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PASTOR'S NOTE

Greetings in the LORD Brothers and Sisters,

Satisfaction in life, happiness with life, and purpose in life are often things all people strive for. These can be accomplished in many ways depending on the person and their individual likes and desires. One may focus their attention to family or to leisure or to volunteerism (among many others) to suits these needs. Many pursuits in life are helpful and grant great meaning to life. Yet how many of these pursuits lead people to greater understanding of God and a truly meaningful life in Him? That should be our first priority over all other things and then add other pursuits afterwards. For many the fast pace of the modern world and the busyness that we create plagues the individual from organizing their priorities correctly. Certainly Christians are no better off in many respects. But Jesus promises us exactly what we yearn for if we would only apply it.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they *shall be satisfied.*” (Matthew 5:6)

Here in the middle of the Beatitudes we have Jesus claiming such a great reward for those who crave something. We all crave things, but here there is such a satisfying fulfillment. Who would not want to follow and receive such a reward? The answer: no one. But hunger and thirsting for righteousness requires setting aside much the world has to offer in order to achieve something greater. It is easy to eat fast food or junk food and initially be satisfied, but the long term effects of those choices can haunt an individual for many years, even to the end of one's days. The same thing can be said for hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

PASTOR'S NOTE

It need not be the only thing, but it should be the first thing. Jesus reiterates this later in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” There Jesus was talking about physical blessings from God like food, clothing, and shelter; all things required for living. Simply put, seek God first and He will not only take care of you, but you will be satisfied in Him. He will fill all the yearnings for significance and satisfaction in your life. He will bring you to a place of joy and holiness that you will hunger for more and he will satisfy you more.

However, do not mistake this for a ‘health and wealth gospel.’ On the contrary, how God may satisfy will may not be as the world sees satisfaction. Many who suffer in this world for Christ and have very little are actually the most satisfied in Him. Thus seeking His righteousness is a vastly different thing than the self-centered satisfaction many in this world seek.

Yet, how does one gain more hunger and thirst for Jesus? Perhaps the question could be answered with a question. How does one achieve greater desire to exercise or make health food choices? By daily doing what is required to accomplish the goal. When one exercises it is typically most difficult to get started. But once one gets momentum there is a desire to continue and do it more and more for the results. In other words, one starts to see changes and craves those results. Seeking God is no different. Daily read His word, daily seek Him in prayer, daily desire to love out what you have read and meditated upon and God will give the increase. These are the same spiritual disciplines I have suggested in the past, and they are the same ones I will suggest in the future. Read, meditate, and prayer. Once you start to seek Him, with sincerity, He will satisfy you. However, like exercise, if you choose to stop, you will not see the results you were looking for. Following God requires dedication and regularity. So set a goal and seek His righteousness first that you would be satisfied in Him toward a life of holiness.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Paul

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Adult Sunday School – 9am The History and Theology of the Reformation: Pastor Paul will be teaching this class starting this Sunday, September 10 at 9am. The Reformation still has profound importance for today, yet there are many Christians devoid of the knowledge as to what makes us Protestant. This class is designed to help you understand the historical and theological reasons that the Reformers gave to make a break with Rome. We will look at the various doctrines of Christianity (God, man, Christ, Holy Spirit, salvation, etc.) through the eyes of the Reformers in order to equip you to grow in the various aspects of your faith. Please join us for this Biblically-based look at the faith of the Reformers and how it applies to you.

Women’s Bible Study: Any women interested in joining should know the group will resume on Sept 11, 2017 continuing in the book Feasts of the Lord, chapter 8. They meet in the glass room here at MCC from 10:00am-12:00pm

MCC Men’s study group: Any men interested in joining they will be resuming on September 16, 2017, 9:00am-10:30am. Please ask Jeff Sweeney for information.

Scott-Farrar Game Night: Come and play games with the residents! We are looking forward to getting to know the residents who live there through a lively night of games. Meet on Sept 22 at 6:30 pm at Scott Farrar Home. At this first event, no snacks will be served, so please be sure to have eaten ahead of time.

Training on Oct 6, 2017: Live2Lead is a half day, leader development experience designed to equip attendees with new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways. Speakers such as John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, and Cheryl Bachelder will be present. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board and Jen Jensen can offer more information on this event. If 10 people or more register then the fee is discounted. It is an online registration and you can copy the link below into the search bar.

<http://121.johnmaxwell.com/finder/1f9447bba42e4cf3712eb860e2653e7f>

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly multi-church men's group: They meet once a month and this month is Sept 9th from 7:30-9am in the fellowship hall (enter via the lower back doors/ramp). Full breakfast followed by a time of prayer/testimony and Bible study/discussion. This month's speaker will be Bill Burt. Breakfast: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, home fries, coffee & juice (free will offering to cover costs). Any questions please contact Vinnie Verduine at 563-8084 or cell/text 831-6307 (email: inwonder@myfairpoint.net). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Sept 16 at 9am Car Wash! The MCC youth group will be having a car wash as a fundraiser to assist them in attending the winter retreat at Monadnock Bible Conference. There will be lemonade and bake sale at the same time you have your vehicle cleaned. Please share this info with all your neighbors and friends and family. Lets help the youth have a successful day! If any family would like to bake something for the youth to sell for this fundraiser please drop off Saturday morning by 8:30am. If anyone has buckets that could be borrowed, please drop off at the office before the event. All participating youth remember to make a baked good and bring it with you that morning. The youth need to be there by 8:30am to set up tables and the event.

Mid-Week Gathering: Are you interested in good fellowship, prayer, and learning about the Gospel of Luke? If so, please join us at the mid-week gathering each Wednesday at 6:30pm. We are a group who desires to learn more about Jesus Christ that we may live out our faith for the glory of God and for our benefit as well. There is no work that has to be done before the meeting, so just show up! We spend a bit of time each week praying for one another, MCC, and various other requests. Please consider this perfect opportunity to grow with other believers at MCC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Trees: Our church is to participate in Peterborough's annual Holiday Trees event. It would give us exposure to the community. It is an enjoyable event where you see the different trees decorated by varying organizations and individuals in town. Several will have a basket that can be won by raffle. It would be nice if we put together a basket that would meet tangible needs for a family, such as a Shaw's or a Market Basket Gift card, and other winter practical items. MCC has a tree that can be used. It needs to be decorated in a themed way. One idea is to make felted lambs. An enjoyable afternoon or evening of crafting for adults and youth that are interested. Based on last year, the dates for the event could be Friday December 8 -10. They typically allow you to set up on Thursday afternoon and you have to take down on Sunday afternoon about 3 pm. Dates for crafting the tree decorations could be Friday evening or a Saturday afternoon Dec. 1/2, or before Thanksgiving such as November 10/11. Someone is needed to take the lead of the crafts. If interested please contact Yasmeen for further direction.

End 68 Hours of Hunger: The way we would be involved is to bring packages of preferably 12 or 16 fruit cups or applesauce to church and we would deliver these to the drop off area at South Meadow School. Food is distributed to area schools from this drop off point. There are a few things that are extremely helpful: plastic cups are needed as glass could break on the way home from school and cans tend to be heavy. If you would like to be involved but would prefer not to purchase these items, envelopes addressed to End 68 are on the back table at church and donations are greatly appreciated as well. If you have questions regarding this please feel free to contact either Maryann Walsh or Stephanie Brock.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garden Tithe: Participating gardeners may bring 10% (or more) of each week's harvest to MCC as an offering to be shared with the Peterborough Food Pantry from July through September. Please bring your 'first fruits' (the very best) for the altar offering. Quantity is NOT an issue, the goal is quality. This year parts of the garden have new, floating row covers. The Garden Tithe team hopes this will foil common pests for both the kale and zucchini, so our harvest will be healthier and last longer. A few folks have offered to help with watering as needed. Thanks so much! Colette would like to train volunteers after church on Sunday so participants will know how to manage the row covers.

Childcare Outreach: As a church we are looking for ways to connect to our local community. We are planning to set up what will hopefully become a recurring event of an evening of babysitting, so parents of our church and of the community could have a date night. Dates proposed: November 11 and December 9. It may work best and attract the interest of community parents if the first one or two are "drop and shop" Saturday afternoons of childcare to allow the parents to shop. This would be about 5 hours of staffing and planning of activities to keep the children busy. The service could be free, donation or a small fee. That still needs to be decided. Advertisement would be through the newspaper and by flyer at The River Center, and the local apartment buildings.

PRAYER NEEDS

- ◆ Pray for the families that are affected by the flooding in Texas.
- ◆ Pray for Justin Dean for quick healing, the returned use of his arm, and for his family as they will need strength and peace taking on extra chores and caring for Justin.
- ◆ Pray for healing for those who are physically, mentally, or spiritually sick.
- ◆ Pray for peace, strength and courage in transitions for many in our church.
- ◆ Pray that each person at MCC will willingly and joyfully find a place to serve and become involved in some aspect of church life beyond worship.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom, clarity and compassion for Pastor Paul, the Elders and all in leadership here at MCC, in our local & national government and leadership positions around the world.
- ◆ Pray that we as a church body will connect relationally, in a meaningful way, with one another.

SUNDAY SERVICE REMINDERS

- Hospitality/Coffee hosts: AnneMarie Forest
- Greeters: Jen Jensen & Deb Gard
- Nursery Service (Worship) - Becky VanDam & Rayven Robbins
- Stephanie Brock will read the Scripture
- Dana Whitaker will lead the worship music.
- Junior Church: Garrett & Krista Craven
- Paul Lucas & Sandy Baker will be available at the end of the service if you would like prayer.

September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Community Closet 10-12
3	4	5	6 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm	7	8	9 Multi-church mens breakfast 7:30-9
10	11 Women's Bible Study 10-12	12	13 Mid-week at 6:30pm Youth Group begins 6:30pm	14	15	16 Car Wash Men's Bible Study 9-10:30
17	18 Women's Bible Study 10-12	19	20 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm/Youth group 6:30pm	21	22	23 Men's Bible Study 9:-10:30
24	25 Women's Bible Study 10-12	26	27 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm/Youth group 6:30pm	28	29	30 Men's Bible Study 9:-10:30