

November 2017



Overcommitted?

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I recently sat in a meeting with people representing various organizations in Monroe who are concerned about the needs of local youth. In the meeting it wasn't long before the busyness of everyone came up. The discussion centered on all the activities for youth from sports, to school, to YMCA, to Parks & Rec, to church. One attendee, a mother, said, "We are so busy it's hard to have one meal a week together. There are so many choices, just between good things. The things my kids want to do are all good!" One comment in the meeting was that it is becoming more common for students to be burned out in sports before they even get to High School. I often think we are simply teaching our children to be busy! At the recent Fall Conference I attended, one pastor asked for ideas on how to reduce the number of ministries in their church because his people were so busy.

Are the church programs the "cause" of our busyness? I don't think so. One lady at the meeting said, "They used to respect Wednesdays as a church night but they don't even do that anymore." The secular world we live in won't give us time for spiritual formation programs. Should that surprise us? It isn't that we shouldn't be involved in secular activities; we should be, because that's where our opportunities for witness are. We also need to be involved in spiritual growth activities with other believers. Too much commitment to either area is likely to take its toll on the other area in our lives. Even more importantly, it is likely to take its toll on our families. In our vision we have identified "*Building Families*" as a primary focus. We need to give adequate time and attention to building our own families if we hope to build other families in our community.

I sometimes suggest we use a weekly one-one-one guideline for church activity. That is, one worship service, one activity that spurs our spiritual growth with other believers, and one place of service. More than that, and other things have to give. Perhaps it would be wise to limit ourselves to one secular activity at a time too?

I often think of Paul's experience on his second missionary journey. "They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." (Acts 16:6-10, NASB). I wonder how often I've pushed ahead when the Holy Spirit was saying no? Or, how many times the Holy Spirit was saying go here, or do this, and I was oblivious?

No, "one-one-one" isn't God's formula. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit, and not a formula, should be where we look before making commitments. If even those who've yet to believe are feeling the stress of overloaded schedules how will we reach them? I suspect that a believer, who has not over committed himself, and possesses a corresponding calm disposition, might be a pretty powerful draw.

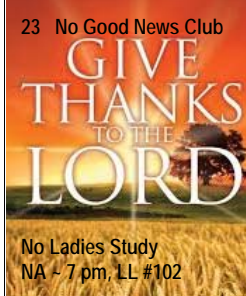
The most common Scripture at funerals is the 23rd Psalm. It says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." (Psalm 23:2-3). Maybe we should be looking at how this applies to our lives while we're still living.

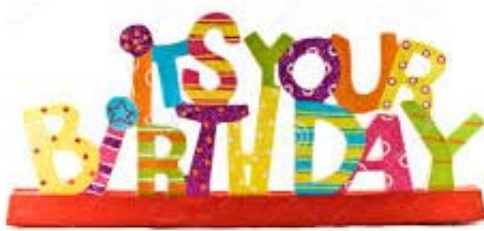
A Fellow Struggler,

Pastor Dan



November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Men's Noon Bible study - LL #102 Awana: 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	2 "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC Good News Club - 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA - 7 pm, LL #102	3 Girls Mini-Retreat 5 pm—10 am Sat.	4 No Men's Breakfast Girls Mini-Retreat concludes—10 am
5 LORD'S TABLE Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages - 9 am (Pipeline "Marriage" Class) Ignite Bonfire @ Pastor Troy's - 4 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 4 (2nd s.) - 6:30 pm, NC Fusion - 7 pm, LL #106	6 Missions Mtg. - 6 pm, LL#106 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 Primetimers Thanks- giving Dinner & Fellowship - 5—9 pm, NC/K/S Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 pm, LL #106	8 Men's Noon Bible study - LL #102 Awana: 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	9 "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC Good News Club - 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA - 7 pm, LL #102	10 (Because of Christmas) December NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE! Awana Boys Event - 5 pm—10 am	11 Awana Boys Event concludes—10 am "Luther" Movie - 6 pm, Sanctuary Popcorn provided
12 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages - 9 am (Pipeline "Marriage" Class) Guatemala 2018 Mtg. - 10:10 am, LL #106 Fusion Expeditions Unlimited/ Baraboo - Noon—9 pm (No evening Fusion meeting) Next Steps—Step 2 (1st s.) - 6:30 pm, NC	13 Elder Bd. Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	14 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due by 4 pm! Pleasant View Birthday Party - 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 pm, LL #106	15 Men's Noon Bible study - LL #102 Awana: 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	16 "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC No Good News Club NA - 7 pm, LL #102	17 Primetimers 11:15 am Pizza Hut lunch	18 Next Steps—Step 1 (1 s.) - 8 am, Breakfast provided, Sign-up at the Welcome Center
19 Worship Services: Guest Speaker/Slavic Gospel 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages - 9 am Next Steps—Step 2 (2nd s.) - 6:30 pm, NC Ignite - 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 6 pm, LL #106	20 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	21 Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 pm, LL #106	22 Men's Noon Bible study - LL #102 Awana: 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	23 No Good News Club  No Ladies Study NA - 7 pm, LL #102	24	25
26 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages - 9 am (last Pipeline "Marriage" Class) Guatemala 2018 Mtg. - Noon, LL No Ignite or Fusion	27 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	28 Pleasant View Service - 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. - 6 pm, LL #106	29 Awana: 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	30 Good News Club - 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA - 7 pm, LL #102		



- 1 Donna O'Connor
- 5 Adam Brunner
- 7 Patricia Harder
- 9 Linda LaFollette
Craig Roth
- 10 Ellis Holverson
Scott Turkelson
- 13 Kailyn Ringhand
- 14 Lynne Hardy
- 15 Kim Markham
- 16 Celia Keen
Colleen Ostenson

- 19 Katie Elgin
Declan Geiwitz
Drake Geiwitz
- 20 Ross Bisegger
- 21 Jesse Beernink
Connor Nafzger
Mia Schadewaldt
- 23 Malayna Beernink
- 24 Madalyn Grebner
- 28 Ezekiel Beernink
- 30 Keith Geisler
Carol Larson

- 2 Bill & Linda LaFollette
- 6 Randy & Gloria Ringhand
- 7 Jacob & Karen Brunner
Craig & Tracy Signer
- 12 TJ & Tasha Erdmann
- 22 Josh & April Kuenzi
- 25 Tim & Chris Thesing
- 26 John & Kristi Hudson



PRIMETIMERS THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP

November 7th Primetimers will celebrate an evening of thanks-giving and praise. Pastor Troy and his family are joining us. He will share a devotional and get to know our Primetimers group. Dawn Jordan will play the piano and Mike Westcomb will lead our “Singspiration”.

The evening is our Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner with turkey provided. Please bring a dish to compliment the meal. We will eat at 6:00 PM. Pastor Troy will share from God’s Word, and we’ll culminate the evening with a hymn-sing, joyfully praising our wonderful Lord Jesus. Yes, we are thankful daily for His love and blessings.

See you **TUESDAY** evening **NOVEMBER 7TH**.

The Most Important Text on Marriage. One, simple, impossible verse.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



Part 3 of 3 (Continued from Part 2 in October newsletter. Part 1 and 2 can be found at - <http://www.monroe bible church.org/newletters-bulletins/>)

Forgiving One Another

Marriage in this age is always marriage to another sinner. Acknowledgment, confession, and forgiveness of sin will be a regular part of any authentic marriage. Expect to find something unforgiven beneath a heart of marital contempt.

Now, forgiveness is not the same as trust. Marriage is the most intimate of human relationships, and with that comes its explosive potential for betrayal and hurt. The call to forgive is not a call to feign trust. Sin has consequences; trust is quickly lost and slowly restored. But for the Christian, we never have a reason to withhold forgiveness. No human, even our spouse, has wronged us as much as we have wronged God, and if we claim the name of Christ, we claim he has forgiven us.

Part of what it means for me as a husband to be head of our marriage is that God calls me to go ahead and apologize first. I cannot recall a single instance in ten years in which any tangle was totally her fault. In our spats, tensions, and run-ins, we’re not always equally at fault, but we both have been imperfect and sinful in some way. I always have some problem in me to identify and confess. My calling as a husband is not to save face, but have the egg on my face first.

What We’ve Needed Most

What makes the vision of Ephesians 4:32 distinctively Christian is those last six words: “. . . as God in Christ forgave you.” It all starts with our Father’s heart and actions of forgiveness toward us. Kindness toward each other begins with God’s kindness toward us in Christ. God has forgiven me, therefore I can forgive her. Therefore, my heart can be tender, compassionate — not just in general, but specifically toward her. Therefore, I can act with kindness.

Ultimately, it is the kindness of God that melts an unforgiving spirit, softens a hard heart, and transforms unkind actions. What we’ve needed most in our ten years has been to be Christian toward each other. And what’s been most catalytic is kindness. Greater than any need for my wife to hear the charge to submit has been my hearing the charge to be kind to her — because of how kind God has been to me.

Excerpt taken from article by David Mathis on DesiringGod.com.

It's a
Girl!



Congratulations to Peter & Katelin Rische at the birth of their daughter, Ellie Noelle. She was born Thursday, October 28th. Ellie weighed 9 lbs. 12 oz. and was 22" long. She joined big sisters Lillie and Heidi at home.

Ladies, you are invited!

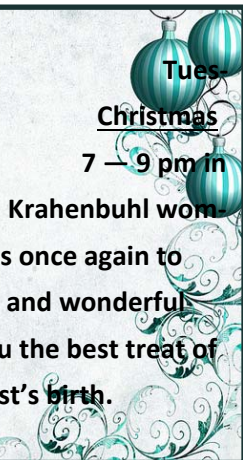
day, December 5th

Gathering of Friends

the Nehemiah Center. The women are tying on their aprons once again to bring you warm fellowship and wonderful treats, and to share with you the best treat of all—the wonder of Christ's birth.

Tuesday
Christmas

7 — 9 pm in



NEXT STEPS

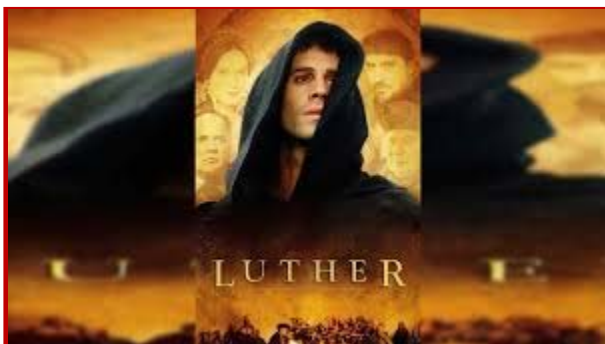
Step 4—"Our Equipping" (2nd session)
Sunday, November 5th
at 6:30 pm, NC

Step 2 "Our Core Beliefs" (2 sessions)
Sunday, November 12th & 19th
at 6:30 pm, NC

Step 1—"Our Mission & Vision" (1 session)
Saturday, November 18th
At 8 am, Breakfast served

Please sign-up at the
Welcome Center!

Pick up a brochure at the
Welcome Center for a listing of the
2017-2018 classes.



You and your family are invited to join us in the MBC Sanctuary for Movie night & popcorn from 6—8:30 pm on Saturday, November 11th to view the inspiring and moving movie drama "Luther".

Parents: This 2003 film is rated PG-13 due to minimal violence and a few cursory words. However, we believe your entire family will benefit from watching the struggle of the Church and the courage of Luther in making the Bible available to every man and woman to read God's Word. The DVD is available in Pastor Troy's office to preview.

We hope to see you there.



Sunday School

Will be on Christmas
break Sunday, December
24th & 31st

Choir

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, November 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 pm in the Lower Level Room #106.





Beginning in January the Good News Club will have opportunities for you to supply treats. Please—nothing with peanuts due to peanut allergies for some children! Contact Kay Bloom or sign-up at the Welcome Center if you are willing to help.



We would like to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Leland Hartwig. Leland passed away Sunday, October 15th.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Chris Stein-Thesing. Chris's father, Karl Stein, passed away on Friday, October 20th.

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

New Property

The New Property Board is made up of Lynn Hardy, Scott Larson, Amanda Ohlrich, Mike and Sarah Olmstead and Pastor Troy Watson. We've met twice now to begin developing a plan of action for our newly acquired building. We are mindful of the mission of MBC which is to GLORIFY GOD, by Joining Christ, Building Families and Transforming our Community. It is in large part due to that third piece, *Transforming our Community*, that we are eagerly seeking to discover God's Vision for this property.



We have therefore set out to meet immediate tasks as well as longer-term action items as follows. Our team has sought approval of a grounds keeping & maintenance crew made up of MBC volunteers to care for the day to day needs. We are in the beginning stages of naming the Property and developing a Mission Statement under which the ministry will function. We are discussing and generating general procedures, researching the needs of the community and our city, and sending team members out with individual tasks in order to meet our goals.

We are confident that we are making progress. Please keep us in your prayers as we research possibilities and complete goals. If you have ideas or input for the team please take it to one of the board members (listed above) and convey it in this manner. We will keep you updated as we have information to pass along.

Pastor Troy Watson & New Property Board

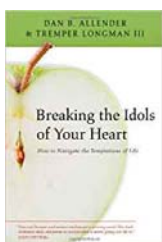
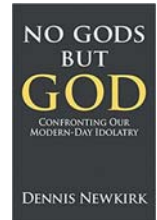
“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

MBC LIBRARY- FOCUSING ON FAITH

JOINING CHRIST - BUILDING FAMILIES - TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

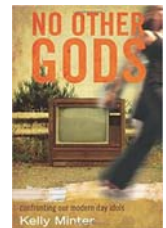
FOR ADULTS

WHY IS IT THAT SO MANY OF US SETTLE FOR A LESS-THAN-SATISFYING CHRISTIAN LIFE? WE SUFFER THE SYMPTOMS- SPIRITUAL DRYNESS, DISSATISFACTION, AND UNANSWERED PRAYERS-OF A YET-UNIDENTIFIED PROBLEM THAT CREATES AN OBSTACLE BETWEEN GOD AND US. WE SEEM UNABLE TO CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN OUR SYMPTOMS AND THE PROBLEM CAUSING THEM: GOD IS NO LONGER FIRST IN OUR HEARTS. *NO GODS BUT GOD* IS ABOUT LEARNING TO CONFRONT OUR MODERN-DAY IDOLATRY AND HOW GOD USES A FOUR-STEP PATTERN TO CALL OUR HEARTS BACK TO HIM. EXAMINING OUR OWN LIVES BEFORE GOD AND ADMITTING THAT OUR HEARTS HAVE STRAYED ISN'T EASY, AND IT IS MOST CERTAINLY HUMBLING. BUT THAT'S WHAT GOD WANTS-A HUMBLING, REPENTANT PERSON STANDING BEFORE HIM WILLING TO BE USED IN SERVICE FOR HIM.

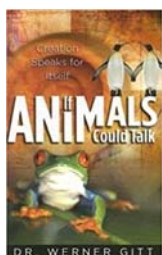


We all want to know our lives matter. So did the Teacher in Ecclesiastes. He invested time and energy in every activity he could think of that might bring meaning and purpose to his life but found only disappointment, frustration, hopelessness. In our thirst for significance we, like the Teacher, give our lives--our time, talents, strength, heart--to anything we think will give us worth and purpose: Power. Relationships. Money. Pleasure. Work. But worshiping these idols has a high cost--and still doesn't bring the fulfillment we long for. In *Breaking the Idols of Your Heart* Dan Allender and Tremper Longman illuminate for us the Teacher's warnings and, after all his activities, his final radiant conclusion: Meaning and purpose come only when God is truly the center of our life and the object of our hope.

Our lives revolve around our deepest needs and greatest treasures. Relationships. Family. Financial security. Private hopes and dreams. Most of our desires are healthy. Yet these longings can become passions we not only pursue, but worship. And while idol worship may seem like ancient history, we still face the modern-day equivalent [version], as natural needs slowly consume our hearts and minds, competing with God's rightful place in our lives. In *No Other Gods* Kelly Minter explores what happens when good desires become false gods, robbing us of an intimate relationship with our heavenly father. So discover the freedom in surrender. The healing in worship. And the joy found in exchanging everyday gods for the one true God.



FOR CHILDREN



In *If Animals Could Talk*, Dr. Werner Gitt, one of the foremost creationist speakers in the world, uses his scientific expertise to show the unique design features of some of God's most captivating creations. Told from the perspective of the animals being described, this book clearly shows the impossibility of life without design. Dr. Gitt uses simple language to provoke a sense of wonder and awe at the marvelous design of the Creator.

As a little girl, Frances (Fanny) loved to climb trees, enjoy the countryside and to run about with her spaniel. The mountains of Switzerland inspired her and she loved hiking on the steep slopes. She became a hymn writer and singer, longing to share the love of her Saviour. Books flowed from her pen at a later stage, often beginning as bedtime stories for her nephews and nieces. You'll enjoy *The Girl Who Loved Mountains*!



Autumn is a beautiful time of year, and the folks of Bear Country are looking forward to everything the season brings. So when the Chapel in the Woods holds its first ever *Harvest Festival*, people gather at Farmer Ben's for a wonderful time of family, friends, fun, and praising God for his gifts.



The Berenstain cubs act out the first Thanksgiving complete with costumes, props, and a full Thanksgiving feast. But will Sister Bear's pet turkey play the part of dinner? The Berenstain Bears *Give Thanks* teaches how God provided for the pilgrims and reminds children of God's many blessings.

Ride along with the Bear family on Thanksgiving Day as Brother and Sister learn about all the things they- and YOU-can be thankful for... including faith, family, and the huge feast waiting for them at the end of their journey to Gramp's and Gran's in *Thanksgiving Blessings*.



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2018 Guatemala Mission Trip Preparation

It's already time to start planning for next year's trip! If you are interested in going to Guatemala **July 7 -14**, please attend ONE of the following 15-minute meetings in the lower level classroom:

Oct. 29 @ noon Nov. 12 @ 10:10 am
Nov. 26 @ noon Dec. 10 @ 10:10 am



To be considered for the 2018 team, 4 requirements must be met:

- Currently in High School or older
- Attend 1 of the informational meetings listed above
- Submit a completed application to the church office no later than Dec. 30, 2017
- Attend #5 Next Steps class "On Mission" which is 2 sessions in June

It's a Birthday Celebration!

Each year MBC helps the residents of Pleasant View Nursing Home celebrate their November birthdays by hosting a birthday party. This year the party is Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 @ 2 pm.

There are several ways you can help:

****donate BINGO prizes** which may include: Individually wrapped fun-sized candy bars (nut-free), Diabetic candy (nut-free chocolates and hard candy), Individual serving sized cookies and chips (ie. Keebler, Pringles, Nabisco crackers), Life savers, Kleenexes, Jewelry (no earrings with posts), Perfume or cologne, Word Search books. Please make sure all prizes are age appropriate.just place in the birthday box near the Welcome Center

**** donate 1 dozen cupcakes** (homemade or bought)
....sign up at Welcome Center and bring to church by Nov. 14 noon

****Volunteer** to help set up refreshments, assist in transporting residents in wheelchairs from the elevators, help with BINGO or provide music. Please arrive 1:15-1:30 for set up/transport. CHILDREN are WELCOME! Just sign up at the Welcome Center.



MISSION:MONROE contact Carol Larson at
larson8@gmail.com or call 588-1475

Thank you very much for organizing the work group for our **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**. What a great turn out! We had people setting up, working, and some to come in to help tear down and clean up—not to mention all the delicious desserts that were delivered!

We had twenty one people on our lists and I know some names did not get on the list. That's amazing and we appreciate your efforts... and theirs... Thank you also for supporting the Pregnancy Center throughout the year. We couldn't do this without all the volunteers that are so faithful...

God Bless and Thank you,
Anna Anderson & Becky W.

Habitat for Humanity — Remember, you can sign up to volunteer in several different ways:

Email: Build@GreenCountyHabitat.org

Sign up via the Green County Volunteer site <https://volunteergreencounty.galaxydigital.com> Habitat is listed as an agency and if you search for Habitat under the "Agencies" section you can simply complete a short form and become a "fan" of our page and you'll dynamically receive all updates and additions to the schedule.

1. Facebook Page: Habitat New Glarus Build
2. Call Habitat at 608-329-4024
3. Text Leah Hanson at 608-347-8082

The address of the building is 200 1st Ave. New Glarus Wisconsin.



**The Operation
Christmas
Child**

**Shoebox drop-off
DEADLINE is Tuesday
November 14th
at 4 pm!**



Awana Clubbers earn "shares" in order to make purchases at the Awana Store. You may have gift type items at home that you would be willing to donate. The Awana Store will be December 13th. Items to donate may be brought to the church from Sunday, December 3rd — Wednesday, December 13th. Please leave them in the Workroom, labeled for Awana Store.



My Father's Daughter

Shining Bright

**Sleep-over for young ladies ages
12 and up.
5 pm, November 3 to
10 am, November 4**

Dinner & Breakfast Included

**Cost \$10. payable to
Monroe Bible Church
Registrations at the
Welcome Center**

**RSVP to Amy Bruescher BEFORE
NOON on Friday, November 3rd
608-577-8494 or email
bruescher@mac.com**