

J a n 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 Noon
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ANOTHER NEW YEAR; still, a repeat of the past,
Resolutions made, but none of them last.

“I’m going to do better; I’m going to be strong;
Last year I failed ‘cause the year was too long.”

This is the truth; no more inventions,
‘Cause the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Why do we, in all sincerity, make promises, or resolutions, or plans, (schemes?) and not keep them; or modify them so the burden is lighter? Perhaps it is because we do not know our own nature. But God does, and He addresses the problem in Jeremiah 17:9, where He says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

There is so much deceit in the world we become accustomed to it to the point that we deceive ourselves many times. However, there is a way to combat such deceit so our resolutions, plans, and promises do not turn out to be schemes.

To be truthful about everything in life, we must turn to the God of the universe because He already knows: “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the conscience, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings” (Jeremiah 17:10).

God has a plan for this old world and a plan for each of us, if we care to find out what that plan is. If we go to the Bible and read to find His will for our lives, He will reveal His will to us, for He said, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” saith the Lord, “Thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Notice that God does not want any halfhearted attempt to discover who He is and how we must best serve and worship Him. We must *seek* Him; that is, to *search* for Him with *all our heart*. Much of the time we put our heart and soul into a career or other things in life, only to have our interests change, resources dry up, the career dry up (Kodak?), or we get too old to participate in such endeavors; and these are only temporal things. If we seek God *first*, we are investing in things eternal, which things will never run out because God is forever.

In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus addresses the cure for care about the world’s goods, and in verses 32-33 He nails it right down to the basics: “For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Read the Bible daily, pray often to thank God for His presence, and worship Him in the name of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful way to begin the new year of 2016, walking through life with the God who created you, the Son who redeemed you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells within you. Rejoice ever more!

Have a blessed New Year. Pastor Jim

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, NKJV

And God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I thank You Lord for last year
And the infirmities that came,
That makes me more aware of You
And Jesus' precious name.
Before we get into next year
I thank You ahead of time,
For all the healing power
That You have all in line.
May I remember the sacrifice
When Jesus saved my soul;
Even though it's difficult
Now my life is whole.

I ask You Lord for courage
To face this coming year,
So I don't miss the blessing
Of Jesus being near.
Help me rejoice in suffering
And in Your blessings too;
Help me to be Spirit led
That I may honor You.

In Jesus Name, Amen
Pastor Jim

"Miracles in Scripture" Bible Quiz

- What lost item did the prophet Elisha cause to float to the surface of the Jordan?**
 - Wedding ring
 - Ax head
 - Perfume vial
 - Valuable coin
- How did Elijah raise the widow's son from the dead?**
 - He stretched himself out over him 3 times
 - He wept over him for several hours
 - By pouring warm water over the body
 - By breathing the Holy Spirit on him
- What did Jesus direct the man with the withered hand to do in order to be healed?**
 - Wash in the pool
 - Wash in the brook Kidron
 - Put his hand inside his shirt and draw it back out
 - Stretch out his hand
- Which of these miracles DO appear in Scripture?**
 - John the Baptist being restored to life
 - Poisoned wine being purified
 - Restoring an ox to life
 - Catching a fish with a coin in its mouth
- How did Christ heal the deaf, mute man?**
 - That's not in the Bible
 - By laying His hands on him
 - He put his fingers in his ears and touched his tongue
 - By having him wash in the Jordan
- What tree did Jesus cause to wither up?**
 - Olive tree
 - Date tree
 - Fig tree
 - Pomegranate tree
- Who raised Dorcas (Tabitha) from the dead?**
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - Stephen
 - Jesus
- Who healed the lame man laying at the gate of the temple Beautiful?**
 - Jesus
 - Elijah
 - Peter
 - Ezekiel

Answers: 1.b, 2.a, 3.d, 4.d, 5.c, 6.c, 7.b, 8.c

New Years Resolutions - Bible Verses That Can Help

- “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” – *Ecclesiastes 3:1*
- “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” – *Isaiah 43:18-19*
- “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” – *Psalms 90:12*
- “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” – *Jeremiah 29:11*
- “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” – *Proverbs 16:9*
- “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” – *Philippians 3:13-14*
- “You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.” – *Psalms 65:11*
- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” – *Genesis 1:1*
- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” – *1 Peter 1:3*
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” – *Proverbs 3:5-6*
- “...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” – *Isaiah 40:31*
- “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” – *Lamentations 3: 22-24*
- “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” – *Ecclesiastes 3:11*
- “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’” – *Mark 12:28:31*
- “A blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you.” – *Deuteronomy 23:5*

- “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.” – *Ezekiel 36:26-28*
- “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” – *Psalms 96:1-3*
- “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.” – *James 1:17-18*
- “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced...” – *1 Chronicles 16:11-12*
- “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” – *Mark 11:25-26*
- “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” – *Colossians 3:15*
- “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” – *Zephaniah 3:17*
- “May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” – *Psalms 20:4*
- “Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” – *Habakkuk 1:5*

*Today is the
first blank page in a 365 page book.
Write a good one.*

In and Around the Community

On July 18, 2011 I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, with a very poor prognosis. November 14, 2015 was the 4-year anniversary for my first stem cell transplant. June 3, 2016 will be the 2-year anniversary of the second stem cell transplant. Beverly and I wanted to thank everyone in the Congregation for your continued prayers and good wishes. We are convinced that the power of prayer has been the primary reason for my progress in fighting this horrible form of Cancer. I am by no means cured, but the prognosis is much better than it originally was.

Take care, God Bless and enjoy this Christmas Holiday Season....keep the prayers coming....Team Olney.

The youth group would like to thank the Life Ladies for their Christmas cards and gifts. They were much appreciated. The youth group and other church members also went Christmas caroling to spread joy to our neighbors. In addition, the youth group went to Rochester for a Christmas program. We hope you had a great time!

The beloved Kendall High School nurse, Libby Jurs, lost her battle with cancer on December 12th. She was a strong, loving, and Godly woman who will be missed by all who knew her. Please keep the family in your prayers.

We were pleased to see Ann White visiting us last month. She shared that she had come to our church exactly 30 years ago, and even though she has moved, she still feels as though this church is her home. We love having you Ann!

Special thanks go out to Todd Rath, Brad Miller, and Dan Cater for filling in for Pastor Jim while he was on vacation. Not many churches can count on their own to provide messages while the pastor is away. All three did a fantastic job!

On behalf of the Kendall Food Cupboard, Julia Ingraham expressed a big thank you for all who gave food and monetary donations. They were able to pack around 60 good boxes along with multiple gifts for families during the Christmas season. Great job!

This past month, the Trustee's acknowledged and gave thank you cards to all those who work hard to make our church run smoothly. Your work is greatly appreciated!

John Cook asks for continued prayers for two people in his life that are affected by cancer.

Please keep the Kuhn family in your prayers as they lost a loving mother and grandmother on Christmas Eve.

Alexis Bartel has suffered another seizure this past month. The family is looking into seeing a different neurologist to try to determine the cause. Please keep Alexis in your thoughts.

John Curtis' uncle, Neil Curtis, passed away on December 22nd. There will not be any services as to the family's wishes. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Mary Callari announced a prayer request and a praise item for her friend Tina. Tina, who has had numerous strokes before, had a major stroke just before the holidays. Thankfully, she was able to have a stint put in and could Facetime with her three children as they opened gifts on Christmas morning. Please continue to pray for her healing!

Please keep the Bartolucci family in your prayers. Tony Bartolucci and his 14-year-old daughter, Gianna, were hit, head on, by a drunk driver on Christmas Eve. Thanks to neighbors nearby, both were pulled from their burning vehicle. The both remain in guarded condition at this point. Tony is the pastor at Clarkson Community Church and Gianna goes to school with Matthew Cook. Our prayers are with the family.

Please pray for David Purvee's father-in-law, Fred Crisler. He had fallen and injured his back and neck. He had an 8 hour surgery, and when he was coming out of the anesthesia, he had a seizure and a CAT scan showed bleeding in the brain, which may have been caused by the fall. The family was told that there was a 5% chance of him coming out of the coma. They were given two choices: to remove the tubes and go to comfort care or put him in a nursing home and live on machines. However, on the 23rd, he woke up enough to let nurses know he was in pain and remained awake for several hours! The respirator has been removed, he was able to recognize and talk to family members. He still has a long road to recovery, but it's definitely a miracle!

The church service on December 20th, was filled with music as the choir sang four anthems and the congregation participated in a hymn sing. It was wonderful to hear all of the Christmas music!



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.



January Birthdays:

1st Tammy Cook
 6th Dan Cater
 Kevin Rowley
 7th Skip Scroger
 8th Larry Richardson
 28th David Strassenburgh
 31st Kaitlyn Curtis



January Greeters:

3rd Alice Richardson
 10th Pam Dutton
 17th Ann Bartel & Penny
 Gibson
 24th Gary House
 31st Todd Rath



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for
 January is:
 Garbage bags

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 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. If you do not have an email address, please contact Pastor Jim in order to receive important information by phone.



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).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st following the church service. **All yearly reports are due to Kaitlyn Curtis by Sunday, January 10th and will be available January 17th.** You can email your reports to the church email address or put the reports directly in my mailbox. Thank you!

BABY BOTTLES + YOU = LIFE!!!

It is time again for Care Net's Annual Baby Bottle Drive!

As Christians we stand together to promote LIFE!!! You have been a faithful supporter in the past, and we hope we can count on you to continue to support our ministry in providing crisis pregnancy intervention as well as STI testing and parenting assistance to our community. Our Baby Bottle Drive is one of the largest annual fundraising events that provide for the services at our center.

- All of our services are 100% free to clients.
- We receive no government or state funding.



We are sincerely appreciative of the support we get from the churches and liaisons involved with this event; **thank you for being our voice.**

This year, the Baby Bottle Drive will begin on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, **January 17, 2016.**



You can pick up baby bottles at the center starting January 4th, 2016 Mondays - Thursdays between 10 am and 2 pm. If you are unable to pick up bottles during these times, or unable to pick up at all, please call us and we will make arrangements to get them to you!

Again, thanks so much for your dedication to Care Net. We wish you a prosperous 2016!

Your Care Net Team ~ Kim, Jocelyn, Sharon and Sara

January

2016

"One song can change a moment. One idea can change a world. One step can start a journey. One prayer can change even the impossible."

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

Morton Baptist Church
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January 2016

