



MIDDLE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Middle Street Baptist Church – May 2017 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

“The art of letter-writing is fast dying out. When a letter cost nine pence, it seemed but fair to try to make it worth nine pence....Now, however, we think we are too busy for such old-fashioned correspondence. We fire off a multitude of rapid and short notes, instead of sitting down to have a good talk over a real sheet of paper.”



“There is a great tendency among the children of today to rebel against restraint, not only that placed upon them by the will of the parent, but against any restraint or limitation of what they consider their rights... This fact has filled well minded people with great apprehensions for the future.”

They sound familiar, don't they? Clarion calls to return to the good old days, back when life was simpler, slower, more settled. Would you believe me if I showed you the sources of these two quotes? They are, respectively:

–The Sunday Magazine, 1871.

–Rev. Henry Hussman, The Authority of Parents, 1906.

We talk a lot about how things just aren't the way they used to be. Just in the past month I have been shocked to find myself complaining about the good old days—in my case, the '80s and '90s!—and how we played baseball in the street (not on semi-pro travel teams by age 11), or how we used to be tethered to the wall whenever we talked on the phone. It's become a common parody: “Back in my day...”

I thank God that things aren't the way they used to be. I was a wretch; now a saint. Once lost—now found. Once blind, now I see. I thank God that I'm not the man I once was, and I thank God that he will continue to grow me and work in me and change me – all for good!

He will do the same for you, as you continue to lean on and trust him. As we read in Philippians, "I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ!" (Philippians 1:6) We're works in progress, but thank God for progress and growth!

As the trees change back from brown to green, the weather transforms from gray to sunny (most days), and our moods, like the temperature, become warmer, let's thank God for the growth and change that he has begun in our lives, and let's pray that he would never stop changing us—for good!

Warmly,
Chris

MIDDLE STREET 101

On Saturday, May 20th we will offer a new class called Middle Street 101 from 9:00am–noon (we call it a class, but don't worry, there's no required homework!). During this class, taught by Pastor Chris and Doran, we will cover the essentials of the Christian faith, what it means to be baptist, and the importance and benefits of church membership. We will provide lunch at the end of the class for everyone who attends!

If you have ever wondered about certain Christian beliefs or why we do things a certain way at Middle Street, this class is a great chance to get those questions answered! If you are interested in becoming a member of Middle Street, this class is required. But taking the class does **not** obligate you to join. You are welcome to simply come, sit, learn, and eat with us!

For those of you who are interested but cannot attend on May 20th, not to fret! We will offer the class again at a different time later this summer.

If you want to register or have any questions, please [email Pastor Chris](#). We hope to see you there!



CAMP SENTINEL NEWS

Slots for summer campers at Camp Sentinel are quickly filling up. If you would like more information about Camp Sentinel or would like to register, please visit their website at www.campsentinel.org.

The Board of Christian Education is happy to offer a scholarship to each camper from our church family for half of the cost of one week at camp. Please notify the church about your plans so we can apply the scholarship to your session.

Also, you may enjoy reading the [most recent Camp Sentinel newsletter](#) (pdf).



NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL MISSION:

As this article is written, we are wrapping up our Church World Service outreach project of assembling Emergency CleanUp Buckets. Your Mission Board will be delivering these buckets on May 5th to Bow Mills Methodist Church, Bow, NH, which is the CWS drop-off depot for NH. From there our buckets will journey to the CWS Warehouse in New Windsor, MD (where the Clarks and Gustafsons volunteered in June 2016 on a mission trip). Once at the

warehouse, the buckets are sent out with 24 hours of a call for wherever they are needed. Thank you to all who participated in this mission outreach.

During May and June we will be supporting Church World Service's program of BLANKETS AND TOOLS. Supporting this program in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day is a yearly tradition at MSBC.

Please be in prayer for our Special Interest Missinaries, the Clemmers (South Sudan) and the Longs (Mexico). Also, remember in prayer all of our Missionaries who are serving world-wide.

LOCAL MISSION:

MSBC continues to serve two evenings monthly at the the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. Thank you to our March and April volunteers: Barabar Kirkham, Sarah Cooley, Al Gillette, Gary Sama, Julie and Doran Morford, Allison Leahy, Chris Dunaway, and Peter and Marily Gustafson.

If you are able to volunteer occasionally for this community outreach, your help will be welcomed! Please contact Marily Gustafson (marilgus@aol.com) or 603-343-4989 to volunteer.

Please consider participating in a local missions outreach on Saturday, May 13th, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. This is the day to serve locally at Operation Blessing's 9th Annual "Adopt A Block". We will be joining with volunteers from other local churches, and will be assigned jobs to help a predetermined neighborhood to spruce up with spring cleaning, yard work, painting, etc. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided by Operation Blessing.

REGIONAL MISSION

Some of our MSBC men will be heading to Camp Sentinel on May 8th for a mission outreach work day to help ready the camp for its summer season. Please get in touch with Louie Dow (603-436-7182) if you would like to join in and help.

In closing, let us go forth in mission remembering Hebrew 13:16. "And don't forget to do good and share with those in need." Amen!

Your Board of Missions,
Rosalie Churchill, Janice Clark, Marilyn Gustafson, Julie Morford



END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

THE MISSION: Confront the 68 hours of hunger experienced by some local school children by providing bags of food that they can take home and eat over the weekend.

HOW WE CAN HELP: We will collect a designated food item for the bags every week. These items will be delivered to the drop off location for delivery of bags each week to the Portsmouth Schools.

REQUESTED FOOD ITEMS:

May 7th and 14th: Individual cereal bars/granola bars

May 21st and 28th: Canned tuna - albacore packed in water

Please put all items in the Big Red Box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for all the generous donations - it does make a difference in the lives of these kids and their families having food to eat every weekend!

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 1 – Ramsey Michaels
May 9 – C.J. Lisi
May 10 – John Overton
May 24 – Linda Van Etten
May 26 – Anna St. Jean
May 28 – Ellen Czachor

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 24th – Thomas and Debra Hand (20 years)



IN MEMORY:

[Edgar W. Anderson](#)
May 24, 1929–April 25, 2017

MOTHER / DAUGHTER BANQUET

Saturday, May 13th at 5:00 pm

All women are daughters, if not mothers.

We will be having a banquet for all of these special women, with the men of the church catering the event. There will be a choice of Baked Stuffed Haddock, or Roast Pork.

Amy Clark-Feldman, daughter of Jan & Dick Clark will be our speaker. She recently finished seminary and made a trip to Israel.

There is a signup sheet in the hallway next to the kitchen or call Rosalie Churchill at 207-703-0505.

ANN JUDSON FELLOWSHIP

Due to the mother/daughter dinner, the Ann Judson luncheon will be postponed in May.

Our June luncheon will take place on Monday, June 12th, at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland at 12:45 pm.

The sign up sheet will be on the podium next to the kitchen.

If you have any questions or need more information please call Jan Witham at (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 of God's gracious love.

Daughters of Eve meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm and the meetings will be held at the church. This new program is a separate Bible study each month so even if you miss one, just come the following month! Each meeting we will watch the DVD together with a discussion to follow. Remember to bring your Bibles!

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, May 16th at 6:00 - 7:30 pm

The Bible study will be about Mary Magdalene, session 8 in the book. Mary was a woman filled with zeal, passions, and fervor. She had an amazing journey and Jesus called her to be the first witness of his resurrection. The key Scriptures are Luke 8:1-2; John 19:25; and 20:1-18.

Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00 - 7:30 pm

We will be discussing Mary of Bethany, in session 9. Mary was a student, hungry to learn and receive the word of Jesus. The key Scripture is Mark 4:1-9.

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

AED/CPR TRAINING

Last fall Josh Overton installed an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in our Fellowship Hall as a part of his Eagle Scout project. On Saturday, May 6, from 9:00–11:00 am, we will host an extended training session in using this potentially life-saving device. Additionally, the instructor will conduct a CPR training session. The cost of the event is \$7.50/person or \$20/family of three or more, which covers training materials. We hope to see you there!

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees met April 17, 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, stairs, and balcony is ready to begin and the cost is \$12,900.
2. The first grant application has been filed with the McIninch Foundation, thanks to Gus Gustafson for his efforts on our behalf. This is the first with perhaps 10 or more that we may be eligible for.

3. We have just received some very good news on the kitchen hood from the Portsmouth Health Dept. The use of our kitchen will be designated as “non-commercial” per the City. This will save a great deal of time and money....more to come on this later.

4. We are working with the city to perhaps re-pave the parking lot.

5. A large group of our church family met with the St. John’s church “Common Table” workers and we left the meeting with a real sense of how important these lunches are for the community and what a great outreach and ministry it would be for Middle Street Church as well. The enthusiasm is definitely building and with committed individuals and our kitchen renovated, this can actually happen.

6. The Trustees are looking into battery operated window candles for the next Christmas season. No more extension cords that could potentially become a fire hazard.

7. Expanded janitorial services are being considered and since this is expensive, other alternatives are being considered.

8. A Conflict of Interests Policy has been approved and officers, staff, Trustees and chairs of committees need to sign a disclosure form each year.

9. We have contracted with a new CPA and an audit will occur shortly.

10. Funding for the Renovations – The work on the fire risk remediation, kitchen, fire alarm system, fellowship hall renovations and other items will cost between \$500,000 - \$600,000. The Trustees have agreed to fund the work as follows: \$100,000 cash on hand; \$100,000 from grants; \$100,000 from our own endowment and the balance of \$300,000 from a capital campaign.

11. A capital campaign needs to begin right away. The Trustees are looking for anyone who would like to serve on this committee to begin this process or if you have someone to suggest that we may contact. This is a critical step for the church and we want to have names of individuals by May 7, 2017. The goal is to complete a majority of the work during the summer months so the timing is critical to begin a funding campaign now! This is a time for the church family to support the efforts of the Trustees. These renovations are imperative for safety, code and compliance requirements and to make Middle Street

Baptist Church welcoming for community outreach and ministry. The time is NOW to make this happen!

12. The Trustees are revising the building use policy to have in place after the renovations are completed. This will ensure that the cost of heat, lights, janitorial, etc. are covered by each group utilizing the building.

13. Per the City of Portsmouth Health Department, before any meals are served to the general public at any church, it is a requirement to obtain a permit from the city. The permits are free and are available at the Health Dept. located at City Hall.

There are many challenges ahead for all of us but it is an exciting time in the life of our church. God's direction is perfect and He has set us on this journey for all the right reasons. Let's pray that together we do this for His glory.

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Trustees: Tom Hand Chairman, Lisa DeStefano, Peter Gustafson, Roland Ripley, Gary Sama

EASTER PLANTS

Given by:

Martha DeStefano

Ellie Hayes

Sarah Mason

Tom & Janet Hand

Barbara Kirkham

Jan Witham

Susan Anderson

Jack and Audrey Foster

In memory/honor of:

Son, Jim DeStefano

John Hayes

Luke Cathell

Grandchildren - Josh, Jake, Danny, and Anna

Vivien Kirkham

My husband Bob and our Son, Tony

In Memory of Kathleen Anderson
In Honor of the life of Jan Anderson

Peacemakers



Splaine & McKenna Families	Louise and Stephen Perham Arthur Splaine Winnifred and George Strickland
Grace Simms	Robert Simms
Louis and Beverly Dow	Our two Great-Grandchildren
Dorothy Steele-Doyle	Flora Goddard
Gail Moulton O'Connor & Ellen Czachor	Our Parents, Ruth and Dick Moulton
Olivia Phipps	Harold and Millicent Phipps and Donald S. Phipps
The Family	Paul A. Hodgdon, Sr. Stephen and Louise Perham
Dick & Jancie Clark	Family
Verne Anderson	Kathleen Anderson
The St. Jeans	Loved Ones
Martha Jones	In Memory of Warren Jones
Jonathan & Leah Kelley	In Memory of Grampy and Grammy - Bernard and Erdine Ramsdell

NOTES

Thank you for your prayers these past months and for the beautiful Easter Lily. I'm feeling stronger from your support.
-Rita Rozek

A note from the office:

We know that some of you can't make it to the Worship Service for extended periods of time due to illness, taking care of a loved one, etc. If this is you and you would like to receive the bulletin in the mail or know someone who might want to be on that list, please let us know. We can send out the regular sized print or a large print version.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Updated April 26, 2017

Continuing Concerns

Jan Anderson and family
Lisa Beard

Cathy Davis
Amy DeStefano

Joan Keech
Lyle Webb

Friends and Family

Denota Deshamps, niece of Melodie Chapman

Norma Estrada, friend of Rosalie Churchil

Karen Metrolis, wife of Frank Metrolisl

Rita Rozek, mother of Tamara Rozek

Amir Taghizad, friend fo Russ JohnsonThe family of Liva Webb

Dana and Mark Wise, brothers of Tara Wise

Our Soldiers in Service

Peter Clark, Army
Damon Doyle, Marines

Joe Freda, Jr., Navy
Becky Resendes, Army

Eli Sewell, Navy

Homebound Friends and Family

Al Coyle

Carolyn Harvey

Norma Lang

Marjorie Little

Victor and Helen Tine

THE MONTH AHEAD

Friday, May 5th

12:00–5:00 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, May 6th

9:00–11:00 am

CPR & AED Training

Saturday, May 13th

8:30 am -1:30 pm
Annual Adopt-A-Block Workday

5:00 pm
Mother/Daughter Banquet

Monday, May 15th
5:30 pm
Trustees

Tuesday, May 16th
6:00 pm
Daughters of Eve

Wednesday, May 17th
5:30 pm
Church Council

Sunday, May 21st
11:30 am (right after Worship Service)
Youth Group departs for hike on Mt. Agamenticus

Tuesday, May 23rd
Newsletter Deadline

Monday, May 29th
Memorial Day - Office Closed
