



MIDDLE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Middle Street Baptist Church – July 2017 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

It's summer! Finally the temperature has begun to rise, the sun has broken through the rain clouds (most days), and we get to enjoy longer days.

Summer is, for many of us, a time to refuel. New Englanders understand this well. Let me urge you to use this time well! If fall, winter, and spring were fuel-burning seasons for you, make sure summer is a time you gas up.



Take advantage of the relative summer slowdown. Maybe you commit to pray at least once/day, even just for five minutes. Maybe you begin a Bible reading plan (you can find some great ones at <http://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans>). Maybe you sacrifice one morning or evening every couple of weeks and serve someone who has physical needs. You can even do these things as a family! I know of families that read one chapter from the Gospels, or one Psalm, every evening as they finish dinner.

I will continue my summer discipline, which I began last year, by reading the Psalms three times this summer—once each month of June, July, and August. I just finished my first run-through this morning, and I'm excited to begin again tomorrow!

I'll also be traveling—as camp pastor to Camp Sentinel from July 16–22, and to China from August 17–28, where the Church is growing faster than in almost any other country in the world. I will join 14 other pastors from around New England as

we seek to learn as much as we can from churches and pastors there, with the hope of applying what we learned in our home churches here in the US.

I urge you to take some time this summer to refuel. Experiment with different fuels, find out what works for you, but let Christ fill you up so that, when fall arrives, you can fire up the engine, and we can continue our work of knowing Christ and making him known!

Warmly,
Chris



YOUR MISSION DOLLARS AT WORK...



During July, we at MSBC, will be focused on our denomination's annual offering, ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. This offering enables us, as American Baptists, to reach out with some assistance to folks in need nationwide and worldwide. This year's theme is ... YOU ARE HERE... meaning that wherever our money goes due to severe need of helping folks in a specific area... because we help, we are here with them in Christian love and support.

The related scripture for this offering is Matthew 25:35, "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" When American Baptists give through ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, and systemic poverty, you pledge to let them know that you are here (for them).

If you feel so moved to give an "over and above" offering aside from the mission portion of your pledge, there are appropriate envelopes available in both the Narthex and right side table under the lectern in the sanctuary. Let us always, in our affluence, remember God's people who are so less fortunate.

Please pray for our missionaries, and may we go forward being missionaries for Christ, in our church, community, and wherever we may be. AMEN!

Blessings,

Your Board of Missions,

Rosalie Churchill, Janice Clark, Marilyn Gustafson, Julie Morford

COMMUNITY OUTREACH LUNCH PROGRAM

We will be having a meeting on Thursday, July 13th at 1:30 pm for everyone interested in helping with the organization of starting an outreach program at Middle Street Baptist church. It will be similar to the lunch program that St. John's Episcopal Church currently provides, that is known as Common Table.

Please let Vicki Walters know if you will be able to attend at (603) 778-3009 or vickiwa@comcast.net. If you are unable to attend on July 13th but are interested in helping, please let Vicki know.

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.

JULY REQUESTED FOOD ITEMS:

Instant oatmeal and snack size raisins

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 1 – Thomas Hand, Sr.
July 4 – Deirdre Hammer
June 5 – Beverly Dow
July 7 – Melodie Chapman
July 17 – Adalyn Clark
July 17 – Joshua Overton
July 18 – Marge Pomper
July 23 – Barbara Hodgdon
July 23 – Jan Witham
July 23 – Heather Davis
July 24 – Tom Hammer
July 28 – Rebecca Beard
July 28 – Lisa DeStefano
July 28 – Daniel Hand
July 28 – Janet Hand
July 28 – Sarah Mason
July 29 – Arthur Dusto

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 2nd – Doran and Julie Morford (23 years)
July 13th – Arthur and Louise Dusto (38 years)
July 18th – Richard and Ellen Cazchor (8 years)
July 28th – Jon and Tina Wendell (15 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 many openings for the 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

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, July 18th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

We will be meeting at the church.

The Bible Study will be about Martha, session 10 in the book. Jesus wanted Martha to understand that while her desire to serve was valuable and important, knowing God and being in his presence needed to take priority in her life. The key Scripture is Luke 10:38-42.

Tuesday, August 8th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

We will be meeting at the church

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.

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees met on June 19, 2017 and the projects, work plans and schedules have been updated. Below is the list of projects with the most recent updates:

1. Carpet replacement for the sanctuary, narthex, entry, and stairs began 6/19/2017 and should be completed by 6/23/2017. The window casings have been painted and the drapes removed. The restoration of the front steps has been completed.
 2. The kitchen renovations are scheduled to start soon. Many thanks to all for helping to remove all the items from the kitchen.
 3. Renovations to Fellowship Hall may begin in conjunction with the kitchen work.
 4. We are working with the city to re-pave the parking lot.
 5. With the new carpet in place, please take extra precautions with liquids in the sanctuary. We ask that liquids be limited to water and non-staining drinks with a secure lid.
 6. The cost of the renovations are between \$600,000 and \$700,000 with a contingency amount of \$60,000 (+) included in that amount. If the contingency amount is not needed, the funds can be applied against the line of credit balance.
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7. The Capital Campaign Committee has been formed and the first meeting was May 31, 2017. Additional details will be included in a separate report.
 8. The Trustees are revising the building use policy to have in place after the renovations are completed.
 9. MSBC hosted a Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (SAFE) course on May 31, 2017. It was coordinated with the City of Portsmouth Health Department and conducted through the UNH extension program. There were 39 people attending, representing 4 local area churches and 1 day care. Those that took the test at the end of the program and passed, received a Food Handler's Card in the mail. We would like to host this course on a yearly basis.
 10. Vicki Walters has graciously volunteered to organize a committee for the Community Lunch program. The first organizational meeting will be held on July 13, 2017 at 1:30. Please contact Vicki if you plan to attend. The success of this ministry will depend on dedicated volunteers!
 11. The sanctuary windows on the exterior side will be restored and the plexi-glass will be replaced with regular glass. The new glass will be tinted to limit the sun issue and fading so the shades can be eliminated.
 12. The Trustees have received a bid of \$16,000- \$17,000 to paint the interior walls and trim in the sanctuary.
 13. The Trustees are researching new furniture for Fellowship Hall.
 14. During the past few weeks, the Trustees, Monday morning work crew, social committee members and other volunteers have been cleaning out "stuff" from the church. Check out the dumpster that is almost full from this "stuff". This group has worked very hard to empty out items that have accumulated over the past 50 years, many of which are fire and health safety items. While many feel that the church may need or want items that we no longer want in our homes, many times the church does not really have a home for all these items. In our attempt to keep the church tidy and free of unwanted items, we are requesting that all items donated to the church first be approved by the Trustees. Thank you for your cooperation on this.
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The biggest challenge that lies ahead is the funding for all these projects. We will need the grant money, our own capital campaign along with some funds on hand to get the critical portion of the work completed. 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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

June 2017

In accordance with the MSBC Constitution, the Church Council on May 17, 2017 approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to be called the Capital Campaign Committee. The members are: Julie Morford and Tom Hand, Co-Chairs; Kim Ripley, Secretary; Chris Dunaway; Al Felgar; Tom Hammer; Taylor Moynihan; Andrea St. Jean; and Jon Wendell.

The first meeting was held on May 31, 2017. As approved by the Trustees, the committee was in agreement to use a fundraising consultant for this project. The consultant is Lisa Burk-McCoy, and she will develop a fundraising plan and assist the committee with the implementation.

The committee would like to make everyone aware of the following:

1. We are putting this plan on a fast track so that we will have the kitchen and Fellowship Hall ready for use in the fall.
 2. We will use our line of credit to begin financing this work. Taking into consideration the many aspects of our financial situation, we believe the wisest way to proceed is by using the line of credit, not our endowment or our cash accounts. This will allow us to begin the work as quickly as possible, to avoid the increased costs that come with delays, and to preserve the endowment which provides for many of our other needs throughout the year.
 3. If we waited to have the cash available, this project may not ever get off the
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ground. We are trusting the Lord and how He will answer our prayers and lead each of us to give financially for His Kingdom.

4. Regardless of financial ability, we can all give our time. Remember – that much will be expected from those to whom much has been given.

Many of us are more visual than others and the committee has asked Lisa DeStefano to develop some drawings of the kitchen and hall so we can see the future appearance.

The focus for the committee is to raise the funds needed to complete all of the renovations, approved by the Trustees, code compliance work for fire safety, new furniture for Fellowship Hall, kitchen appliances and equipment and other items as needed. The fundraising will take place over a two year pledge period. The renovations as approved by the Trustees include the following: New Fire Alarm system, kitchen renovations, kitchen equipment and appliances, Fellowship Hall renovations, Fellowship Hall furniture, complete Peirce Mansion renovations, Mansion basement renovations (staff offices), Sanctuary painting – excluding ceiling, 10% contingency.

The total amount needed to be raised for the completion of the projects listed above will be \$550,000. We will use \$175,000 of present available funds in addition to the amount being raised.

The Committee is meeting in July with the Consultant and committee training meetings are expected to be held in August. We anticipate a kick-off with the congregation in mid-September. The goal is to have a significant amount of funds pledged or in-hand prior to the kick-off.

This is an opportunity for us to unite as a Middle Street Baptist Church family and see what exciting things God has in the future for his Church and ministry.

NOTES

THANK YOU

The family of Ed Anderson thank the members and friends of MSBC, his 'family of

God' for all the kindness, support, strength and prayers given to all of us in this time of our bereavement and sorrow for such a loss of a great husband, dad, brother, grandpa, uncle, and friend to many of you. Telephone calls, flowers, cards of love, peace and encouragement, visits, plus delicious and delectable meals provided by so many meant so much to all of us. We are so grateful and full of love and appreciation for the wonderful works of Pastor Chris, Tamara, and the Social Committee (including the birthday cake for Ed and our Great-Granddaughter, Fern.

Blessings and prayers to all of you from Jan and family.

THANK YOU BETTY GREGORY

After more than 40 years of faithful service in our church nursery, Betty Gregory retired at the end of June. We are so thankful for her loving care to so many children over the years and will miss having her with us each Sunday. Thank you Betty!

CHURCH NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need two adults each Sunday from 9:45 until 11:15 am to care for the little ones in our church nursery. Thank you for your willingness to serve the littlest members of our church family (and their parents)! Please get in touch with [Jaime Dunaway](#) (919-632-2140) to sign up.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Middle Street Baptist Church directory has been revised and updated, and the new version will be sent out electronically. Several printed copies will be available on the table outside of the office. If you do not receive an electronic copy, or if you would like a hard copy sent to you, please [contact Bonnie](#) in the office.

HAVE A SPARE CAR?

A summer worker from overseas, who is working at Wentworth By The Sea this summer and who has been worshiping with the Middle Street family while she's here, needs a car to get to and from work. Here are her words:

"I'm working at Wentworth by the Sea and I have to ride a bike everyday (it takes me 35, 40 minutes to go there and then the same to come home – which is pretty fine, but sometimes it's dark outside and it's pretty dangerous, sometimes it's really hot, sometimes it's raining and it's so exhausting). My question is: do you have any chance to find if maybe someone from your church has an extra car for the next 2,3 months that I can use to drive to work and back home? I started work only one

week ago and I barely have money for my rent and food, so to rent a car is impossible for me.

"I don't want to complain or to make you to feel sorry about me (I don't like that I have to do this...not at all!) – I'm actually very thankful for being in such a beautiful place and I know how blessed I am to be here – but being in a foreign place can be tough sometimes."

If you are able to help, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

PRAYER CONCERNS

Updated June 28, 2017

Continuing Concerns

Lisa Beard
Cathy Davis

Amy DeStefano
Joan Keech

Lyle Webb

Friends and Family

The family of Denota Deshamps, niece of Melodie Chapman

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

Carolyn Harvey

Joan Keech

Norma Lang

Marjorie Little

Victor and Helen Tine

THE MONTH AHEAD

Thursday, July 13
1:30 pm
Community Outreach Meeting

Sunday, July 16
After Worship Service
Thank you Luncheon by Overton Family

Monday, July 17
5:30 pm
Trustees

Tuesday, July 18
6:00 pm
Daughters of Eve

Monday, July 19th
5:30 pm
Trustees

Wednesday, July 19
5:30 pm
Church Council

Thursday, July 20
Newsletter Deadline
