

Mendon Church  
PO Box 188  
Mendon, NY 14506

# The Gleam

Mendon Church

February 2017

## The Beloved Community

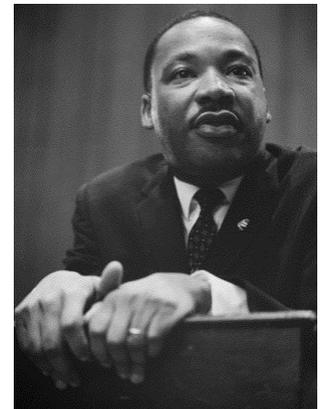
### A Note from Pastor Hwang

Although a bit of a serious topic, 2017 seems to have been an interesting year already. In the same week in January we saw the inauguration of a new President of the United States and observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which became a national holiday in 1983. Every four years America experiences pretty noticeable changes – small and big – during this time of inauguration.

As a theological practitioner, I have always looked forward to seeing an inauguration speech and new administration that incorporate some of MLK's message because I believe he opened the door to new horizons of the relationship between faith and practice. If the Great Awakening in 19<sup>th</sup> century had brought about social changes such as the Abolition Movement, women suffrage, and temperance (please refer to "Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World" published by InterVarsity Press), the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's revealed the disjunction between the equality and dignity of human beings described in the Declaration of Independence and the ugly realities embedded in the social system. It also brought human predicament into visibility, in that so many people either supported the discriminatory system of the time or simply kept silent in the face of inequality.

I believe his dream of 'the beloved community' to be a great goal of the Christians as we pray the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, thy

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*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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**Weekly worship and Christian Education Sundays @10 am**

## Annual Meeting—February 12, 2017

Mendon Church's 2017 Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 12th. We will have a potluck lunch immediately following our regular worship service, and begin the annual meeting promptly at 11:30am.

Our Agenda includes:

- ◆ Annual Report
- ◆ Budget
- ◆ Goals for 2017 - "Moving Forward"
- ◆ Conversations with Session
- ◆ Deacon & Elder election
- ◆ Celebration of paying off our mortgage with Jim Fraser's gift to the church

We encourage every one of you to attend this important yearly meeting!

# Update on Fraser Funds

After service on Sunday, 1/22, representatives of the Finance Committee met with at least 15 church members and 4 Session members. Bob Moore presented the current situation as of 12/31/16:

The church mortgage balance is \$347,900; the current interest rate is 6.39%; it matures in 2026.

The Fraser Fund balance is \$925,850; earning .01% with Wells Fargo.

Bob shared that the most interest the church can currently make when investing conservatively is 4%. Therefore, the Committee recommended that we pay off the mortgage with Fraser Funds. This recommendation was accepted unanimously by those in attendance. **On Wednesday, 1/25, the Finance Committee made the motion to Session that Mendon Church pay off the current mortgage with the Fraser Funds; it was approved unanimously.**

Bob also talked about how the remaining balance of the Fraser Funds should be invested. The question was raised whether our investment policy should be very conservative, i.e., just bonds, or a more aggressive approach, i.e., stocks and bonds. The Committee recommended that our policy be very conservative for 2017. This recommendation was accepted by a majority of those in attendance.

After interviewing different investment organizations, the Committee reviewed their investment fees, ability to work with churches, reputation, experience and their customer service. **On Wednesday, 1/25, the Finance Committee made the motion to Session that Mendon Church invest the balance of the Fraser Funds with Forte' Capital; it was approved unanimously.**

The committee will be developing an Investment Policy that will govern how the funds are generally invested. When this Policy is completed, it will be shared with the congregation.

We are so fortunate that Jim Fraser blessed us with this wonderful gift! Please contact anyone on the Finance Committee if you have any questions.

## Welcome

to our new Deacons and Session members

Deacons:

Susan Clark  
Clif Genge  
Laurie Koek  
Phyllis Shoots  
Sherry Thomassen

Elders:

Jim Shoots

## Thank You

to those who have completed their terms

Deacons:

Gordy Benoit  
Cris Kerekes  
Mary Lane  
Jim Shoots

Elders:

John Kerekes  
Andrew Martin  
Bob Moore

# Missions Update from the McKees

## Excerpts from their recent email:

“My new job is Human Resources Director for Anglo-Lusophone Africa (AL-Africa). I often have to explain what I do and where my job is focused! First, where: Anglophone = English-speaking; Lusophone = Portuguese-speaking. Those clearly aren't the only languages spoken in the Eastern-&-Southern-Africa-plus-Nigeria region that I serve, but you can usually get by with one or the other...I'm part of an HR team, both in Africa and globally, whose job it is to ensure that our staff are appropriately assigned, trained, equipped and effectively supported to do their jobs — all in support of Bible translation around the world.”

“Rob had a great group of thirteen students in Cultural Anthropology, which ended just before GIAL's Christmas break. First week back after break, he helped with Wycliffe's TOTAL It Up! (TIU!) recruiting program, held at the Dallas center where we work. With thirty-six attendees, it was the biggest TIU! they've had. He's also been able to finish two articles for publication; he is currently revising the Culture Change & Minority Cultures course he'll start teaching February 7; and he continues, as time permits, with other writing for publication and with a media-based research project.

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ROB & CAROL MCKEE

EMAIL: [carol-rob\\_mckee@sil.org](mailto:carol-rob_mckee@sil.org)

MAIL: 919 Middle Run Place, Duncanville, TX 75137

PHONE: 972-800-6341 (Carol), 972-800-6347 (Rob)

GIFTS: Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Please add a note saying, 'Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Rob & Carol'

## The Beloved Community (cont. from page 1)

will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” As the perfect accomplishment of the beloved community in this world is impossible until the final victory of Christ over the evil power, it is our faith in God that enables us to take those first steps over and over whenever we are discouraged by the enormity of the task. As Christians, we pursue inclusion rather than exclusion, engagement rather than avoidance, and love rather than hate – precisely so that the dream of the kingdom of God be manifested, even if only partially.

We may have supported different candidates for various reasons during the election. However, as we now have the new administration in place, it is time to come together to keep our eyes open to any potential and possible policy that would move us away from the MLK's vision and raise our voice when such a policy becomes a reality. As both the Great Awakening and the Civil Rights Movement realized, we are easily and irresistibly attracted to our own desires for exclusion, convenient avoidance, and the feeling of superiority unless we humbly open ourselves to the guidance of God who demands us to be holy as God is holy. After all, our ultimate Presbyterian confession of faith lies in the sovereignty of God as articulated in the Lord's Prayer again: “For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.”

Pastor Hodong Hwang

### Women's Group February Meetings

The Women's Group meets at the Thomassen's home from 7pm-8:30pm the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. In February, we will gather on the 6th and 20th to continue with the book Her Name is Woman.

### Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor Hwang

There's still time to join our Tuesday evening Bible study, which runs through March 14<sup>th</sup>. Led by Pastor Hwang, the study is focused on the Gospel of Mark and includes an introductory class, as well as the study of specific passages from the book. As Rev. Hwang prefers a more conversational style study to help engage in the book more deeply, the group will welcome any questions and discussion.

## Community Events

### Community Lunch at East Bloomfield Methodist Church

2 Park Place At the corner of Rtes. 5 & 20 Thursday, February 16th Noon-1:00pm. Doors open at 11:30am. All are welcome for lunch and fellowship. Free will offering accepted. Handicapped Accessible.

### Valentine's Day Free Meal at St. Catherine's

There is a free Valentine's Day Open Meal is on Sunday, February 12th, from 3-4 pm, at St. Catherine's Schnacky Center (The building, connected to our church, where the horse shoe drive is located.). The food will include pork dishes, potatoes, and desserts.

### West Bloomfield Congregational Church Soup/Chili Contest

Beginning at 6:30pm on February 25th: All you can eat Chili & Soup dinner served with salad and rolls, dessert and coffee. Your free will offering is greatly appreciated. The WBUCC Youth Band, YB3, will be performing! The WBCC Youth Group kids will also be collecting SPICES for the Cameron Ministries Food Pantry and the Food Pantry of Honeoye. (Think about it. People who rely on the food bank eat a lot of canned food, rice, oatmeal, white bread, etc. They love spices. Seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, oregano, basil and so on.)

## Grace Choir to Perform 3 Winter Programs

- ◆ **Sunday, February 19**—the choir will be a part of the Choral Prism Concert at the Eastman Theatre along with twenty other community-based choirs.
- ◆ **Sunday March 12**—Grace Choir will present the seventh annual Church Choral Festival, this year to be held at Elim Gospel Church in Lima. Last year's festival was so well attended, it was standing room only!
- ◆ **Sunday, March 26**—Grace Choir will be joined by the AKOMA Gospel Choir to present a concert called "Total Praise" in Rochester. For these concerts, Grace Choir will be singing some of our favorite gospel songs.

*A great time was had by all who were able to attend our annual bowling event at Miller Lanes in Honeoye Falls!*



## Birthdays

Jackie Crego	2/2
Patty Coates	2/3
Kingsley Beck	2/7
Alex Kerekes	2/8
Nathan VandenBout	2/9
Bradley Miller	2/12
Michael Detraglia	2/16
Susan Clark	2/18
Phil Kellogg	2/18
Peter Rydzynski	2/20
David Middleton	2/21
Theodore Hodownes	2/23
Paige Burnett	2/24
David W Smith	2/24
Florence Parker	2/28

## Anniversaries

Ron & Sandy Desassure	2/10
Peg & Hiram Avery	2/23
Jackie & Tracy Main	2/29

*Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here?  
Let the church office know  
by phone or email!*



## Prayer Requests

Pastor Ed Hoener's mother, as she recovers from hip surgery

The Sheeler family, as they grieve the loss of Wayne

Ray Batz as he recovers from a head injury

The family of Claire, a little girl from Cora VandenBout's class, who recently passed away

Doris Naundorf's friend Walter

Shirley Snyder's sister-in-law

Gregg Miller's family member with medical issues

Tara Nickel's friend, Chris

Lynne Templeton's daughter-in-law Karie with cancer

Cindy Westfall's mother & sister

Lynn Willard

Christians facing persecution

Our Nation's service men and women and their families

People of Watsa, Congo, especially the orphans

Refugees, and those suffering in 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries

The President, Congress, our Nation and our World

**Those who are homebound:** *Peggy Avery, Susan and Allen Beauregard, Doris Naundorf, Shirley Snyder, and Ann Wood*

**Our Missionaries:** *John and Beaj Reed with SIM; The Shalhoub's with the Navigators; The Robinsons in Haiti; The McKees with SIL/Wycliffe*

**Our College Students:** *Jonathan Alcorn, Jessica Apthorpe, Alex Baronsky, Brooke Cheyne, McKensie Galusha, Katie Kerekes, Meredith Rogers, Kyle Schultze and Julia Smith*

**Those in the Military:** *Killian Anstee-Sgt. US Army, currently stationed/Ft Polk, La.; Nick Hodownes, US Navy on the USS George H.W. Bush; Garrett Koek - 1st Lieutenant US Army, currently stationed/Ft Polk, La.*