

Mendon Church  
PO Box 188  
Mendon, NY 14506

# The Gleam

Mendon Church

January 2017

## Happy New Year from Pastor Hwang

It truly is a happy New Year in 2017, as I begin this year with Mendon Presbyterian Church where the great people of God worship, learn, and practice together. Young kids may wonder if older people are as excited about a new year as they are, and the same question may be asked of this long-standing church that recently celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To the children who pose the question, I confidently respond, “absolutely, I’m excited,” and share that I love my age and look forward to the future rather than wanting to go back to my younger days. In the same way, I believe Mendon Church should be excited to welcome 2017 because God prepares great things ahead of us.

As great as our hope is for the New Year, our plans and prayers need to be both deliberate and elaborate. How can we make the days of 2017 display the endless variety of God’s goodness? How can our church be a part of God’s larger mosaic, which is ever vibrant and ever magnificent? How can we engage with the universal Kingdom of God through particular tasks?

It is interesting to see how Paul understands his daily life differently, yet coherently, in two places in his letters to the Corinthians. At one point he says: “Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor. 4:16) However, he also comments, “I die every day.” (1 Cor. 15:31) One may find these two verses contradictory as dying and being renewed everyday seemingly cannot coexist, but as Paul speaks about the potential and constant threats he faced every day in 1 Corinthians, he presents the secret of how to live vigorously: “A focused life.” Simplifying his priorities and eliminating less important things has the dual effect of allowing him to live fearlessly and purposefully, and makes his life renewed day by day. If Coco Chanel is

right when she says, “The best things in life are free. The second best things are very, very expensive,” why don’t we focus more on the very best and important things in life? If we give less attention to the second, third, or fourth best things, we may not need to deal with self-inflicted disappointments that result from them. Even though we don’t face the same threats as Paul in our daily lives, we still learn to enjoy true joy and peace from God if we are determined to live our focused life.

May God bless and keep you always throughout 2017.

Pastor Hodong Hwang

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**2017 Giving  
Envelopes and 2016  
Financial Contribution  
Statements are now  
available!**

Pick them up on the table  
across from the church  
office.

**Laima's Gardening  
Hints**

Please plant 5 rows of peas:  
Patience  
Perseverance  
Planning  
Preparation  
Positiveness

Add 5 rows of lettuce:  
Let us be positive  
Let us take responsibility  
Let us be in control  
Let us reward our  
accomplishments  
Let us be empowered

Include some squash:  
Squash negativity  
Squash bad attitude  
Squash sadness

And no garden is complete  
without turnips:  
Turn up with the right attitude  
Turn up with a smile  
Turn up with determination  
Turn up with success in mind.

## Church Events

### Congregational Meeting & More on January 8th

On January 8th, we will have several events occurring after our morning worship service that we would request your presence for:

- ◆ A quick coffee break after the service, followed by a group effort to remove and repack the Christmas decorations that are currently adorning the church.
- ◆ Once de-decoration is done, we'll sit down for a Pot-Luck Dinner (please bring a dish to pass!)
- ◆ After we eat, there will be a Congregational Meeting beginning at 12:30. This meeting is for the purpose of electing new Elders and Deacons.

We appreciate your effort to attend!

### Family Bowling Night

Our annual family bowling night at Miller Lanes will take place on Sunday, January 15th at 4pm. The cost is \$13 per person, and includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soda. A sign-up sheet is available on the Communications Center in the Welcome Area.

### Winter Fun Day

Join us on Sunday, January 29th at 3pm for Winter Fun Day in Stewart Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park! Bring a dish to pass, your outdoor winter gear, and a board game to enjoy inside. Drinks and disposable dishware will be provided.

## Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor Hwang

Our newest Tuesday evening Bible Study will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and run through March 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Hwang will be leading the study, which will be 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Grace Choir Prepares for 3 Winter Programs

Grace Choir will soon begin rehearsals for three programs scheduled for early 2017. On 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. On 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! Finally, on 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. Rehearsals for the winter programs begin Thursday, January 12 at 7:00, here at Mendon Church. All singers are invited to join us!

# New Year Missions Updates

## Bruce & Deb Robinson—Haiti

Praise:

- ◆ No loss of human life from Hurricane Matthew in our area. Everyone on our team worked well together to prepare for and respond after the storm. God has recently sent us some very skilled visitors with just the right gifts even before we asked.
- ◆ Blessings of having backpacks, peanut butter, protein bars, MREs and water filters to distribute through churches and their schools in time of need.
- ◆ God’s people who have contributed to the extra expenses related to hurricane and flood relief and recovery that will continue for at least the next year.

Prayers:

- ◆ In 2017 and into 2018 we will be repairing the infrastructure damaged during the hurricane including one school, three churches, the spring capping at Lacoma and some key places in the road. This is in addition to the work we already have going on.
- ◆ For the right amount of rain and relief from caterpillars so that there will be an abundant crop this winter.
- ◆ Several water fountains on a water system are not working at the moment and further work is suspended until some social problems can be resolved. Please pray for changed hearts.

## John & Beaj Reed—SIM Retirement Village, Florida

These pictures show some of the maintenance "headaches" of John's year. Florida's phenomenal rains this past summer caused flooding, leaky roofs and all manner of plumbing and drainage issues. On another note, the Lord uses John's experience as a widower and care-giver to minister to residents as he does repairs in their households.



A ministry opportunity in Nigeria was a major highlight of Beaj's year. Teaching in a teacher training workshop, visiting schools and widows' ministries with Linda Crouch was a privilege! Seeing dear friends was an added blessing! Here in the Village Beaj visits the residents in their homes. During hospitalizations or rehab she attempts to care for any needs our residents may have.



## Ibrahim Shaloub MENA Region

“Dear friends and partners:

Isa. 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

May 2017 bring good health, purposefulness in serving the Lord, joy and prosperity to you and your loved ones.”

**Pray for Ibrahim as he travels to Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Kuala Lumpur, and possibly Algeria throughout the year.**

## Birthdays

Samuel Bahiga	1/1
Hannah Apthorpe	1/2
Becca Spaulding	1/2
Ray Batz	1/3
Jordan Hughes	1/4
Chris Perna	1/4
Jonathon Perna	1/13
Norma Glamack	1/18
Kevin Gelabert	1/20
Laurie Koek	1/22
Jessica Main	1/22
Mary Ann Turner	1/22
Bill Brown	1/23
John Kerekes	1/23
Jane Stenglein	1/25
Hailey Genge	1/26
Cynthia Westfall	1/30

## Anniversaries

Dick and Cynthia Westfall	1/1
Charles and Lynn Willard	1/12
Gordy and Beverly Benoit	1/27



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

## Prayer Requests

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

Betty Porter, as she recovers from illness

Sandy Desassure as she recovers from back surgery

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.*