

O c t o b e r 2 0 1 9

# The Connection

## Morton Baptist Church

Pastor Walter's Phone: 585-729-2502

Church Telephone: 585-659-8459

[mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com)

Sunday Service: 10:30 AM

Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00

[www.facebook.com/273938523674](http://www.facebook.com/273938523674)

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

In every church I've served, we had some kind of stewardship emphasis or program. Usually this happened in the fall. A stewardship letter was sent, the pledge cards returned, and from the information received in the promised pledges, a budget for the coming fiscal year was made. Later on, the church voted on the budget and the trustees or finance committee and treasurer ensured that the expenses of the ministry were paid. It all seemed black and white and business-like, and the church, as a non-profit organization under most state laws, had the required board or trustees that oversaw this.

Although I did not wish to take the lead in any stewardship efforts, it was expected that I mention it and preach a sermon or two about giving and serving. Of course, people had heard these sermons year after year, so we never really knew what would happen. Some folks did pledge, increase or sometimes decrease their amount of weekly giving, and some folks neither pledged nor gave at all. In some churches I served, we had some endowments and investments, which some folks took to mean that we were well off and their pledge didn't matter; in other churches we squeaked through year by year. Yet, surprisingly the percent of those who gave substantially, the moderate and small givers were similar. I've often remarked that if we could move even a portion of the moderate givers to giving more than their usual amount a church would have more than enough resources.

I also had some mixed feelings, because there were missions and programs that needed to be supported and increasingly older buildings always needed improvements or repairs. My faith and biblical understanding, as well as the church covenant, meant that we pledged to support the church financially. And there was the other matter of payroll which was often a significant portion of the church budget. While the proposed budget finance committee usually offered increases to employees, a poor result in stewardship efforts meant that these might not happen. I never liked focusing exclusively on money and giving, but yet in every worship service we had offertory words and dedication of our gifts acknowledging the Giver of all we have.

As we prepare for the future and, hopefully a new pastor, the desire to support our ministries, facilities, mission and staff depends on the answers to the following questions. First: what am I, or we as a family, doing to financially support our ministry? Second: if God has blessed you with little or much, how are you blessing God?

Pastor Walter

## Trustee Meeting 9-18-19

In attendance: Gary House, Ralph Olney, Tom Ingraham, Dan Cater, Frank Hoffman, Tony Callari, Rev. Walter Steenson, Marilyn Kandrata

The meeting was opened with prayer at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Frank made a motion to accept, Dan seconded, approved.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. \$5,000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Capital Fund. Although there was a loss of \$2,861 for the month of August, overall gains for the year are \$21,000. We are paying more for the new color copier but are making up the difference by not having to purchase colored bulletins. Spectrum bill has increased from \$75 to \$100 per month. Pledges are down, participating in the Community Service reduces our contributions for the month. Frank made a motion to accept, Tony seconded, accepted.

Financial Secretary Report was reviewed. We have received \$12,000 less so far this year than in previous years. Fewer members are pledging, some members have left the church, we did not have a rummage sale this year and the profit from the BBQ was down. Ralph will write a stewardship letter and have Kaitlyn Curtis put it in the newsletter.

Dan bought a new vacuum cleaner. Dan has a pump that can be used to empty the baptistry.

Dan organized a toy drive to donate toys and stuffed animals to the CURE picnic.

Building insurance is due, Ralph will issue a check.

There is a wheelchair available in the front bathroom when needed.

The Harvest Dinner will be held October 26, 2019.

The cost of sealing the parking lot should be included in next year's budget in the amount of \$2,500.

Rev. Walter is taking off October 6<sup>th</sup>, Joanne will fill in for him. Kaitlyn Curtis has contact information in case of an emergency when Walter is not here.

The fans should always be turned on in the sanctuary.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting will be October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees are in the process of formalizing a budget proposal for 2020. The Church Ministry continues under the leadership of Interim Pastor Walter Steenson. As the Trustees prepare for 2020 and beyond, we updated the analysis of our expected income for 2020. Below, please find the updated summary. The congregation responded favorably to the Trustees request to look at their 2019 pledge versus the needs of the Church prior to pledging last year. The generosity of the Church members is evident as many of the congregation raised their pledges for 2019. THANK YOU.

**Updated Current Situation:**

1. Total Income used for ongoing operations of the Church as reported by the Financial Secretary is down around \$7,600 from 2018 and is expected to be down over \$10,000 by year end 2019.
2. Unpledged Income offerings are down \$3,100 year to date
3. Pledged Income offerings are down \$1,900 year to date.
4. Fundraising Income is down \$1,084 year to date.
5. Building Use Income is down \$575 year to date.
6. Special Offering Income is down about \$1,000.

**2020 Projected Situation:**

1. Total Income used to operate the Church are expected to drop from \$10,000 - \$11,000 due to changes detailed above.
2. The expected budget is still being worked on but will be about \$67,000 - \$70,000. The projection assumes the following:
  - a. Pastor Walter is preaching for half of 2020.
  - b. A Part-time Pastor has been hired in the Salary Range recommended by the Trustees and is on board by July 1, 2020.
  - c. American Fund Endowment Fund Monthly Deposit of \$800 / month continues.
3. Early indications are that without the Endowment Fund gains supplementing the yearly budget, we will not meet expenses for 2020. The current Endowment Fund Balance is approximately \$114,000 and growing. The balance would be dependent on any major building repair expense that would require special funding.

So far in 2019, the capital expenditures and repairs for the Church have been less than \$1,000 due to general repairs. 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 45% 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 estimate the budget for 2020. 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 shortfall in income may be. I am sure that the generous nature that the congregation of Morton Baptist Church has displayed in the past will once again come through to fulfill the needs that the Church faces in the future. Let the Lord guide you as you consider how we can best do His work with what we have.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

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

## 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/ortonaptisthurchermos>).

### 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.



### Trustees Needed

Two people are needed to fill positions on the Board of Trustees. Please contact any Trustee for further information. It is important that these positions are filled.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kendall Scarecrow Festival

The annual Kendall Scarecrow Festival will be held **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM rain or shine. This year's theme is "Your Choice". Events include live music at the gazebo, a bounce house, pumpkin decorating, pony rides, face painting, crafts, and more! For further information and entry form, visit the town of Kendall webpage: [www.townofkendall.com](http://www.townofkendall.com).



### Harvest Supper and Baked Food Sale

Our annual Harvest Supper and Baked Food Sale will be held **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00**. Tickets for dine-in and take-out are available. Tickets are \$10 and children under 5 are free. For tickets, please call Carolyn House at 585-752-6162.



## October Birthdays:

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



## October Anniversaries:

- 18<sup>th</sup> Dan & Angela Cater
- 25<sup>th</sup> Gary & Carolyn House

## October Greeters:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Frank Hoffman
- 13<sup>th</sup> Joan Purvee
- 20<sup>th</sup> Liz Pearson
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nancy Walker



## Kitchen Item:



The kitchen item for  
October is:  
Plastic silverware



## In and Around the Community

Congratulations to Dan and Angela Cater who are expecting their second child! We are overjoyed to hear the news and can't wait for Grace to become a big sister!

Katie Kundrata's daughter, Zaara, had surgery in early September to help adjust her legs. The surgery went well, however she was sick with a stomach infection following the surgery. After two rounds of antibiotics, she's feeling much better! She has a bar connecting her feet as she heals, and it's not holding her back from wiggling around and kicking her legs! Please keep her in your prayers as she continues to mend.

We're thrilled to hear that Jason Miller is not only enjoying his first month at MCC, but is also doing very well academically! Keep up the great work Jason!

Matthew Cook and his bride Emma were married on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Clarkson Church of Christ. The two took off to Hawaii for their honeymoon the following week. Congrats to the happy couple!

Andrew and Natalie Cook traveled to Virginia in early September to visit Natalie's aunt and uncle. Andrew and Natalie volunteered to dog sit their aunt and uncle's dog as they were out of town for a week. Upon arriving back in New York, the bulldog had a heart attack on their doorstep. After a devastating night trying to revive the dog and visiting the emergency vet, she unfortunately did not survive. Please keep the family in your thoughts.

Please keep the Wahl family in your prayers. Gerald Wahl passed away peacefully at the age of 83 on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

<https://christophermitchell.christophermitchell.com/tribute/details/6906/Gerald-Wahl/obituary.html>

Thank you to our guest speakers Rev. Joanne Gibert-Cannon and Brad Miller for providing the message while Pastor Walter was away.