



# MIDDLE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Middle Street Baptist Church – August 2017 Newsletter

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## FROM PASTOR CHRIS

I met Jackson a couple of weeks ago at Camp Sentinel. Jackson is an 8-year-old Chinese boy whose parents sent him to Camp Sentinel for two weeks this summer, along with nearly 20 other Chinese children, in order to learn English. None of the campers come from Christian homes, although it apparently didn't bother the campers or their parents that Camp Sentinel is a Christian camp.



Every morning I worked with the campers to memorize three Bible verses:

- "We proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord." (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- "He must increase, I must decrease." (John 3:30)
- "My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

As the week drew to an end, a strong majority of the campers had memorized all three verses. I counted my blessings, and we came home.

The Monday morning after camp I got an email from Eliza, the program director at Camp Sentinel this summer (and our own student ministry intern!). She wrote this: "I also wanted to tell you about a cool moment from our hike to Ledges last night. Pastor Scott asked if anyone happened to know our theme verse for the week already... Jackson (the youngest Chinese boy) raised his hand and proudly recited "we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord." While Scott didn't know the backstory of why Andy knew that verse, I looked around and saw the excited faces of the staff!"

Then, Tuesday morning, an email from Kevin Van Brunt, the director of Camp Sentinel: "Jackson, a Chinese camper committed his life to Jesus Christ last week."

Amazing! A young boy from a non-Christian home who came to the US to learn English, and now we will one day worship with him for eternity! Who knows what the future may hold... Maybe Jackson will lead his family to Christ. Hopefully he will walk faithfully with God for the rest of his life, eventually raising a Christ-honoring family.

And who knows what else God is doing in the lives of those nearly two dozen Chinese campers. Would you join me in praying for them, for their families, and for the country of China?

As most of you know, from August 17–28 I will join about a dozen other pastors from New England, as we travel to three cities in China. We will meet church leaders, learn how the church is growing there, and see what the American church can learn and gain from the exemplary faith of our Chinese brothers and sisters. I am excited for the trip, and I cannot wait to share what I have learned with you once I return.

Maybe right now you could take a moment to pray. Pray for Jackson and his family. Pray for all the Chinese students and leaders who were at Camp Sentinel for two weeks. Pray for me and for my fellow students during our trip. Pray for the men and women we will meet, and who will teach and host us. And pray that, in all things, God might be honored and glorified in and through his church!

Warmly,  
Chris

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## WEEKLY PRAYER

The bible tells us that we should pray without ceasing, and we strive for that attitude of being in touch with the Lord, but it also teaches us much about setting aside time to spend in prayer.

The Deacons are beginning two prayer meetings. They will meet weekly. One meeting is at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays. The other is at 1:30 pm on Thursdays. You can contact Doran Morford or Marge Pomper with any questions.

These are not bible studies. They are not prayer courses of study. They are a time for folks to

come together and pray about what's on their minds and hearts. We realize that you may have a very active prayer life in your own walk with the Lord, but there is also value in coming together to share and pray and corporately seek God's leading and empowerment. We will praise, give thanks, and open ourselves to God in prayer.

Come and join in at either of the times listed. All are welcome. We seek God's leading in making prayer an ever more dynamic force in our church life.

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## THE BIG RED BOX

For the summer months (June, July, August) the collection of food items will go to [Gather](#) (formerly known as Seacoast Food Pantry). The items will be used in the Meals 4 Kids program. In September when school begins, we will resume the collection of food for End 68 Hours of Hunger.

### HOW WE CAN HELP:

We will collect designated food items each month. These items will be delivered to the Gather location on West Road.

### AUGUST REQUESTED FOOD ITEMS:

Snack size pretzels or popcorn and granola bars

Please put all items in the Big Red Box in the Dorcas Room. Thank you for all the generous donations. It does make a difference in the lives of kids and their families.

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



August 3 – Roland Ripley  
August 8 – Amy DeStefano  
August 12 – Gail O'Connor  
August 15 – Kim Ripley  
August 15 – Eleanor Hayes  
August 15 – Esther Martindale  
August 18 – Joan Keech  
August 24 – Geraldine Palmer  
August 30 – Robin McKenna

Noteworthy birthday: Joan Keech will turn 90 on August 18th! You can send birthday cards to her address listed in the Prayer Concerns section of this newsletter.

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 16th – Larry and Lynn Hart (42 years)

August 31st – Vivan and Esther Martindale (48 years)



The Flower Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have donated flowers in the past months. If you haven't but would like to, there are openings for the remaining summer months.

We especially appreciate donations from you own flower gardens. If you order the flowers instead of bringing them from your garden, the price is \$25.00.

Be sure to fill out the chart (in full) located on the main bulletin board on the lower level. Please call any member of the Flower Committee if you need help or have any questions.

Ellie Hayes: (603) 964-6587

Dottie Steere-Doyle: (207) 384-5065

Janice Witham: (603) 436-7252

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# DAUGHTERS OF EVE

## Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to come and find out how a group of women connect with their daily walk with Christ, learn more about one another, and have a great time together. We are currently studying Twelve Women of the Bible. The study guide and DVD are based on the teaching from Lysa Terkeurst and several other women. Each of the twelve sessions is focused on one biblical woman, to help women discover new insights and provide a powerful witness to God's gracious love.

This program is a separate Bible study each month so even if you miss one, just come the following month! Each meeting we watch the DVD together with a discussion to follow. Remember to bring your Bibles!

### Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, August 8th, 5:30 pm

We will be meeting at Marilyn Gustafson's home for dinner followed by our Bible Study. Please contact Marilyn if you plan to attend - 603-343-4989 or [marilgus@aol.com](mailto:marilgus@aol.com).

We will be discussing the Woman at the Well in session 11. The encounter with Jesus at the well not only changed the Samaritan woman's life, immediately she began to share what she had found with everyone she knew. The key Scriptures are John 4:7-42 and Luke 17:11-19.

Tuesday, September 19th, 6:00 -7:30 pm

We will be meeting at the church.

The Bible Study will be about the Syrophenician Woman, session 12 in the book. Her passion to see her daughter restored and healed drove her to relentlessly pursue the only one who could set the child free.....Jesus. The key Scriptures are Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:26.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Janet Hand at (603) 436-3051 or [janetmhand@gmail.com](mailto:janetmhand@gmail.com).

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# TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees met on July 17, 2017 and the projects, work plans and schedules have been updated. Below is the list of projects with the most recent updates:

1. Kitchen and Fellowship Hall work was scheduled to begin on 6/19/17. The delay is due to the City of Portsmouth and not issuing the building permit due to their back log of work. The contractor is ready to begin as soon as the building permit is issued.
2. Zoe Daboul and Tom Hand will be looking for used kitchen equipment on 7/21/17. These items include sinks, racks, shelves, dish cabinets, etc.
3. We are working with the City to re-pave the parking lot.
4. We have received a grant for \$10,000 and have applied for \$75,000 in other various grants. Additional applications will be filed this fall.
5. The Capital Campaign Committee will meet in July and August, with a kick-off for the campaign in September.
6. The Budel construction contract has been approved at \$662,000.
7. Vicki Walters has held the first MSBC "Community Lunch" committee meeting and is doing a great job getting this outreach started.
8. We will replace the 25 year old plexi glass storm windows in the sanctuary with tinted glass windows to reduce heat and glare thus eliminating the need shades. The exterior window sashes will be restored.
9. The Trustees voted to replace the flame lit candles at the Christmas Eve service with battery operated candles. This was a safety issue and concern of the Portsmouth Fire Department.
10. The walls and trim in the sanctuary will be painted soon.
11. The Fellowship Hall furniture will be replaced with new chairs and round tables. The green folding chairs will be used for the Pancake Breakfast along with some of the existing tables.

12. The building use policy is being revised and will be in place after the renovations are completed.

13. The Portsmouth Police have been contacted regarding building security and a presence at certain outside events.

14. The floor plan for the basement mansion level is complete and ready for City inspection.

15. The flood lights in the sanctuary will be replaced with LED bulbs which should help with costs on the electric bill.

16. The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their patience with the delay in the renovations. Be assured that we have done everything we can to move this along.

**Please pray for God's direction as we move the church in a direction of service and outreach.**

Trustees - Tom Hand, Chair, Lisa DeStefano, Peter Gustafson, Roland Ripley, Gary Sama

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## NOTES

### Nursery Volunteer Schedule

#### August

6th - Janet H. & Jaime D.

13th - Sarah M. & volunteer needed

20th - Vicki W. & volunteer needed

27th - Allison L. & Daren G.

#### September

Volunteers needed for all Sundays in September.

Thanks to those that have volunteered to serve our kids. We are still looking for more volunteers! Please contact Jaime Dunaway (919-632-2140) with any questions.

#### Reminder to Boards and Committees

Please check your mail slots (across from Bonnie's office) for your committee or board on a weekly basis. Some mail is not being picked up that may need immediate attention, including bills.

Thanks!

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

Updated July 19, 2017

### Continuing Concerns

Lisa Beard  
Cathy Davis

Amy DeStefano  
Joan Keech

Lyle Webb

### Friends and Family

Norma Estrada, friend of Rosalie Churchil  
Karen Metrolis, wife of Frank Metrolis  
Rita Rozek, mother of Tamara Rozek  
Amir Taghizad, friend of Russ Johnson  
The family of Liva Webb  
Dana and Mark Wise, brothers of Tara Wise

### Our Soldiers in Service

Damon Doyle, Marines  
Joe Freda, Jr., Navy

Becky Resendes, Army

Eli Sewell, Navy

### Homebound Friends and Family

Al Coyle  
Norma Lang

Carolyn Harvey  
Marjorie Little

Joan Keech  
Victor and Helen Tine

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## THE MONTH AHEAD

Monday, August 7  
5:30 pm  
Trustees

Tuesday, August 8

6:00 pm  
Daughters of Eve

Wednesday, August 9

5:30 pm

Trustees

Thursday, August 24

Newsletter Deadline

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