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The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00
www.facebook.com/273938523674

YOU ARE WORTHY, O LORD

Besides the strange looking living beings and other phenomena in the Book of Revelation, there are other things that we usually do not pay much attention to.

First, there is no mention of time when these things will come to pass but only that it is certain to be just like God has said.

Second, there is no mention of time between these events; how far apart they are only God knows.

The third thing we must heed is the great attention to worship of God there is, and again, no mention of time involved in this worship of His Majesty, the King of Kings.

There are no time constraints that limit God's activity; with that fact before us, there should not be any time constraints on our worship of God. By that I do not mean that we should spend hours and hours inside a building dedicated to the worship of God for the simple reason 'church' does not make one more Christian any more than spending time in a barn makes one into livestock. What the Bible is telling us is that if we do not have an attitude of worship toward God because of His holiness and His worthiness, we misunderstand true worship.

God is worthy of our deepest devotion and our highest praise at all times, in all places, during all events, and at all seasons.

Why? Because He is worthy. We were created to worship God and lead a holy life. Leviticus 11:44 says, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy."

God is holy and He expects us to be holy, and with that expectation He also provides the means to be holy, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ and obedience to the Scriptures.

In Revelation 4:8 the four living creatures worship God and do not rest day or night, proclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come."

And like a responsive reading in 4:11 the twenty-four elders respond with, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Now God knows we need to eat, sleep, and be gainfully employed, so He does not expect this same *activity* from us. However, He does expect the same *attitude* from us. Is praying, Bible study, devotion to God, church attendance and other Christian activity boring to you? When you are at work or other activities, can you honestly say that you do so with a God honoring attitude?

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Colossians 3:23-25 says, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Some day we will stand before God with our motives exposed; there will be no hiding places; the fig leaves will not work then either.

God is not watching over us to catch us in some sin as we live life here on earth. God is watching over us every day and every night so He can bless us as we seek His face and worship Him. If we develop a *desire* for God that matches our *need* for God, our lives will be greatly enhanced and other people will recognize that these blessings have come down to us from God our heavenly Father and they will know that He is worthy of their worship.

If we would devote some time each day to praying for understanding as we read the Scriptures, God would instill in us a supernatural desire to worship Him; and He is worthy.

Live a redeemed life!

Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

MEG AND STANLEY; A VERY SHORT STORY

Until this very day no one knows where Meg and Stanley came from. One day, they were just there. They were a lot alike; tall and good looking, good natured, friendly, and always together.

Together. *Always* together. They walked side by side, ate together, slept together, and everything that was fun or interesting was done as a very close couple. They were not standoffish or unfriendly to others, and they were very entertaining to be with; but always together.

There were a lot of hard times and difficult situations in our area but Meg and Stanley always came through unruffled; calm seemed to be their middle names.

No one seems to remember exactly when Meg and Stanley came up missing. They just seemed to evaporate without a trace. That is how they came and that is how they went; suddenly but without fanfare or pretension.

Life continues without them, just like it did with them. I suppose their appearance was a lesson for our daily lives. Live life with what you have and as you are, enjoy it while it is there, and do not make more of life than it really is because we will each drift away soon.

The main reason Meg and Stanley were so much different from most of us is because they were mules.

The reason they drifted in and drifted out is because they came to me in a dream the night of September 27, 2012. I'm glad I met them.

Pastor Jim

TRUSTEE MEETING – 4-12-18

In attendance: Gary House, Tom Ingraham, Sandy Strassenburgh, Tony Callari, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilyn Kundrata

Meeting was opened with prayer at 6:40 pm.

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

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Investments are down \$3,500 due to the fluctuation in the market. Ralph met with Steve Gaudino and he suggested we not make any changes. Beef on Weck made \$600. Tony made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Sandy seconded, approved.

Pastor Jim submitted his monthly activity statement. He had to purchase a new laptop and printer. He refused reimbursement.

Ralph Olney contacted National Grid about an energy audit for the church. Larry Grouse from Lime Energy Co. did the audit and recommended that we replace all lighting with florescent bulbs at a cost of \$2,817.21. It was estimated that it would take 11 years to recoup this investment. Tony made a motion to decline this expenditure, Sandy seconded.

MacQueen Hall will be painted in April. Ralph will purchase the paint and supplies. The congregation has agreed to strip the wallpaper and prep the walls. A neighbor of Ralph's will be paid \$2,000 to paint the hall. Tony made a motion to approve, Sandy seconded, approved.

We reviewed the security information that Ralph Olney submitted. It was agreed that encouraging concealed weapons would not be appropriate. Gary will get estimates for doors with push bars and peepholes for the front door and back door. No decision was made about changing the locks/keys or getting keypads for the doors. We will continue to lock the door 15 minutes after church starts. Any additional safety proposals would be brought up to the congregation.

Dan Cater replaced the batteries in the smoke alarms; he declined reimbursement.

The Water Authority changed the meter so that now the meter can be read from outside.

Some members of the congregation have trouble hearing the "prayers and concerns". We may need a microphone that can be passed around so everyone can hear.

Sandy is preparing for the Chicken BBQ May 19th. The charcoal has been purchased. Sandy will advertise. The chickens will be purchased from Tops. Sandy will post sign-up sheets.

Todd Young has a light for the outside of the church. Tom will get a lift to install it.

The plugs in MacQueen Hall should be replaced.

Pastor Jim submitted his letter of resignation. His worsening health issues are making it difficult to fulfill his duties as pastor. He will continue for 90 days per his contract, or until a replacement can be found. This was not an easy decision, but a necessary one, and he knows he has the support of the congregation and lay people who will step up to help where needed. A Pulpit Committee will need to be established and the American Baptist Association will have to be contacted. He will announce his resignation to the congregation on Sunday.

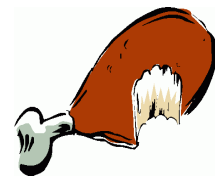
The next meeting will be Wednesday May 23rd at 7:00 pm.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 7:55 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chicken BBQ

The annual Chicken BBQ and Baked Food Sale will be held on Saturday, May 19th. We will be serving dine-in and take-outs from 4:00-7:00. Sign-up sheets are located in MacQueen Hall for those who would like to help. Sandy Strassenburgh and Kathy Scroger have tickets available to sell.



Kitchen Upgrade

The week of Monday, May 20th to Saturday, May 26th, MacQueen Hall will undergo a major refresh. The wallpaper and plexiglass will be removed, all holes patched, and the ceiling, walls, and trim will be painted. The small cabinet under the sink in the back corner of McQueen Hall will also be painted. Ralph Olney, Beverly Olney, and Alex Morales (an Army serviceman home on leave) will be coordinating and doing the work. The Life Ladies have agreed to help remove the wallpaper and move some items out of the way of the painting. Anyone in the congregation who would like to help in any way is welcome to come. Just let Ralph know when you will be available and what you may be interested in doing.... or just show up! Any and all help is appreciated. Ralph can be reached via email at roret60@gmail.com or cell 585-978-0546. Thank you and God Bless, Ralph.

Memorial Service

All friends are invited to attend a memorial service for LouAnn Lee on Saturday, June 30th at 1:00pm at Morton Baptist Church. A formal announcement will be in next month's newsletter. Christine & Jeff and their families invite you to come, celebrate LouAnn life & share some memories.



Rummage Sale

The Annual Rummage Sale will be Friday, August 10th and Saturday, August 11th. Help is needed and will be greatly appreciated. Get your stuff ready!

Community Service

The Kendall Community Service will be held on Sunday, August 19th at 10:00 AM at the Gazebo on Kendall Road.



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/ortonaptisthurchermoms>).



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.



Retirement

On Sunday, April 22nd, Pastor Jim announced his retirement after almost two decades of providing our congregation with God's word. This bittersweet declaration was not an easy one for Pastor Jim, and it will be an adjustment for our church family. Pastor Jim IS Morton Baptist Church, and he will leave enormous shoes to fill.



May Birthdays:

2nd Sandy Strassenburgh
9th Julia Ingraham
14th Lisa Sill
15th EhLaw Chaw
24th Lisa Rowley
25th Todd Rath
27th John Curtis
31st Ann White



May Anniversaries:

2nd Brad & Barb Miller
5th Mike & Trisha Bannack
16th Jim & Amy Richardson



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for May is:
Paper Towels



In and Around the Community

It's wonderful to hear that Katarina Wlosinski has started taking piano lessons! The Johncox family would like to thank Skip and Kathy Scroger for donating their piano to them.

Julia Ingraham is doing better after her knee replacement surgery. She would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes.

Lank and Audrey Dobbins have become great-grandparents for the twelfth time! Their grandson Greg and his wife Jaclyn welcomed their son Wyatt Edward to the world in April. Congratulations!

We were blessed to have Andrew Cook back with us for our Easter service. It was a treat to hear Andrew on the piano and John Cook on the trumpet while we celebrated the Resurrection of Christ!

We extend our congratulations to Katie Kundrata who was married in Malaysia on March 31st.

Please keep Natalie Cook and family in your prayers as her grandfather, Henry, passed away on Thursday, March 29th in Florida. His memorial service was held on Thursday, April 5th. (<https://walkerbrothersfh.com/tribute/details/3851/Henry-Luss/obituary.html#tribute-start>)

In addition, please keep Natalie's other grandfather in your thoughts as he goes over options for his cancer treatment.

Penny Gibson's nephew, Tim Drake, had a heart attack in early April and needed the paddles to revive him. He had to have two stents put in, but is home now. Penny's brother, Harry Drake, is now in a nursing home in Ohio. He doesn't want to be there and has a hard time remembering why he's there due to dementia. Keep them in your prayers.

Please remember the Dutton family in your thoughts and prayers. Pam Dutton's sister passed away on Tuesday, March 27th in Maine.

Amber Bartel needs an MRI to find out why she lost her hearing in one ear. We pray for some answers!

Please keep the Gilman family and the Kendall community in your prayers. Joan Gilman and her son, Richard (RJ) Gilman, Jr. died in their sleep in late April due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Joan was an incredibly loving mother and RJ was a 9th grade student at Kendall Jr/Sr High School who loved to make everyone laugh. Their obituaries can be found here:

- Joan:
<http://christophermitchell.com/tribute/details/2846/Joan-Gilman/obituary.html#tribute-start>
- RJ:
<http://christophermitchell.com/tribute/details/2847/Richard-Gilman-Jr/obituary.html#tribute-start>

Please keep the family and church members of Pastor Phil Huber from Walker Bible Baptist Church in your prayers. He died of a massive heart attack on April 25th at the age of 45. He had no history of heart problems. He was married with four children. His service will be held on Saturday, May 5th at 1:00 PM at the Walker Bible Baptist Church in Hilton.

Charity Villalobos' mother, Cheryl, has a torn rotator cuff and isn't sure how it happened. She will need surgery to fix it.

Skip and Kathy Scroger have officially moved from Kendall to their new home in Morton. We're blessed to have such great new neighbors!

Jan Fabry fell and broke her upper femur in late April. She had to have surgery and a titanium rod was placed in her leg from her hip to her knee to correct the break. The surgery went well, and she's recovering in the hospital.

Please keep Dave and Sandy Strassenburgh's daughter, Sheila, and her husband, Michael, in your prayers. Michael's father was placed in Hospice care in mid-April and passed away the same week.

Ralph Olney had a bone marrow biopsy in April and two of the tests showed no original stem cells, which is great news! They're awaiting the results of the third.

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.

Mothers of the Bible – Back to the Bible Quiz

Match each son with his mother:

1. Issac

- a. Bathsheba
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Eve
- d. Mary
- e. Sarah

2. Jesus

- a. Bathsheba
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Eve
- d. Mary
- e. Sarah

3. John the Baptist

- a. Bathsheba
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Eve
- d. Mary
- e. Sarah

4. Seth

- a. Bathsheba
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Eve
- d. Mary
- e. Sarah

5. Solomon

- a. Bathsheba
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Eve
- d. Mary
- e. Sarah

Quotes for Memorial Day...

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself" – Joseph Campbell

"The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree." – Thomas Campbell

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." – Benjamin Disraeli

"And they who for their country die shall fill an honored grave, for glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the brave." – Joseph Rodman Drake

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do you for, ask what you can do for your country." – John F. Kennedy

...Mother's Day

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." – Proverbs 22:6

"You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God." – 1 Peter 3:4

"Keep your love for one another at full strength, because love covers a multitude of sins." – 1 Peter 4:8

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." – Abraham Lincoln

"When you look into your mother's eyes, you know that is the purest love you can find on this earth." – Mitch Albom

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take." – Cardinal Meymillod

"He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark." – J.K. Rowling

May

2018

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."- John 15:12-13

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|---|----------|--------|--|
| | | 1 | 2 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Communion Sunday | 7 | 8 | 9 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Mother's Day | 14 | 15 | 16 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | 17 | 18 | 19 Armed Forces Day Chicken BBQ from 4:00-7:00 |
| 20 = | 21 | 22 | 23 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 Trustee Meeting @ 7:00 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Memorial Day | 29 | 30 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 Memorial Day Obs. @ 7:00 at Greenwood Cem. | 31 | | |

Morton Baptist Church
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May 2018

