

Mendon Church
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The Gleam

Mendon Church

October 2017

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Weekly worship and Christian Education Sundays @10 am

Welcome Joe Taff! New Director of Music Ministry

We are excited to introduce our new Director of Music Ministry, Joe Taff. Joe is a 2013 graduate of Amherst College where he graduated magna cum laude with distinction in Music and History. He is currently a graduate student at Eastman School of Music, majoring in choral conducting. He comes to Mendon Church after 3 years as choir director and interim accompanist at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church in San Jose California. He has solid experience as a music teacher and youth choir conductor, as well as providing lessons in drum, guitar and piano for children ages 5 - 18. He was a member of the Katie Turley Band as a guitarist and back up vocalist.



Joe will officially begin in the role of music director on Sunday October 1. Following the service we will have a cake and coffee reception to welcome Joe to Mendon Church.

Serving Consistently & Faithfully A Note from Pastor Hwang

I was at that age when many youth group members repented their sins during church retreats or revival meetings. We prayed in tears and shared our feelings and thoughts in front of other kids in the same group during the week-long retreat. In our praise and worship, we were overwhelmed by the surreal experiences ignited by our discovery that the entire Bible was the word of God and speaking to each of us directly. We were excited and devoted to the Christian movement that envisioned the extension of the kingdom of God.

Then, in the final day of the retreat we shared our contact information (basically phone numbers, as it was the era before internet and email), agreeing with other group members on a first meeting date and time outside the retreat. It was what a typical summer looked like in my middle school through college years, starting as a mere participant and then taking a leadership role as I got older.

Every sleepless retreat brought about contradictory results. It's like the people who go to the famous New Year's Eve Ball Drop event in hope of an exciting New Year to come, but usually end up wasting a few days of the New Year for recovery from that single night.

(continued on page 3)

Deacon Profile

Get to know your deacons better

Ginger Brown

“One day, as a junior high school math teacher, as I worked the combination lock on my faculty mailbox, a new teacher I had just met came to get his mail and said, “Could you budge yourself over!” I liked his “informality” in this formal, professional setting, and that was the beginning! As it turned out, Mr. Brown’s classroom was just down the hall from mine. As you know, we got married.

I taught five years at Roxboro Road in the North Syracuse Central School District. Then we moved to West Irondequoit when Bill got his job teaching AP Physics at Irondequoit High School. We bought our first house and were expecting our first baby, Pamela, who was born the night before Bill’s first day teaching at his new job! Several years later our son, Mark, was born. I thanked God every day for the gift of being home with them while they were young. Then, when they went to school, I worked at Bausch & Lomb as an administrative assistant for 17 years.”

How long have you been a member at Mendon Church?

We have been members for eight years. When we first walked in the door, Rose Marie gave us warm, loving hugs, and then we met Norma who made us feel welcome as she gave us the programs. Today, Dorothy is just lovely to everyone as she hands out the programs.

What’s your favorite part about being a deacon?

One favorite part is getting to know the people in my sector so well and feeling God’s love through their kindness. Something I hadn’t anticipated in becoming a deacon was how the people in my sector and the other deacons have helped me a lot in feeling at home in Mendon Church. And, the deacons are so caring of everyone in all of the sectors including their fellow deacons, who are always fun.

What’s the most memorable thing a deacon has done for you personally?

When Bill’s sister, Ginny, died of a heart attack in South Carolina, we received such comfort from our church family. Our deacon was there for us, and we always knew he would help in any way if we had a need, whether it was a major event or small cares. It was a wonderful feeling to have him as a deacon and to know of his thoughtfulness. We have always felt that all of our deacons have been there for us if we let them know of a need.

What other ways do you serve at Mendon Church?

I serve as a greeter. Helping set up the Bicentennial luncheon got me in the spirit of the Bicentennial through the committee’s enthusiasm and promoting a feeling of togetherness for our church and the whole community. I enjoy helping with other events such as the Spaghetti Supper for Benincasa.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner—Nov. 4th

Mark your calendars now! Our world famous Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for 4:30pm-7:30pm Saturday, November 4th at Mendon Church.

You can choose from meat, spicy meat, vegetarian, or plain sauces, and back by popular demand are our large, well-stocked salad buffet and ice cream with praline cookies for dessert. Invite all your friends to come enjoy the delicious food and live music!

Pricing is \$10 for adults (13-59 years), \$9 for seniors (60 and over), and \$5 for children (6-12). Children 5 and under are FREE.

If you can't sit and stay for dinner, takeout meals will also be available from our build-your-own buffet!

All proceeds are donated to a great local charity, Benincasa, a two-bed home for the terminally ill serving the greater Rochester area and surrounding counties. This home is a place to live life's final days with dignity, comfort and self-worth. Dedicated to ensuring that terminally ill residents receive quality comfort care, Benincasa also provides support services for the residents and their loved ones.



The Final Goal of Hope (continued from page 1)

More often than not, the excitement and vision from the retreat was endangered by exhaustion for a week afterward. Looking back, it was my youthful misunderstanding to equate emotional fascination with spirituality, and great achievement with the expansion of the kingdom of God.

The secret of our spiritual life is determined by how consistently and faithfully we serve the Lord and love the people given to us – not through special exposure to a magnificent event. Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant and being made in human likeness (Philippians 2:6-8). Instead of boasting of his authority and power, the way in which Jesus offered himself as the mediator between God and sinful humanity was the ultimate example of anyone who desires a faithful life.

Among many encouraging signs of recovery in Mendon Church is the fact that so many of you have volunteered to assist with upcoming events, filling almost every need. In most cases, the church members who are willing to participate in the church ministry in any way possible are those that know the importance of keeping their feet on the ground in faith. By demonstrating your faith as it has moved from your heads to your hearts, those who come behind you will learn an important secret of faith from you – the great cloud of witnesses that have shown their faithfulness before God by throwing off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and by running with perseverance the race given to them instead (Hebrews 12:1-2).

**Contact Info
Update:**

Joyce Holdsworth has requested that we share her new contact information with you. She can now be reached at:

Joyce Holdsworth

**Healthwood Assisted
Living, Room 106
100 Elderwood Court
Penfield, NY 14526**

Cell: (585) 474-0583

*We will be
taking a second
special offering
on October 1st
for the
Robinsons in
Haiti to aid in
hurricane
relief.*

Worship Corner

Worship Committee Report

Worship Committee and the choir were hard at work during the months of August and September as we interviewed and auditioned several wonderful candidates for the Music director position. Many people were involved in the process. Thank you to Jim Shoots, Laima Beck and Natalie DeTraglia who helped with the initial interviews, to the members of the choir who participated in auditions and provided evaluation feedback on the candidates, to our middle school youth who welcomed the candidates and participated in the audition process, Sharon Hodownes who represented Education and Youth ministries during the auditions with the youth and provided feedback on the candidates, and Pastor Hodong who interviewed the final candidates.

Volunteers Needed

Anyone who is interested in helping with the Women's Christmas Program in December please let Marianne Chiafery know.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals will be **Wednesday** evenings, from 7-8:30 pm beginning October 4. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to join us.

Committee Meeting

The next Worship Committee meeting will be Wednesday October 11 at 5:30 pm at the church.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1—Cake and Coffee Welcome Reception for Joe Taff

Please join us after our monthly communion service to meet and welcome our new Director of Music Ministry, Joe Taff.

Oct. 2 & 16—Women's Nature Walk

Join us for the final two walks of the season! Meet at the church at 6:15 and carpool to our destination to begin walking at 6:30. On October 2nd, we will travel to the Royal Coach Trail in Mendon. For our final meet-up, we will visit the Erie Canal Walk followed by treats at Simply Crepes.

Oct. 3, 10, & 17—Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Hwang is leading us in a study of Paul's letter to the Galatians on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. The remaining study schedule is as follows:

10/3—Galatians 2:15-3:29

10/10—Galatians 4:1-4:31

10/17—Galatians 5:1-6:18

News from the McKees

Dear friends and family,

We've been in Wycliffe for over 41 years but have not yet attended the dedication of the completed translation of any Scripture. We've celebrated with others, though! So I was delighted to arrive in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, last month on the very day that the Burunge New Testament was being dedicated. It was gratifying to hear hot-off-the-press reports about this exciting event, joyfully marking the first completed New Testament in an SIL project in Tanzania. This is why we do what we do – so that everyone will have the Scriptures in their own language. This is the work that you support!

An Amazing Opportunity

So what was I doing in Tanzania? I've just been rereading the emails I wrote to a special group of friends who prayed me through the opportunity I was given to run a Human Resources (HR) workshop there the last week of August. Quite frankly, I went into this experience convinced of the need to train and mentor the HR/Personnel administrators supporting our work across a wide area of Africa, yet also feeling enormously stretched to accomplish what was needed. But this was one of those times in my life when I sensed a clear call to action – that this was something the Lord wanted me to do, that He had a plan, and that He'd pull it all together as I did what I could to get ready and then trusted Him to show me what to do. And that's exactly what happened!

The Participants

There were 12 of us, born in 9 different countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Germany, Holland, the UK, Australia, Canada and the U.S. We learned from each other as we interacted together! In fact, one of the highlights of the workshop was the way we examined the Scriptures in small groups each morning, actively listening to each other's observations, and applying what we learned about God to living and serving Him joyfully.

The Work

What does HR in a mission's context involve? That's what we processed together: everything from evaluation and placement of potential workers (which we call 'onboarding' these days), needed orientation, performance management (annual reviews based on measurable goals, along with professional development), to ending assignments well (called 'offboarding' in HR lingo – which a friend commented sounds awfully close to waterboarding, but I promise we try not to torture our staff!). We were joined virtually using Zoom by several colleagues who contributed to our discussions. And we also looked at case studies, applying relevant SIL policies and procedures to the topics at hand. The best part, though? Watching them get to know and appreciate each other, realizing they weren't the only ones facing certain challenges. In our last session, we took some time to actively encourage each other to go back and serve our respective teams. Then we prayed together and went around the circle commissioning each other, saying "[person's name], do the work joyfully." I started it, watched each person say it to the next person, but only fully realized the power of the challenge when my friend and colleague Judith looked me in the eye and said, "Carol, do the work joyfully!" And it truly was a joy to come alongside these very special leaders to support and help equip them for the roles in which the Lord has placed them. It feels like what God made me to do!

Our Thanks

We couldn't do what we do without your prayers and support. Please keep praying for health and strength for both of us: for Rob as he continues to impact students at GIAL, and for me as I travel to Orlando for SIL HR Advisory Board meetings October 1-7 and to Nigeria to meet with our SIL team there October 13-27.

Carol (and Rob)

Prayer Requests

Mary Ann Turner, as she recovers from hip replacement surgery

Shirley Snyder's sister-in-law

Cheri Carboneau's friend, Stacey Ferguson, as she battles colon cancer

Tara Nickel's friend, Chris

Cindy Westfall's mother & sister

Doris Naundorf's friend Walter

Lynn Willard

Those who are homebound: *Susan and Allen Beauregard, Norma Glamack, 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, Jenny Moore, Meredith Rogers, Kyle Schultze and Julia Smith*

Those in the Military: *Killian Anstee-Sgt. US Army, currently stationed/Ft Polk, La.; Garrett Koek - Captain US Army, currently stationed/Ft Stewart, GA ; Michael Spillane, US Army Reserve, currently stationed/NC*

*Our condolences to Hiram
and the Avery
family as they
grieve the loss
of Peggy.*



Birthdays

Joyce Holdsworth	10/2
Kathy Bloom	10/3
Ron Dessasure	10/4
Jenny Moore	10/4
Chloe McCoon	10/5
Doris Naundorf	10/8
Andrew Spaulding	10/10
Ester Kamara	10/12
John Gahn	10/15
Mary Lane	10/15
Carter Middleton	10/17
Caroline Moffitt	10/20
Joshua Alcorn	10/22
Amy Genge	10/22
Katie Kerekes	10/24
Michael Spillane	10/25
Rachel Floeser	10/27
McKensie Galusha	10/31

Anniversaries

Michael & Natalie Detraglia	10/4
Jeffrey & Michelle Faulkner	10/9
Debbie & Earl Bendschneider	10/17
Michael & Nancy Rogers	10/29



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

Church Office Information

Open Office Hours:

Walk-in—Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-2pm.
By appointment only—Wednesdays and Fridays

Contact by Phone:

(585) 624-1457

Contact by Email:

General inquiries—office@mendonchurch.org
Prayer requests—prayerchain@mendonchurch.org

If you would like to be added to our email mailing list, please send your request to office@mendonchurch.org.