustee meeting after church (Mayonnaise or miracle whip)	23	24	25 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Newsletter items due	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Stone Soup Supper @ 4:30p (Peanut butter)	30					

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
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