

Morrill Baptist Church
Annual Reports
2017



Annual Business Meeting
February 18, 2018

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Annual Business Meeting Agenda

February 18, 2018

- Call to order by the moderator (The moderator will have been chosen prior to this meeting by the Elder Board)
- Determination of at least a quorum of 25 MBC members present
- Opening Prayer
- Reading of the 2/27/17 Annual Business Meeting minutes: Vote to amend or accept minutes as presented.
- Presentation/Question/Answer of the 2017 ministry reports, the treasurer's report for the past year's expenditure record and 2018 budget proposal.
- Written OFFICIAL ballot distribution (designated by color of paper used for this year's ballot)/voting time (Members MUST be present to vote)
- Pastor Jim will share ministry overview remarks for the coming year (Ballots will be tallied at this time)
- Presentation of the voting results
- Closing /adjourn in prayer

Morrill Baptist Church Ballot

(SAMPLE ONLY – DO NOT USE FOR VOTING)

For church member use at the Annual Business Meeting, February 18, 2018

(Snow date: February 25, 2018)

Please indicate your choice by marking with either a ✓ or X in the “yes” or “no” spaces.

Election/Voting Section

ELDERS:

Jake O’Jala (3-year term): YES_____ NO_____

Walter Woods (3-year term): YES_____ NO_____

OFFICERS:

Church Treasurer, (one-year term): Susan Thompson YES_____ NO_____

Assistant Treasurer, (one-year term): Todd Greeley YES_____ NO_____

Church Clerk: (one-year term): Susan Greeley YES_____ NO_____

2018 BUDGET APPROVAL: YES_____ NO_____

Pastor Jim's Report

There is so much that happens in a whole year that I could fill a book, but in this report, I simply want to highlight some *stories* and some *strategies*.

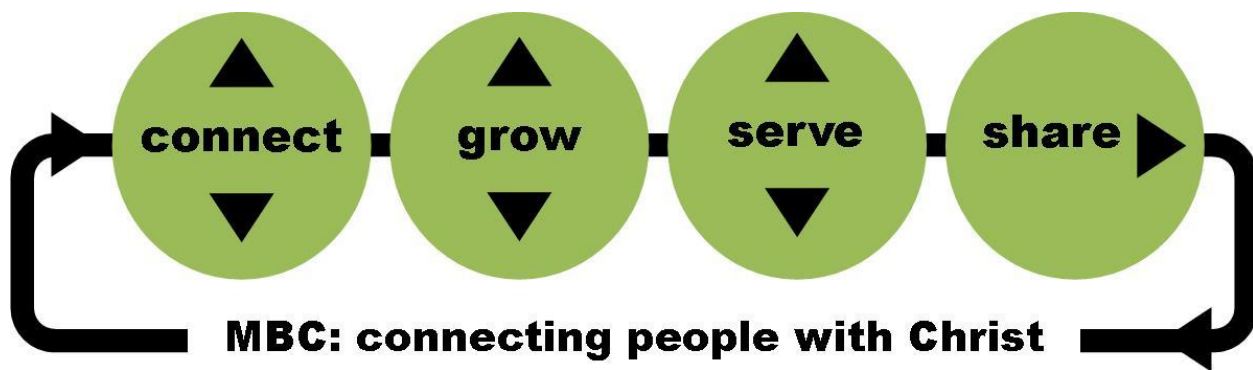
The Stories

There are so many directions a pastor can go with stories, and I don't want to violate anyone's confidence, so I might not share some names. This past year saw the joy of lives coming together through marriage – a couple of younger couples (notably Lyndon and Mariah, Caleb and Kayla, Richie and Stephanie), as well as one older couple. There were new babies, lots of baptisms (for us), and salvaged marriages. I can tell you the story of Jared whom the Lord marvelously drew to himself and how their home is now being centered around Christ. I can tell you of two co-workers and how one brought the other to faith in Christ, and both are plugged into our church and growing deeper. I can tell you of some rocky marriages that the Lord has preserved. I can tell you about young people going to places like Word of Life, Ellerslie Institute, Lancaster Bible College, and Liberty University (and this includes not just young people, but even some older ones, as well). You can look on the stage and see the wonderful blend of youthfulness, ethnicity, and splendid agedness. You don't know how hard the worship team has worked at not only music, but on relationships – and it really shows. I can tell you about the joy of seeing more and more people stop and pray together. I can tell you about the funerals, and not just those inside the church family, but how this church has also ministered to the broader community through helping with a fundraiser and ministering to various families in their times of grief. As a church, you bought a car for a single mom and you sent a man to Arise Drug Rehab. There have been numerous conversations and consultations. God has worked in so very many ways! Last year, by faith, you set a budget and gave the funds to not only meet it, but to surpass it and we hired a full-time associate whose impact has been immeasurable.

Not only are there stories that inspire, but there are also stories that sadden. Not all marriages have survived. There are still situations where relationships need healing. People are still being plagued with the things that plague people on the earth, things like cancer and other disease. People have lost jobs. People have lost loved ones. People still hurt. But all these stories of the good and the bad are what the church is made of. We are called to do life together, to trust God together, to serve together, to pray together, to study together, to laugh together, and to cry together. All of this has been a part of the story of this past year. What stories will God create through our lives and our church in the coming year? It will be exciting to see!

The Strategies

The Christian life is both one of trusting in the Lord and of working for Him and with Him. We can't just sit back and wait for something to happen. We must seek God's face, understand God's disciple-making plan, and look for His guidance for what He would have us do. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) reminds us that "*The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*" We must do our part in the strategy and execution of the work, and the Lord does His part. We work together with God and with one another. A year ago, we laid out the following pathway to try to lay a chart for how we would function. It helped us make some choices about things we would do and things we wouldn't do. That basic pathway is as follows:



In keeping with that Disciple-making Pathway we worked to improve our **CONNECTIONS** with people – more and bigger outreach events like a full-house for an *Exit 244* concert; Rock the Flock which saw about 300 people and nearly \$3000 raised for *Teen Challenge*; nearly 300 attended the *Scott Davis Comedy Outreach*; approximately 1200 came out for *Trunk or Treat*; and approximately 450 attended Christmas Eve services. We held more consistent Meet-n-Eat luncheons, made faster personal connection with people who have visited our church, and quicker invitation to attend our *MBC 101 Workshop*. We saw 29 people baptized. We took in 20 new members and 4 younger associate members. Many people attended the summer-long MBC201 Spiritual Disciplines and Formation Workshop, and another group completed the MBC301 SHAPE course. In all of this, people grew and the church grew. In the coming year, we would like to see each of our 101, 201, 301 and 401 classes, workshops, and retreats held more frequently.

I would like to be able to say that we saw deeper growth through groups and workshops, but we are just now getting the Life Applications up and going. Our numbers have significantly increased, but in the coming year, we know we need to turn our attention toward deeper growth, better care, and learning the art of personal evangelism.

We have necessarily carved some things from our schedule, and we are learning to do smaller meals (it is really hard to fit everyone in for potlucks and church-wide meals) in the form of classes, Dinners 8, homogeneous groupings, and small groups. I am convinced that our core focus must be kept on the area of developing our weekend worship services, developing our small group ministry, and equipping people – particularly through the Stephen Ministry. Linda McIntire is now serving in a full-time volunteer capacity as the Director of Congregational Care. Her main responsibility is developing care within the body through meals, cards, visitation, and further development of high-touch ministries like Grief Share, Hospital and Home visitation teams, and building a team of lay counselors. Walter Woods is lending his assistance to the development and oversight of Life Application Groups (which could also be a full-time position). As we consider the sheer importance of the weekend ministries, full-time devotion could be given to overseeing worship and children's ministries (we see between 50 and 70 kids go downstairs each week, not to mention the nursery ministry and the mid-week outreach). Teachers need to be recruited and trained, parents need to be coached, and there is always plenty of planning work to do, and there is simply making sure that the environment each week is just right, plus helping with follow-up of new people. Pastor Caleb's oversight will increasingly be in these areas. With nearly 500 people now calling MBC home in some capacity, Care is a HUGE aspect of ministry need. The position in which Linda is volunteering this year could and should easily be another full-time position. The same can be said of Life Application Groups – recruiting, training, organizing, and connecting new people into groups could easily be a full-time ministry. This focused attention will help us to be **HIGH-TOUCH** within our congregation and beyond.

We need to continue to utilize **technology** to strengthen ministry. The REALM CONNECT computer and phone application will really help us to communicate better as everyone gradually gets on board with it. We need to continue to use Facebook and Text capabilities to communicate both internally and externally. We need to get on top of our video ministry as more and more people are connecting with our live feed and video at their homes, both locally and around the globe. We need to be the best at being **HIGH-TECH** that we can be as it is a powerful vehicle for ministry. We need to also continue with the technical development of both our weekend worship services and our children's ministry. Stage lighting and finishing sound system projects both upstairs and downstairs figure into that plan. On top of those components, we are also planning to paint and do some further decor work to keep our facilities attractive.

As we move forward, our goal is to have children's ministry available for both services. Some other changes within children's ministry may need to happen in order to put our focus on what seems to be a very productive aspect of our ministry. Obviously, we will need more teachers if this is to be a possibility, but who wouldn't want to be a part of something as vibrant as our Sunday Morning Children's Ministry? A further brainstorm that some of us are talking about is transforming the fellowship hall into *The Children's Ministry Center* and hopefully see our weekend discipleship of children expand to 100 kids, complete with their own music and teaching that leaves them so excited that they can't wait to get to church every week!

In order to make all of this happen, it is necessary that we continue the development of **TEAMS** of people who are serving the Lord in the areas He has fitted each one for – those good works He prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Teams will need training and development, and a good portion of the work we will need to do is in equipping folks for the works of ministry that are ahead of us (Ephesians 4:11-12). The next page provides an overview of the new TEAM structure in which we are trying to work. We must have **highly functioning TEAMS**.

Lastly, **TRUTH**. God's Word must always be the center of what we do. We must continue to grow deeper roots through study, through small groups, through classes, workshops, seminars, and retreats. Truth must also make its way into our inner parts, so by speaking of truth we also mean mutual authenticity and accountability. We must be truthful about ourselves with ourselves and with each other. We can't pretend we don't have problems if we really do. We need to learn to speak the truth in love to one another in order that we may build each other up in Christ (Ephesians 4:15,25).

Well, there you have it – *Stories and Strategies*. The past 170 years of this church have left an eternal impact on countless lives. May the coming year be the best and most fruitful year yet as we improve upon the fundamentals of **High-Touch, High-Tech, High-Teams, and High-Truth!**

Humbly and Gratefully,

Pastor Jim Culbertson

Congregation											
Elders											
Senior Pastor											
Administrative Pastor	Youth		Worship		Finance		Safety & Security		Office Administrator		Kitchen
	Building/ Grounds	Children	Outreach/ Events						Congregational Care	Adult Discipleship	
	Building	Kids' Konnect	Crisis Response	Worship Team			Security		Grief	Men's	
	Janitorial	Kids' SUPER Club	Evangelism	Audio/ Visual			Medical		Communication	Women's	
	Grounds	Nursery	Event Staff	Technical/ Video			Fire		Meals	Small Groups	
			Missions	Front Door			Parking		Visitation	Counseling	
				Prayer Team			Transportation		Practical Needs	MBC Series	
							Background Checks		Benevolence		

Elder Board Report

Another busy year of ministry is now in the “record books” and there is much for which to praise the Lord! This report addresses some of the highlights of accomplishments for which glory to the Lord belongs.

Earlier this year, the elevator system, which has been planned for some time, was completed and fully State-of-Maine certified for operation. Along with the necessary renovating for it to be installed, some needed wiring and lighting was completed in the elevator area, as well as in different locations within the building. New EXIT signage was installed during this process. Significant monetary donations, through large and smaller gifts, as well as a LOT of donated time and materials have enabled this work to be done. As of this writing, new sinks and associated hardware have been installed in the lower level restrooms. A drinking fountain is part of these plans, to be installed in the open fellowship hall area between the two restrooms, if possible.

A Toyota Prius was purchased this past year for Pastor Jim to utilize in both ministry and personal transportation needs.

Pastor Jim, as well as a number of MBC’s younger, higher-education students, received some financial assistance through scholarship or direct gift funding. It’s exciting to see people go on for schooling to prepare further for what the Lord may have in store for their future!

Through MBC’s Camp Scholarship Fund, ten young people were enabled to attend Camp Good News this past summer.

In August, the Lord enabled Pastor Beni Indru, his wife, Gratiela, and youngest child, Levi, to visit MBC and a number of its people. Beni was able to meet some area pastors, as well. He gave a ministry report/update regarding our sister church, Efrata, in Lugoj, Romania. Most of the construction work, as of this writing, has been completed, meeting construction permit requirements! Continued prayer and financial support are needed in the days ahead as the Lord’s work in ministering the Gospel there goes forward.

A welcomed, new gym entrance door and ramp were installed this past fall. Brian Rollerson’s Eagle Scout project was the focus of this project and several people volunteered both time and materials to see this work completed. It all looks great!

This past year, another significant project was completed – the re-shingling of most of the parsonage roof – a job which needed tending to soon. The Lord graciously provided for this work to be done, as well.

A special monetary gift was received by MBC this past fall and is being earmarked for a heat pump installation project to occur in the auditorium area, all in the Lord’s timing.

Numerous ministry venues have either continued or are being planned. One of them, called the Stephen Ministry, is in the beginning stages of development. There will be more information to come regarding this undertaking, which will be an important part of caring for one another within the fellowship and beyond.

Vibrant ministries include: Kids’ Konnect, which has dedicated teachers and helpers working with the younger MBC population; Kids’ SPUER Club – the Wednesday night outreach program; young adults’

ministry (ABIDE); Life Application Groups (some of which are just in recent weeks getting underway); Bible study groups, (men's ministry and M & M's – Marys and Marthas - as well as ladies' book/Bible studies from time to time); Divorce Care; Youth Group; a HUGE Trunk or Treat effort, etc. A well-received outreach ministry conducted in late September was the Scott Davis comedy program. Many people attended. The Christmas Eve services were well-attended, as well, particularly the earlier one. Some 450 +/- people were in attendance. For several months, from summer into the fall, monthly concert of prayer meetings were conducted in various churches and at Camp Fair Haven, upholding in prayer various facets of ministries, government officials, and the people of our county, state and nation as the Gospel is carried forth in word and deed. Through these means and the faithful Biblical teaching/preaching by Pastor Jim, a number of people have come to know Christ as Savior, and people have been growing/developing in walking with the Lord. We are VERY blessed to have Pastors Jim and Caleb serving the Lord and the people of MBC and beyond with their dedicated ministry efforts! We are also GREATLY appreciative of the work of Office Administrator, Becky Woods – and ALL the people who serve in the church's ministries, venues which may be “seen” and many more that are “unseen.” The Lord knows of each one's efforts, and we pray that each one involved will continue to be richly blessed by our Lord. Let us all continue in faithful – and the very vital - prayer support of all facets of MBC ministry.

This report is not exhaustive, by any means, in discussing MBC ministry endeavors. As noted, there is “unseen,” behind-the-scenes work that continues – including a great deal of meal preparation, security team work, preparation for sermon, worship team and lesson presentations, office work, gardening, year-round buildings and grounds-keeping, maintenance and cleaning, bookkeeping, transportation, multiple ministry efforts by Caleb, Pastor and others. The Elder Board wishes to convey appreciation and a big THANK YOU to ALL who are involved with work which enhances ministry and service for the Lord. May the Lord continue to bless you and HIS work here at MBC!

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin H. Greeley, Chairman

Other Board Members:

Pastor Jim Culbertson, Chris O'Jala, Michael Paige, Dean Rowlands, and David Sheldon

ABIDE (Young Adult) Ministry Report

2017 was successful and we saw an increased number of “usuals”. As a quick history recap: our group started in 2015 with ~20 people that were “passionate” (read *hyped*), but quickly fizzled out to around 5 usuals in 2016. Many dropped off: lost interest, work, school, family, etc. I was constantly hounded to disband or reintegrate the group into other studies and fellowships. I refused, as this continues the ~three-year proverbial cycle of “*we need a study for adults that are out of high school, but not married yet. But let’s cancel it after a year and try to integrate with another successful group*”.

The consistency and general comradery seems to have aided in establishing an uptick in “usuals” for our group. As well as rebranding our name from “Young Adult Bible Study” [*which, as a footnote, was more of a description*] to “Abide”, our group maintained a consistent ~10 usuals for the 2017 year. We continue to operate without any funding. All events or extra-curricular activities are funded by each individual. We meet weekly in the church’s basement on Mondays; previously in Peterson Hall as well as the Culbertson parsonage.

As a Bible study, our primary focus is studying the Bible, going chapter by chapter through books. However, as a secondary focus, we’ve been prone to meet and plan fellowship activities during the warmer months to help build a sense of unity in the group. The O’Jala’s even opened their home to us for a Christmas party. I believe fellowship activities help provide a more comfortable atmosphere, between members, during our studies.

We studied:

- Mark
- Daniel
- Ezra

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Nate Flachsbart

Children's Ministry Report

Sunday Morning Kids' Connect

Our Sunday morning Kid's Konnect program has been very exciting this past year. After taking a break for the summer months of 2017, the program kicked back off with almost double its teaching staff. The following teachers continued to serve: Becky Macom, Wendy-Jo Culbertson, Tisha Larrabee, Justin Middleton with the assistance of his daughters Skylee and Emilee, and Sue Greeley with the recent addition of a 7th and 8th grade class which started in January of 2018. The following teachers were added to the teaching team: Heather and Jamie Potvin, James and Katie Greeley, and Amy Keller.

The leadership has opted to recycle the Answers in Genesis curriculum. This curriculum has been well-liked by students, teachers, and parents for its theological depth and family-friendly nature. Kid's Konnect is a curriculum which has previously taken four years to complete because of the summer break. Looking forward, we hope to accomplish the curriculum in its three-year cycle by following the full twelve-month children's curriculum. The Summer schedule has revealed holes in the security, consistency, and direction of the program leaving students, parents, and teachers sometimes frustrated and confused – all things that will be addressed in the 12-month plan versus the former 9/3 plan we have followed.

Preliminary discussions are underway regarding future direction as our church adapts to a multi-service culture. Your prayers and input are valued by Pastor Caleb and by Jamie Potvin, the newly appointed Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Director.

Wednesday Night Kids SUPER Club

The Wednesday Night outreach to kids who are pre-k through 8th grade over the past few years has ministered to over 150 different kids. Kids are brought to our church for a tasty meal and participation in the CEF Gospel club program. The impact of cultural shift of diminished respect and appreciation is felt more deeply every year, and this year has been very intense; yet, these kids need the Gospel of Jesus and caring adults who will mentor them. We are aware that there are families within our church who opt to not bring their kids because the environment can be chaotic as some kids become disruptive. This fact is troubling to us! How can we better manage kids who don't want to be managed, and how can we make it a winning environment in which our church families will want their kids involved? Can we accomplish both?

We are wrestling with the nature of the program and if the Big Club environment is still the most effective means to both reach AND disciple kids. There have been a lot of volunteers from both inside and outside of our church the past several years, and we are immensely grateful for everyone who has served in this ministry. Pray for the leadership as we seek to finish this year strong, and as we evaluate the best possible direction ahead.

Nursery Ministry

Children are a HUGE part of MBC's ministry, and that includes having the availability of a nursery to care for our youngest while their parents are nurtured and challenged. We must thank the many volunteers who serve our families in this vital ministry. We especially thank Wanda Cooper for continuing to coordinate volunteers and calling them with reminders each week. It seems a thankless job, but we are Immensely Grateful!

Pastor Jim & Pastor Caleb

Congregational Care Ministry Report

Stephen Ministry

In November 2017, Morrill Baptist Church enrolled in Stephen Ministries. Linda McIntire attended a Stephen Ministry leadership training course in Orlando, Florida from January 7th to the 13th. 302 participants came from across the U.S. and Canada to learn to how to implement and direct Stephen Ministry, a system of Christian Caregiving, in their congregations.

Stephen Ministry will give MBC an effective way to train and organize our members to provide one-on-one Christian Care to individuals struggling with a crisis like grief, divorce, loneliness, relocation, hospitalization, a terminal illness, or unemployment. The need for this type of care in our congregation greatly exceeds what our pastors alone can provide. All Christians are called to care for and love one another. By equipping our laypeople, we can help them fulfill their calling as Christians and expand the amount of caring ministry available through Morrill Baptist, not only to our own congregation, but also our community.

In 2018, one of Linda's next steps with Stephen Ministry is to recruit, select, and train members of our congregation to be Stephen Ministers, the ones who will provide one-to-one confidential care. After the initial 50 hours of training she will do with the Stephen Ministers selected, she will provide them with ongoing supervision and continuing education bi-monthly.

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist in St. Louis, Missouri, trained parishioners to help meet the needs for care in his congregation. The ministry was so successful that other congregations became interested and Haugk founded the Stephen Ministries organization. More than one-and-a-half million people have received the formal care of a Stephen Minister, and millions more have been touched in an informal way.

Grief

Along with a personal visit and offer of a Stephen Minister for the grieving individual, this year Linda will implement a resource called JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF, four short booklets to send to grieving people at four significant times in their process. Each booklet provides valuable and timely information about grief, and the multiple contacts will help the grieving person feel valued and remembered by our congregation all year long.

Meal Ministry

Morrill Baptist Church meal ministry continues to be a valuable support and a tangible way for our congregation to show love to others within the congregation in need. This ministry is led by Heather Potvin who continues to provide excellent leadership. Heather also implemented a website to increase efficiency and visibility of the ongoing needs and those that can support them.

Communication

Since the beginning of November, we have initiated weekly cards with handwritten notes, in addition to our meal ministry, to the sick and hospitalized in our congregation. We also send bi-monthly encouragement cards to a man who the church is supporting through drug rehabilitation. Handwritten thank-you notes and encouragement cards will be ongoing this year for our staff, Sunday School teachers, small group leaders and Stephen Ministers.

College and Military Care

In May, we will begin our first church-wide campaign for our college and military members. We want this ministry to be intentional and personal. Intentional by finding their favorite cookies, crackers, candy, and treats to send them. Personal by involving the congregation in making or buying these treats and by writing personal encouragement notes to be tucked into the "finals" packages.

Dinners Eight

Starting in January, we provided sign up for the new DINNERS EIGHT potluck program. It's three-fold purpose is to meet new people in the congregation, make new friendships, and deepen already existing relationships.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McIntire

Crisis Response Team Report

The 2017 team consisted of the following; Lori and Aaron Littlefield, Sue Thompson, Bill and Lisa Gillespie, Jayne Sullivan, and Pat Scribner.

As I reflect on this year's activities, I want to thank the church body for making the CRT a priority. Many in the congregation gave of their time and money to help in many situations in addition to the team's efforts.

Because of the sensitivity of each crisis, I can only report of the ways in which we helped to alleviate the pressures and difficulties. In many situations, we gave food or food cards to people who just needed a helping hand in a moment of acute need. We paid a car repair for one, helped with the cost of a funeral for another. Others needed wood or a rebuilding of their dwelling to keep it warm for winter weather. In all, we were called upon to meet our mission statement and I hope we accomplished that.

We still maintain a small inventory of household appliances, bedding products, and non-perishable food items. If anyone knows of a crisis need, please call someone on the response team listed above.

I leave you with this:

Mission statement:

The mission of the Morrill Baptist Church Crisis Response Team is to help the church meet needs and share God's love to families and individuals in our community and/or abroad who have found themselves in crisis. A crisis is defined as: a time of intense difficulty, trouble or danger.

Goal Statement:

In following the Bible, we aim to help the widows, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, and help those in immediate need. The purpose of our plan is to provide all we can within the resources we contain, and to point those in need in the direction of outside resources. We exist to develop, empower, and release the church to share God's love in tangible ways in times of immediate crises. The team will remember that our mission is to assist those who are in immediate crisis in facing serious trouble or danger. The team will prayerfully use discretion on how we will respond to each individual situation and use the resources the Lord provides to the best of our abilities.

Services:

This team will try to respond and react and provide valuable services to those needs we are led to act upon and have the resources available to do so. Included but not always limited to: provision of food, water, personal care products, diapers, clothing, firewood, emergency prescription assistance, home repair, and physical labor. Financially we are unable to provide money for tax assistance, regular monthly bills and payments. Keeping our mission in mind, all our services are prayerfully considered, and discernment is used to determine our ability to help each situation.

Sincerely submitted,
Pat Scribner for the team

Life Application Group Report

Matthew 8:20

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

It has been a wild ride, but we finally have some of the Life Application Groups up and running. We have such a diverse group of people in a geographical sense that it was and is hard to form the groups. On top of that, we all lead such busy lives that finding a common time to meet is also a struggle for that various groups.

These groups have been formed to, for the most part, include families and people in various stages of life. This allows younger families with children to interact with individuals and couples that have no children at home. It is the prayerful hope that we all build lasting and trusting relationships from which the young children observe, learn, and grow.

We are on the move, but we still have a long way to go and we realize that with the growth of our church it will be an ongoing process to “plug” people into groups and for new groups to be started. As yet, we have a couple groups without leaders; we are working diligently to get these groups up and running.

In the meantime, thank you for your patience and understanding.

In Christ,
Walter Woods

Missions Team Report

Members of the Missions Team are Susan Greeley, Valerie McHugh, Michael Paige, Nancy Sampson, and Susan Thompson. We haven't met every month as there haven't been pressing issues to discuss. However, we do communicate via e-mail and phone often enough to conduct business. Sometimes, polling is done by the Chairman to see if there is unanimity in business matters and in those cases, the recorded minutes of phone conversations, or face-to-face conversations are entered into the official record of Team business. In the summer of 2017, members received a request from Patrick Thayer for funds to help defray the cost of working with Milton and Wendy Higgins during the summer months instead of a "regular" job. The Team approved giving him a gift of \$1000. Members also approved giving Zachary Greeley a gift of \$110 to attend Christian Youth in Action.

In August, we received word that Beni and Gratiela Indru would be coming to the States and hoped to visit Morrill Baptist while they were here. The Mission Team approved giving Wendy Higgins \$981 to purchase airplane tickets for the Indrus and their youngest child, Levi, to help them travel from Virginia to New England and then on to Chicago. It was wonderful to have the Indrus here and have the opportunity for so many folks to meet with them. Their initial airline tickets were purchased by a friend of theirs who lives in California now, but grew up in Romania. The Indrus were able to connect with him and to visit with one of Gratiela's sisters who lives in the Atlanta area. In the fall, Patrick Thayer relayed his intentions of working with the Neighborhood House for the upcoming year. He needed support and the Mission Team voted to give him \$100 per month, retroactive to September and continuing through August 2018.

We also gave each of our missionaries, and family members who were living at home, gifts of \$50 per person as Christmas gifts. We are anticipating an increase in the support level of each of our missionaries in the next few months. This increase will come about because the total mission budget for last year was less than 25% of the total church budget. Beni Indru had made it known to us in December that the powers that be in Lugoj had told him that his paperwork was completed for Efrata Church's construction permitting process and that he was to submit photos of certain work details completed by certain dates, but they were not going to require any further paperwork from him. Beni had saved every document for the last 12 years related to the construction of Efrata and it was a huge blessing to be able to produce the documents when he met with the authorities. There is still a need of about \$50,000 to complete the work, but the Lord has steadily supplied through his people for the needs, one at a time. Beni is eager to get on with the church work as it involves evangelizing and building stronger believers. The construction has been long and draining of human energy, but God has been faithful, and they recognize that fact. This past year, we entertained some of our missionaries who live far away. The Gudinos were here last winter for a Sunday. Dave and Shirley are here now. Noni Smith was home for six months, but is back in U.A.E. now. Ruth Shive went to be with the Lord in April after a nine-year journey with cancer.

Please pray for our missionaries. A weekly prayer list is generated to keep you updated and some of you are on Facebook with them. There is no greater partnership in which we can invest than that of helping those who reach others with the Gospel in places all over the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan N. Greeley, Chairman and Secretary

Worship Team Ministry Report

In January 2017, MBC's Worship Team entered its thirteenth official year of ministry. In reviewing previous reports and events to prepare for this year's update, I found it amazing that one particular truth clearly stood out: God was faithful! We say we believe this; of course, it is foundational to our faith, but to look back and actually see how much we have experienced it in this ministry through every circumstance, every experience, every challenge, every year is such an encouraging testimony of His grace. It is what maintains our perseverance throughout the peaks and valleys that naturally come with worship ministry. This past year was no exception. God demonstrated His patience and love for us over and over again. It is His ministry, and He was the One ultimately in control, despite all our planning, practices, and participation. ONLY by and through His strength were we "made perfect" in our weaknesses! If we made worship selfishly about us on any particular week, or attempted any service in our flesh, and not by His Spirit (never intentionally, I pray), He lovingly let us know, and guided us back to proper focus. This ministry is an incredibly humbling and challenging responsibility and offering ourselves as vessels through which the Holy Spirit anoints and inspires the leading of our church body in the holy calling of worship has remained our primary goal and passion each year. Lord willing, we will continue to define our team's focus as long He allows us to serve Him!

In 2017, the team remained devoted to finding and working on the best worship music out there - music with lyrics that express honor, adoration, and reverence to our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is our utmost passion and challenge to lead hearts and minds to deeper growth and holy moments of experiencing God's presence through songs of joy, introspection, challenge, and yes, sometimes even just plain fun, too. With all our varied music, the ultimate intention is to draw the focus away from ourselves and this life's worries, and to redirect it to the Only One worthy of our praise and honor - the Only One Who gives us life and hope! There are many discussions, articles and opinions about worship routinely circulating in the worldwide Christian community that we often must navigate as a team, and at times, it can seem overwhelming. My prayer is that we persevere, and never lose sight of the sheer, simple joy God intended for us in the experience of expressing our love for Him through worship. I would like to make this statement on behalf of our current planning team – Caleb Larrabee, Karmyn Flachsbart, Gabrielle LaGross, and myself: we take this responsibility very seriously, and do passionately strive in our planning to create worship sets that are genuine, deep, and inspiring. I am personally very impressed with the spiritual maturity the young people on our team demonstrate as they seek to honor Christ in this ministry, and it is a privilege to serve with them.

Reporting the highlights for the Worship Team in 2017 should definitely start with the most appreciated: the privilege to have led some of the most amazing worship services throughout the year, with several great new songs added to the sets. The Easter celebration on April 16th was one of the most powerful services I've ever witnessed at MBC, as many baptisms were part of the worship experience that day. Christmas Eve was also incredible, with two service celebration times, 4 PM and 9 PM. We thoroughly enjoyed those awesome worship experiences, but honestly, just as appreciated were the tough times as well, when we were in the valleys of spiritual warfare. God taught us so much through all the seasons of growth, and it deepened our dependence on Him. He was testing us to be faithful in all circumstances, and we were so grateful for such rich experiences that stretched and strengthened us as a team.

Other highlights for the year featured welcoming the following guest worship leaders for Sunday morning services: the Exit 244 Band, which included our own talented MBC sound man, George Gallagher on February 26th; the Spencer's, a musical family ministry touring New England from the Midwest - Jim, Nicci, and their thirteen children on July 9th; and another gifted family ministry team

from our own church body -- Chris, Heather, and Jordan Quimby, on August 6th and 13th. We were so grateful to have had the opportunity to be blessed by these worship ministry teams and look forward to hosting other potential guests in 2018!

Over the summer and fall months, we faced many challenging changes due to some significant losses and gains of team members. Each time there was a change, it meant starting afresh musically in many cases, developing new dynamics with new musicians and vocalists. But again, I especially emphasize that God was faithful in carrying us through these times of adjustment. In June, the team grew as we welcomed Claire Fuller and John Stephens on board, both coming with experience as musicians and involvement with other worship teams elsewhere. We experimented with expanding into two rotating weekly teams with the additional musicians, but this proved to be short lived, as we sadly said goodbye to two of our veteran team members, Marion Johnson and Adam Littlefield. Marion left in August to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, an anticipated move for which plans were established well ahead of time for her sister, Krissy, to step into her vocal position after she left. Adam, on the other hand, who had been training as our Worship Leader and serving with the team since he was twelve, started pursuing the possibility of going to Bible college in July. God led and opened the doors for him, and he left in September for Word of Life Bible Institute in Pottersville, NY. This was a huge and unexpected adjustment for us, but God demonstrated His faithfulness once more in meeting our needs by bringing us our very own Intern Administrative Pastor, Caleb Larrabee, who stepped out of the sound booth and other Sunday morning responsibilities and onto the stage to join our vocal team, a role for which he had extensive talent, training and experience. God also brought us Gabrielle LaGross, another gifted vocalist, who had much experience and insight, having previously served on worship teams at Camp Fair Haven and in her home church. Another enormous change for our team and for our whole church, which resulted after a churchwide meeting on worship music preferences in June, was the expansion into two Sunday morning worship services in October - a traditional service at 8 AM, followed by a contemporary service at 10:15 AM. It was and continues to be prayerfully hoped that this two-service format will result in future growth as we seek to accommodate the varied tastes and styles of worship music within our church body and surrounding area. In December, we were excited to welcome back Kameron Culbertson and Nate Flachsbart, who both had stepped away from the team for a season. Currently, John Stephens is also taking some time away, but we are hopeful he will someday be able to share his gifts with us once again. So along with the many changes that have taken place this past year within our team and church, there have been multiple challenges to face, but I can again point to our faithful God, and praise His holy name with gratefulness for His care over us!

Volumes of gratitude and appreciation would be inadequate to express to each member for their faithful dedication to MBC's worship ministry. It is a huge commitment to be available for weekly involvement year-round, plus rehearsal times, and we are so grateful for all their hard work and service! Our current team includes: Kameron Culbertson, Karmyn and Nate Flachsbart, Claire Fuller, George and Jamie Gallagher, Ed Greeley, Kristine Johnson, Gabrielle LaGross, Caleb Larrabee, John Stephens (currently taking a sabbatical), Sue Thompson, and yours truly, Candis Scribner. For the traditional service, we especially want to thank Roger Rowlands for stepping into the worship leader role and using his many musical gifts for serving in that ministry! Special thanks also go to Ed Greeley, who is literally staying "keyed up", doing double duty right now, playing the organ for both services! And of course, many, many thanks especially go to Pastor Jim as well, our Worship Team's overseeing shepherd and elder, who gives us much needed guidance and direction! It is his leadership, vision, and creativity that inspires and challenges us to greater heights and possibilities for the future at MBC! Finally, to Marion and Adam, we wish to express our gratefulness and appreciation for their dedicated years of service and

pray that God may continue to use their incredible gifts and talents for His kingdom, and who knows, maybe even lead them back to us someday, God willing.

Please continue to pray for this ministry as 2018 will, no doubt, bring more changes and challenges, but our vision for this ministry will remain the same: great music, inspiring worship, changed hearts and lives!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Candis Scribner

Youth Ministry Report

Our purpose and mission this year in youth group was to build a relationship with these teens, to disciple them and help them to grow in the Lord and serve God and serve others.

We have seen relationships grow toward us as we seek to relate to the kids and be available:

- A shy, quiet gal offering up a hug to me,
- A few of the quiet, reserved kids cracking jokes and relating,
- Teenager sometimes hanging out at the house having fun with the kids.

The kids are very faithful to youth group. Even if we have an event on Saturday night, they still want to do the regular youth group on Sunday. This always involves a Bible lesson with them for at least an hour and they always want to be there.

We did things this year in the fun department - learning and serving! For fun, we went to many floor hockey events at Fair Haven, a teen Nerf event, ice cream at Sweet Frogs, and more. We have been more involved with youth events from Fair Haven, so the kids can get to know local Christian teens and be an encouragement to each other. We have purchased tickets for Casting Crowns coming soon!

In the serving department, we did a mission fundraising dinner for Guatemala. We did work on Pastor's yard. They did a GREAT job on a HUGE amount of wood for the Stephensons. Some of them also did individual jobs such as cleaning and wood on their own.

In the learning department, we are learning about the existence of God, the atheist's view and what they "believe", and how we can stand up for our faith!

This has been a great group of kids. We have had three new people join this year who are very consistent and involved. We look forward to watching them grow this coming year and pray God can use us in their lives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank and Kristy Marsh

Financial Reports

2017 Budget vs Expense Summary

**Budgeted Totals
for FY '17**

[illegible]

Not included in the amounts above:

In April the final payment was made for the elevator installation in the amount of \$6023.57.

In April the following total was spent toward the Guatemala short term missions trip of \$3885.32

In August the parsonage roof project was paid in full in the amount of \$7890.82

In August an amount of \$2081.83 was raised from Rock the Flock event and given to Teen Challenge.

In September a gift of a car was given by MBC to meet a need in the amount of \$3000.00

In September \$5000.00 was set aside out of the general fund into the Vision Readiness Fund

In October \$1020.00 was given in sponsorship monies to Arise to underwrite costs associated with someone going through this addiction recovery program

In December \$1200 was given as Christmas gifts to MBC supported missionaries and their immediate family members

2. The first two conditions are satisfied by the following functions:

Morrill Baptist Church 2018 Budget Summary

Senior Pastor		Audio Visual/ Music/Outreach	
Salary	\$44,500.00	Concerts/Events	\$5,000.00
Ministry Auto/Mileage	\$3,000.00	Equipment	\$5,000.00
Professional Development	\$4,800.00	Total AV/Music/Outreach	\$10,000.00
Retirement	\$4,800.00		
Parsonage Value*		Congregational Care	\$2,000.00
(a non-compensatory benefit of \$14,400)			
Senior Pastor package	\$57,100.00	Transportation	
		White Van	\$2,000.00
Administrative Pastor		Blue Van	\$2,000.00
Salary	\$31,200.00	Bus	\$2,000.00
Payroll taxes	\$2,400.00	Total Transporation	\$6,000.00
Retirement	\$1,200.00		
Educational Assistance	\$5,200.00	Children's Ministry	
Administrative Pastor package	\$40,000.00	Wednesday Kids' SUPER Club	\$1,000.00
		Sunday Kids' Konnect	\$1,000.00
Other Staff		Total Children's Ministry	\$2,000.00
Children's Ministry	\$5,200.00		
Office/Administration	\$7,800.00	Young Adult (Abide)/Youth Group	\$1,500.00
Janitorial	\$13,000.00		
Payroll Taxes	\$2,200.00	Scholarships	
Casual Labor	\$2,500.00	Camp	\$2,000.00
Other Staff total	\$30,700.00	Higher Education	\$4,000.00
		Total Scholarships	\$6,000.00
Payroll Management Fee	\$600.00		
		Kitchen/Hospitality Ministry	\$12,000.00
Total Staff Compensation	\$128,400.00		
		Adult Ministry	\$2,000.00
Total Missions	\$76,300.00		
		Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Insurance			
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$2,000.00	Total 2018 Budget	<u>\$305,700.00</u>
Church Facilities Package	\$5,300.00		
Automobile	\$1,700.00	Vision-Readiness Fund Goal	\$10,000.00
Total Insurance	\$9,000.00	Total 2017 offerings: \$305,132.61	
Office/Administration	\$10,000.00		
Gifts	\$4,000.00		
Building/Grounds/Maintenance			
Real Estate Taxes	\$4,000.00		
Safety/Security	\$1,000.00		
Utilities	\$5,000.00		
Heating Oil	\$12,000.00		
Grounds (landscaping/snow removal)	\$7,000.00		
Maintenance (repairs/upgrades)	\$7,000.00		
Total Building & Grounds	\$36,000.00		



