

O c t o b e r 2 0 1 8

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

Rev. Walter's Phone: 585-729-2502
Church Telephone: 585-659-8459
mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com

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

Stewardship

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Growing up in the church, I never thought much about giving. I know my parents gave faithfully, although we were not well off. The church we attended never made much of a stewardship effort. There seemed to be enough money, including a five-figure missions budget. It wasn't until I got to my first church (actually two small country churches in New Hampshire) that I faced stewardship and the budget. It was my task, along with the trustees, to encourage folks to pledge and give faithfully and hopefully increase the amount of money they gave to the church. We used all kinds of resources we received from the denomination, wrote the annual stewardship letter, and I usually preached a sermon or two about giving. We usually would get a small increase and a marginal increase to the budget for next year. More recently, my last church focused on the ministries we did and how the cost benefited the church and larger mission. That worked a little better.

Over the years, I've had all kinds of discussions with folks and heard all kinds of things: "We can't ask people to give any more, or folks are on a fixed income, or we need to bring in some new people, which will increase our giving." There was some truth there and some myths about giving. People are on fixed incomes (including the staff unless the budget is increased), and new people (which is a good thing) will also strain the resources, increase the mission and may require additional staff. And while you can't force folks to give more than they wish to give, individual giving is best seen as individual and a faithful response of church members. Folks liked to remind me that the biblical tithe of 10% didn't apply and don't forget we pay taxes too. This is also true, for we aren't compelled to an amount. Under grace we can even give more than 10% if we're led to do so.

As a family we've always taken a three-direction way with our money, and we've never run out of money. Our bills were always paid on time, and we have a good credit rating. We increase our pledge every year, although we have reduced it a bit in retirement. The first check we write each pay period is to the church, the second is to savings and the rest we pay bills and expenses. God is our first priority. We also try to live not to pay bills, so we save a bit and invest a bit and with the rest we pay the bills and live life. I find living to just pay bills is depressing, and my experience as a pastor reminds me that even when you are put in the grave there will be a bill to be paid to the funeral home and cemetery staff. So, God, self and then bills works for us. I also like to do the math. For example, if a giver increases weekly giving by \$10.00 (which is a small amount), that means they will give over \$500.00 more to the church each year. If people were to increase by small or even larger amounts, the results can be significant when you do the math.

Lastly, I am reminded of Paul's words about cheerful giving. Paul is asking the Corinthians to give a promised pledge to help the poor Christians in Jerusalem. While this is a pledge, he reminds us that giving to God is best done with a glad heart. We are blessed; let's be cheerful givers.

Pastor Walter

TRUSTEE MEETING 9-19-18

In attendance: Ralph Olney, Tom Ingraham, Gary House, Frank Hoffman, Tony Callari, Sandy Strassenburgh, Rev. Walter Steenson, Marilyn Kundrata, Visitors: Carolyn House, Andrew Cook, Matthew Cook, Natalie Cook, Emma Mitchell

Meeting was opened with prayer at 7pm.

Andrew and Mathew Cook came to the trustees meeting to discuss some of their learning though studying scripture. They wanted to share some insight regarding spiritual leadership in the church that they felt would help Morton Baptist Church as we search for the next permanent Pastor. Pastor Walter helped clarify some of the scripture from an American Baptist Point of View. Carolyn House was present representing the Deacons. The Trustees agreed that it might be beneficial to the church to have an Assistant Pastor to help when the Pastor is unavailable. This is an issue that we will consider as we continue our search for a new Pastor and the direction the church will take.

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

Ralph presented the Treasurer's Report. All accounts are on track. The Endowment Fund is up \$1,400. Taxes have been filed. Ralph would like to increase the amount deposited into the Endowment Fund each month from \$300 to \$800. With the retirement of Pastor Richardson and the hiring of Rev. Walter as a part-time minister, we will have money to invest and should set the money aside in preparation of hiring a new Pastor. The Trustees voted and approved the motion that \$800 per month be deposited into the Endowment Fund. Sandy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Tony seconded.

Ralph presented the proposed budget. The most significant change will be to Pastoral Ministry. Rev. Walter has been hired as a part time minister so we will be paying less in wages. The Trustees voted to increase the yearly payment to the Endowment Fund by \$6,000. Budget increases include Sunday School supplies, Christian Publications, Music, Building Insurance, Water, Telephone (which includes internet) and Coffee Hour (coffee hour continued throughout the summer months). Decreases in budget include payment to Workman's Comp and Disability since we will not have to pay these for Pastor Richardson.

Ralph and Tom have prepared a stewardship letter to be printed in the October newsletter.

Ralph will be stepping down as the Chairman of the Pulpit Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee. He will also be stepping down from his position as Treasurer in 2019. If anyone is interested in taking over these positions, they should contact the Ralph or the Trustees.

The deposit of \$3,000 for the new doors has been paid. The Trustees voted that the remaining payment of \$2,500 will be made from the checking account. 30 keys will be made and distributed as needed. The front doors will be installed Monday, and the back door next week.

Mary and Tony Callari trimmed the bushes around the church. Thank you Mary and Tony! Mary will also trim back the hosta and plant mums for fall.

Debbie Rockow requested the use of the church for TOPS meetings May 11, 2019 and August 17, 2019.

We received a rebate for switching from AT&T to Spectrum.

Rev. Walter has organized a workshop for September 30th after church. The Deacons will provide lunch. We will review the history of the church.

Christian Carpet quoted a price of \$5,200 to remove and replace the carpet by the rear entrance, stair treads, foyer carpet and stairs to the belfry. Half of the cost will come from the Memorial Fund, the other half from the Capital Fund. Frank made a motion to approve, Sandy seconded.

The Harvest Dinner is October 27, 2018. The Annual Meeting will be February 3, 2019. The Chicken BBQ will be May 18, 2019.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:10pm. The next meeting will be October 17, 2018 at 7pm.

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees is in the process of formalizing a budget proposal for 2019. The Church continues to transition from Pastor Jim's Ministry to Interim Pastor Walter's Ministry. As the Trustees prepare for 2019 and beyond, we updated the analysis of our expected income for 2019. Below, please find the updated summary. The congregation responded favorably to the Trustees request to look at their 2018 pledge versus the needs of the Church prior to pledging last year. The generosity of the Church members is evident as many members of the congregation raised their pledges for 2018. THANK YOU.

Updated Current Situation:

1. There are 29 families or individuals who are listed as those who contribute financially to support the church. The total pledged amount is \$48,185/yr. Very generous.
2. Loose money (or Unpledged Income): \$9,500/yr.
3. Fundraising Income: \$8,000/yr.
4. Building Use Income: \$1,800/yr.
5. Mission Income: \$70/yr.
6. Special Offering Income: \$5,000/yr.
7. **Total Income minus the Nursery School: Approximately \$72,555**
8. \$5,000 in Endowment Fund gains has been moved to the Checking account to supplement the short fall in giving in 2018 so budget can be met.

2019 Expected Situation:

1. Income from Pledged and Loose or Unpledged donations are expected to drop between \$2,500 and \$3,500.
2. The budget is still being worked on, but will be in the range of \$64,500 - \$67,000. The projection assumes the following:
 - a. Pastor Walter is preaching for all of 2019
 - b. American Fund Endowment Fund Monthly Deposit Increased to \$800/month versus the current \$300/month.
3. Early indication is that without the Endowment Fund gains supplementing the yearly budget, we will meet expenses for the year.
4. The current Endowment Fund Balance is approximately \$115,000 and growing. The trustees would like to use this transition time before hiring a permanent Pastor to build our financial reserves. The fund 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.

In 2018, the capital expenditures and repairs for the Church are expected to be about \$13,800. This is due to general repairs, updating of McQueen Hall, redo of front bathroom, sump pump installations, replacement of entry doors and replacement of carpeting and stair treads. The weekly donations, both pledged and unpledged, along with funds from the gains in the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Fund and Savings Account continue to fund our ongoing expenses, repairs and upgrades.

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 60% 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. As a congregation, we are able to continue to serve the Lord in this building.

The Trustees will do their best to refine the estimated budget for 2019. It is difficult to do with the unpredictability of energy costs and winter plowing. 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 expected income may be. I am sure that the generous nature that the congregation of the 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, E-Mail: roret60@gmail.com.

Thank you for your generosity,

God Bless.....

Ralph E. Olney III, Treasurer
Morton Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Care Net

The annual Care Net Walk For Life will be held Saturday, October 13th at the Mount Albion Cemetery on Route 31. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the walk begins at 10:00 AM. For more information, go to www.carenetorleans.net.



Harvest Supper and Baked Food Sale

Our annual Harvest Supper will be held **Saturday, October 27th from 4:00 to 7:00**. Tickets for dine-in and take-out are available. Adults are \$10, seniors and children (6-12) are \$9, and children under 5 are free. For tickets, please call Kathy Scroger at 585-659-8089.

ATTENTION!

Church Key Allotment

As of Monday, September 24th new locks will be installed on the church doors. Board members, committee chairpersons, and employees who need a key, please see Gary House to get a new one. All keys will be signed out and returned to the Head Trustee if and when you leave your position. The old keys can be destroyed.



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/ortonaptisthurchermans>).

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.





Thank You!

The church governing body would like to thank the “unsung heroes” of our church. Many of you volunteer to do things around and for the church without being asked, it just happens! Letters are written, chores get done, cleanup happens, history gets chased, errands get done, and much more. Many times we don’t know who does these things, but it sure helps out. Thank you!



In and Around the Community

We’re thrilled to have Rosemary Mintz back worshipping with us! She would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Matthew Cook visited the John MacArthur Bible Seminary and College in Southern California. He is interested in completing his undergraduate at the seminary.

Ann White’s sister, Mary, was hospitalized at Unity with an infection in her finger that spread up her arm. They aren’t sure what the infection is, and she is in a lot of pain.

Natalie Cook’s grandfather, who has been going through cancer treatments, received news that his numbers are going down. We’re thrilled to hear he’s doing so well!

Audrey Dobbin had hand surgery in early September. There were some complications post-surgery that required a visit to the emergency room. We hope you’re able to heal quickly!

Cliff Provost passed away on August 30th at Mt. Carmel House peacefully with his family at his side. The service was held on September 8th at the Concordia Lutheran Church. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Lisa and Dale Rowley spent a month in El Paso, Texas helping watch their four granddaughters. They had a great time!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the CURE Picnic! It was a wonderful time for all involved. This was our 37th annual picnic (our first was in 1982).

Please keep John Cook’s friend, Wayne Kent, in your prayers. He’s having a hard time walking and moving around due to gout.

Tammy and John Cook’s niece is going through a difficult divorce. She has an order of protection against her estranged husband who has been violent. They have two children (ages 3 and 6), and at this time the father is allowed visitation. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Natalie Cook’s mother, Betsy, is approaching the end of the line for treatment options for her brain disease, which causes excruciating pain. Betsy is unable to work due to the pain, and the family is close to running out of their medical insurance. Please pray for a positive outcome.

Pastor Walter’s friend, Bev, is suffering from C. diff. She was hospitalized with an infection and had to have a port replaced. Please remember her in your thoughts.

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



October Birthdays:

1st Emily Henry
 2nd LuAnn Henry
 Amy Richardson
 8th Sheila Laabs (Strasensburgh)
 17th Bob Henry
 19th Brian Wakefield
 Marissa Wakefield
 25th Lauren Miller
 26th Suzanne Dailey (Olney)
 Joan Purvee
 31st Lee Richardson



October Anniversaries:

18th Dan & Angela Cater
 19th Jerry & Maxine Wahl
 25th Gary & Carolyn House



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for
 October is:
 Plastic silverware

Sow the Seed - See the Harvest

The story is told of two boys who were walking through a field and found some corn seeds scattered across the ground. They each took one of the seeds home and planted it.

When the first boy didn't see a tiny sprout after the second day, he dug up the seed to see if it had sprouted. Each day he dug up the seed and replanted it, but the corn would not grow. The seed had germinated; yet the boy had not allowed it to maintain contact with the soil, take root, and obtain nutrients. So, it died.

The second boy planted his seed and left it alone. He imagined a tall stalk of corn where he had planted the seed. He waited patiently as rains came and sunshine bathed the ground with warmth. In ten days, a small sprout had broken through the ground, its curled leaves reaching toward the sky.

Achieving any desire, whether large or small, begins with a seed sown in the mind. That seed is the vision of its fulfillment. It also requires the commitment to allow the vision to grow - the faith in God to do His part through storm, rain, and sunshine.

Commitment in daily life allows life's storms to strengthen resolve. Resolve allows us to nurture a new dream, improve an existing dream, or even begin over if necessary. Faith allows acceptance of any circumstance as God's blessing for ultimate growth.

A seed sown must be nourished with faith and belief. When you hold a picture of the final creation in your mind, you hold and maintain faith. You honor God's desire to create something wonderful, and you honor His choice of your hands to help do the job.

How often do we plant the seed of a beautiful dream in the fertile soil of our minds, and then dig it up? What could you achieve if you allowed your seed to grow, continuing to focus your spiritual eyes on the harvest?

If it were not possible for you to achieve a dream, God would not have placed it in your heart and mind. Sow your seed, allow it to grow, and see an abundant harvest.

October

2018

"But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause - Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number." - Job: 5:8-9

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------|--------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Communion Sunday | 8 Columbus Day | 9 Bible Study @ 12:00 | 10 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | 11 | 12 | 13 Care Net Walk for Life @ 9:00 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Bible Study @ 12:00 | 17 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 Trustee Meeting @ 7:00 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Bible Study @ 12:00 | 24 Newsletter items due Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | 25 | 26 | 27 Harvest Dinner @ 4:00-7:00 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Bible Study @ 12:00 | 31 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 | | | |

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

October 2018

