

F e b r u a r y 2 0 1 6

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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

If God made you aware that you could have anything you wanted, what would you ask for? Think about some of the things you may have already asked for and the reason for asking; what was the end result? I have asked people this question from time to time and the responses covered many areas of life. Of the things most often expressed, it came down to money.

Now, I do not have anything against money, and some of the reasons for asking for money were noble indeed; helping the poor, sponsoring a missionary, building a homeless shelter, and many others. On the other hand, there were some who were motivated by just plain selfishness; I want this and I want that.

The best thing to ask for is something that will never be taken away, and that is found in Luke 10:41-42; And Jesus answered and said to her (Martha), "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be take away from her."

To sit at Jesus' feet and learn from Him; what sweet fellowship! And you know what? You have access to that close fellowship with Jesus if you only take the time to seek Him out.

In John 14:15-18 Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells *with* you and will be *in you*. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

When Jesus ascended up from this earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers *forever*, not just for a short time. That means wherever you are, whatever you are doing, and whatever your circumstances, the Holy Spirit is *in you*. To know this truth is wonderful, but to be *aware of His presence* brings indescribable peace and security even in the worst of times.

To become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit, you must prayerfully read the Scriptures and think often about what God has done on your behalf. The Holy Spirit reveals Himself to those who are genuinely interested in serving and worshipping God from a grateful heart. He will reveal Himself to you in quiet and subtle ways, and you will sense His presence when you least expect it. However, He does not manifest Himself to those who have only mild curiosity or are thrill seekers; it is not a magic show.

In John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed, “I do not pray for these alone (His disciples), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word (that’s us); that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be

made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

So, if it is an intimate knowledge of the presence of the Holy Spirit you desire, that wish has already been granted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The glory that belongs to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is yours for the asking if you only keep your focus on Him instead of the world. Since the Holy Spirit dwells *inside* of you, you can not get any closer. But if you abide in Christ, as outlined in John 15:1-10, you will certainly become more *aware* of His presence.

On the other hand, if your desire is for more money it is obvious that the desire for the Holy Spirit is not there. And if money is your goal, it will never be quite enough. How much is enough? Just a bit more... Good luck with the lottery!

Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

FREEDOM IN COMMUNITY

Freedom isn't won, without mortal strife,
We have been set free, because of
someone's life.

The sacrifice of life, is what made us free;
Someone shed their blood, to purchase
liberty.

Often we have fought, and taken our stand,
Counting not the cost, for our noble land.
How much greater freedom, our God has
won,

He has set us free, by sending us His Son.
When Jesus shed His blood, it was for you
and me;

If He had not died, we would not be free.
His blessings we receive, as we meet today,
The blessings that we miss, when we are
away.

Pastor Jim

A GUEST OF THE GUEST

Above all others I am blessed,
To have Jesus as my guest.
Of all sinners I've done the most,
But in Christ I make my boast.
'Twas He who hung upon the tree,
His blood became my surety.
The Holy Spirit teaches me,
So I'll know what I can't see.
As I lean upon His breast,
I have now become HIS guest.
Pastor Jim

TRUSTEE MEETING 1-13-16

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

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:30 pm.

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

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The Endowment Fund was down \$580. The stock market has been very volatile. The funds reflect at 3.6% decrease at this time. Our funds are invested in very conservative funds; Ralph felt there was no need to move any funds at this time. January is a 5-week month, which means an extra pay week that may deplete the checking account. He will monitor. Ralph purchased a new accounting program which when implemented will make the reports easier to read. Bev made a motion to approve the report, Sandy seconded.

Sandy set the dates for dinners:

Beef on Weck – March 19th
Chicken BBQ – May 21st
Ham Dinner – October 22nd

The Fire Marshall inspected the church in September. Since it was mailed to the wrong address, we just got the results last week. We will need to install carbon monoxide detectors and hire an electrician to ground some outlets.

Pastor Jim mentioned that the pocket door is drafty. The foundation may need insulation.

Pastor Jim left messages with the Kendall Methodist and Lutheran Churches regarding VBS but has not heard back.

Tony Callari and Gary House will be nominated as Trustees, and Pam Dutton and Liz Pearson will be nominated as Deacons.

The Annual meeting will be held January 31st, and lunch will be provided.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 8:06 pm

A fantasy is a possibility with all the negative consequences removed. The experience of a reality never reaches the magnitude of the fantasy that preceded the experience.

When rational people have dreams when sleeping, they do not pursue that dream as a reality for life. It is recognized as a dream and nothing more.

When people try to base their lives on fantasies, which are dreams while awake, it is because they are unwilling to face the facts of life as they have been presented to them.

Living life according to how it has been presented is living in reality even though we may wish things were different. To live with too strong of a desire, or wish, for better circumstances is to live life with an underlying dread of the future. If this is not acknowledged in word it will be acknowledged in deed.

The natural man lives in a world of fact mixed with fantasy, and because they do not know the truth they often mix the facts and fantasies together as they live life and plan for the future. This is found to be true in politics, economics, earth science, chemical science, medical science and practice, and in social science whether local or global. The reason for this is because the natural man is trained or educated by other natural men and is therefore limited to what mankind can know, which at best is partial and at worst is false.

On the other hand, a Christian begins with a full recognition that since God has created all things nothing is a mystery to God. Therefore, if one begins with God, with the attitude of honoring God through discovery of His marvelous creation, man will not come to the end of himself because he did not start with himself. When mankind allows the Holy Spirit to be in charge, there will be no end of great discoveries. Pastor Jim



February Birthdays:

2nd Valerie Sill
 4th Rick Zinsmeister
 12th Barbara Miller
 15th Audrey Dobbins
 20th Edith Lehr
 21st Steven Walker
 26th Karen Bond (Sill)
 27th Chap Fabry



February Anniversaries:

8th Todd & Eileen Young
 28th Pat & Ann Polasek



February Greeters:

7th Jason & Amanda Johncox
 14th Tony & Mary Callari
 21st Kylie Davenport & Kayla Mosher
 28th Youth Group



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for
 February is:
 Napkins

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/ortonbaptisthurchermoms>).

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).

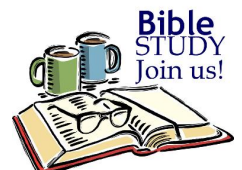


Church Email Address

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Life Ladies

All ladies welcome! After church on February 7th, the Life Ladies will have a "Soup & Service Sunday". We will gather after coffee hour and make a selection from the "job jar" (it will be something that needs a little TLC in the church). It'll be a great time to enjoy lunch as we plan for 2016. Be thinking of activities that we can enjoy doing together this coming year!

RSVP to Kathy in person, via email (kscroger@aol.com) or by phone/text (356-5323) by Wednesday, February 3rd. Please include whether you want to bring a soup, a salad, or a dessert. Be sure to wear something you can work in!



We wish Katie Kundrata well as she made her way back to Malaysia in early January. We can't wait to see you again!

Please keep Penny Gibson's son in your prayers. He is having some health issues.

Joan Purvee's sister Peggy, who lives in Texas, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for her treatment and for strength.

Congratulations to Jason Miller for being the ninth grade student of the month and to Brianna Wakefield for being the seventh grade student of the month for January at Kendall Jr/Sr High School! They are two very deserving and hard-working students. Keep up the great work!

Alice Richardson's brother, David, has his 82nd birthday on January 17th. He had a stroke several years ago, but has come a long way!

Dan Cater's grandfather, Charles Cater, passed away on January 14th. Please keep the Cater family in your prayers.

The youth group traveled to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania for the annual Winter Jam Music Festival. We can't wait to hear how it went!

Please keep the Richardson family in your prayers. Amy's mother, Mary Howard Lusk passed away on January 26th.

Congratulations to Dale and Lisa Rowley for becoming grandparents for the eighth time! Kevin and Bonnie Rowley welcomed a baby girl in January.

Please keep Ralph and Bev Olney in your prayers as they lost a close friend to cancer. Mr. Swenson went through treatments together, and he and Ralph were the last two survivors of the group. Remember his wife, Marcia, in your thoughts and prayers.

Please remember the Bartolucci family in your prayers. Pastor Tony and his daughter, Giana, were in a terrible car accident on Christmas Eve. Both remain in the hospital at this point, but are making slow, but significant progress. Tony continues to have skin grafts and is healing without infection or complication. Giana has been moved to the Golisano Children's Hospital and is receiving occupational and physical therapy. Continue to pray for both Tony and Giana.



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.

Quotes about Love...

- God is love. He didn't need us. But he wanted us. And that is the most amazing thing.
- God gives miracles to those who believe, courage to those with faith, hope to those who dream, love to those who accept, and forgiveness to those who ask...
- I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, "How many good things have you done in your life?" Rather he will ask, "How much love did you put into what you did?"
- Lord, grant that I might not so much seek to be loved as to love.
- God will bless you with someone incredible for your life. Have patience and never settle for less because God wants the best for you.
- Whatever a person may be like, we must still love them because we love God.
- We become truly personal by loving God and by loving other humans... In its deepest sense, love is the life, the energy, of the Creator in us.
- Forgive and give as if it were your last opportunity. Love like there's not tomorrow, and if tomorrow comes, love again.
- There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved: It is God's finger on man's shoulder.
- The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.
- When you forgive, you love. And when you love, God's light shines upon you.

February

2016

"To love someone means to see them as God Intended them."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday Life Ladies "Soup & Service Sunday" after church	8	9	10 Ash Wednesday Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bible Study @ 12:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	25	26	27
28	29					

Morton Baptist Church
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February 2016

