

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of
Morningside Baptist Church
Spartanburg, SC

We **Seek** a personal, life-changing relationship with God through prayer, engaging worship, and Bible teaching.
We **Serve** others by modeling the love of Christ through missions and ministry involvement.
We **Share** God's grace through genuine, loving fellowship and discipleship.

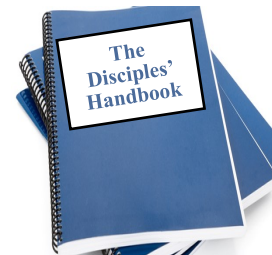
Morningside Baptist Church

February 2021

Volume 64

Number 2

The Disciples' Handbook Sermon Series Continues in February



Do we have a handbook, reference, or guide that contains clear steps about how to follow Jesus? Indeed! We have just that resource in the Bible—with Matthew's Gospel, in particular. Pastor Steven will continue his sermon series *The Disciples' Handbook* during the coming weeks. Worship with us as we explore Jesus' instructions for His disciples regarding these major topics:

♦ Worldliness

February 7 Matthew 6:19-34

♦ Judging Others

February 14 Matthew 7:1-29

♦ Sharing Our Faith

February 21 Matthew 10:1-20



return to
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
Sunday, February 7

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday School Bible Study will resume in March. Until then you are encouraged to

- ♦ Meet in small groups in homes.
- ♦ Meet at church at a time other than the regular Sunday School hour of 10:45 - 11:45 A.M.

Calendar of Events

- 3 Scrappy Church Study Begins - 6:00 P.M.
Children's Missions and Youth Thrive Resume - 6:00 P.M.
- 7 In-Person Worship Resumes - 9:30 A.M.
Scout Sunday and Scouting for Food Drive Begins -
Commissioning of Connor Bastin - 9:30 A.M.
Youth Super Bowl Party - 6:00 P.M.
- 10 International Mission Study on Mexico -
Spartanburg County Network Office 11:30 A.M.
- 13 "Snow"body Loves You Like Jesus
Fellowship for Children - 10:00 A.M.
- 14 Steve Kibbe Recognition Day - 9:30 A.M.
Youth Ice Skating Trip - 10:45 A.M.
Deadline to Register for Snowless Snowtubing
- 15 Deacons' Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
- 21 Youth and Parents Welcome Connor Bastin - 12:00 P.M.
- 24 Family Missions Night - 4:45 P.M.
Deadline for Youth to Register for *Strength to Stand Tour*
- 27 Family Snowless "Snow"tubing - 1:00 P.M.

Thank You, Steve Sunday, February 14

Steve Kibbe began serving here as Youth Director on December 1, 2015. Now, five years later, he will focus on his business and family. Let's show our appreciation for Steve's ministry to our youth through cards and other means of appreciation.

We
LOVE
you

Letting the Shepherd Lead...

After having COVID-19, tiredness and a cough linger on, affecting my ability to mount a sustained effort to do anything. At times I feel like the disciples who were with Jesus the night he was betrayed. As he found them sleeping—when they should have been praying—he said described their condition: "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38). As I wake up—either in the morning or from a nap—I have to prioritize the tasks that need to be accomplished, knowing that I will "run out of steam" at some point during the day.

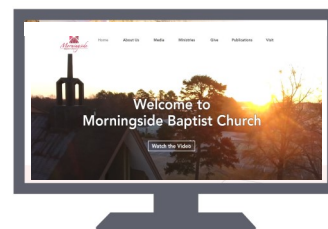
This whole experience brought to mind my father-in-law's favorite psalm. I think that Scripture means so much to him because of his lifetime of Scouting, both as a boy and a leader. I also know, however, that the perspective of knowing a God who will keep our lives and eternities pervades my father-in-law's life. Psalm 121:1 asks, "I lift my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come?" The psalmist immediately answers his own question: "My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." No matter what challenges we face, we can find no greater helper than the One who creates everything.

The next two verses mean so much to me at a time when my weakness is so apparent. Verses 2-3 states, "He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." When I am weak, when my energy wains, and when my efforts are not sufficient, I receive great comfort in knowing that my Lord will not rest from sustaining and helping me. This knowledge does not give me permission to fail in my devotion to Him; rather it helps me recognize that my Lord will honor and amplify the feeble effort I offer!

Friends, in times like these, discouragement and fear about our frailties and weaknesses stand out. When we are well and are no longer concerned about a global pandemic, it may become very easy to begin trusting in our own works and efforts more than in the Savior and His saving and sustaining grace. My prayer is that we will grow in our trust in a Lord who is eternally faithful to help us and keep us safe.

Pastor Steven

Visit Mside's Website



The Staff will continue virtual Prayer Meetings in February. Tune in to our website as Pastor Steven continues with his survey of the New Testament. Jack Dodds will lead in prayer, and Robert Mitchell will share music.

Words of Encouragement

Every Friday, tune in for *Mside Moments*, a time to connect with our church. You will receive words of encouragement from members of the congregation as they share Scriptures, devotions, or testimonies.

mside missions

OPERATION WARMTH CONTINUES

*Be sure to give to them without any hesitation.
When you do this, the LORD your God will bless you
in everything you work for and set out to do.*

Deuteronomy 15:10

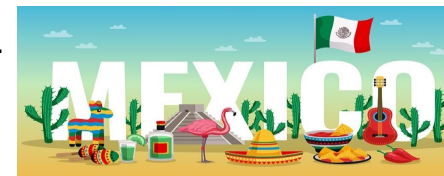
Wintry days are here, and many in our community do not have the clothes they need to stay warm. Please go through your closets and donate any blankets, coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves that you no longer use. These items will be blessings to those in the Spartanburg area who are homeless or of low-income. Protecting someone from the cold will warm your heart and soul. Collection boxes have been placed throughout the church for your gifts.



Scout Sunday Scouting for Food Drive Sunday, February 7

Morningside will recognize Scout Troop 11 and Pack 11 during the morning Worship Service. The boys will participate by greeting members and guests at the entrances to the Sanctuary, serve as flag bearers, lead in the pledges, and read Scripture. Be sure to welcome these boys and their families. Scouts will also hand out bags for their February Food Drive. Return the bags Sunday, February 14, filled with non-perishable foods. Barrels will be located at the entrances to the Sanctuary for your donations.

International Mission Study



at Spartanburg County Network Office Wednesday, February 10 11:30 A.M.

If you would like to attend, call the Network Office (582-8330). Address: 5421 Highway 221, Roebuck)



Family Missions Night Wednesday, February 24 4:45 - 7:00 P.M.

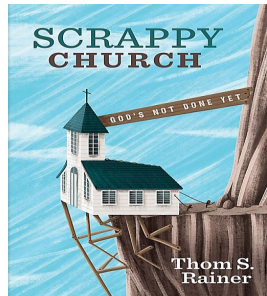
Families have the opportunity to "go on mission" in the Spartanburg community by assisting three of our Ministry Partners. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a pizza supper from 4:45 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. Then we will divide into groups and work at TOTAL Ministries, SPIHN, or Greater Spartanburg Ministries for various tasks, such as sorting, stocking, and organizing clothes and food.

Start the New Year by serving our community!

mside family

Scrappy Church Study Begins Wednesday, February 3 6:00 P.M.

Thom Rainer, president and CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources, has heard statements of despair, hopelessness, and defeat thousands of times. In his book *Scrappy Church*, Rainer looks at characteristics of a scrappy church—one that is disorganized and incomplete. Learn how a church can escape this mediocrity and make a difference in the community and world. This class is open to anyone. Contact facilitator, Jody Welch, (864-316-5714) to register or to obtain more details.



Family Snowless Snowtubing Crowders Ridge in Gastonia, NC Saturday, February 27 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.

If you didn't attend last year's trip, you are probably wondering if you read the caption right. Snowless??? Yep, you are invited to all the fun of snowtubing without the wet clothes. It is so much fun! Just ask some of the families that went last year! The cost of \$10 per person is due to Laura White no later than Sunday, February 14.

It's a Branson Extravaganza! October 11 - 16

Senior adults, we are embarking on an action-packed trip to Branson, Missouri, known for its entertaining shows and one-of-a-kind restaurants! Highlights include

- ♦ Lambert's Café - home of the "Thrown Rolls,"
- ♦ Production of "Jesus" at the Sight and Sound Theatre,
- ♦ Branson Craft Mall and lunch at Pickin' Porch Grill,
- ♦ Variety Show - *Clay Cooper's Country Music Express*,
- ♦ College of the Ozarks, Ralph Foster Museum, Dick's 5 & 10, an afternoon matinee performance in Branson, dinner at Catfish Cabin, and an evening of hilarious comedy, gospel music, and country songs at *Presley's Country Jubilee*.

Meals include five continental breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners.

Look for a flyer coming soon with more details about the itinerary and cost.

mside kids



Missions for Children Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17 6:00 P.M.



"Snow"body Loves You Like Jesus Fellowship for Children

**Saturday, February 13
10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

Our children will enjoy a morning of winter crafts and games followed by a pizza lunch. Please make your reservations with Laura White by phone (585-5457, Ext. 4) or by e-mail (lwhite@msidechurch.org) no later than Sunday, February 7. ***All preschoolers will need to be accompanied by a parent or adult.***

mside youth

Youth Thrive Bible Study Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17 6:00 P.M. Youth Room



Super Bowl Party Sunday, Feb. 7 6:00-8:00 P.M. Meet at the Home of Jack and Ruth Dodds (3207 Cedar Springs Dr., Spartanburg) Pizza provided. High School Students - bring sodas Middle School Students - bring chips or dessert

Ice Skating Trip Sunday, February 14 10:45 A.M. Greenville Pavilion

Sign up in the Youth Room and pay skate rental fee of \$5 to Connor Bastin no later than Sunday, February 7. Bring money for lunch in Greenville.



Meet Connor and Alanna Bastin Sunday, February 21 Noon Fellowship Hall Lunch will be provided for all youth and their parents. Contact the Church Office to reserve your spot no later than Wednesday, February 17.



Cross Roads Church March 12-13

Sign up in the Youth Room no later than Wednesday, February 24. Contact Connor Bastin for more details.



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Covid - 19 Recommended Guidelines

The Deacons and Staff ask you to observe the following:

- ◆ Practice all social distancing guidelines. Some class locations have been changed to accommodate this guideline.
- ◆ Place your offering in the baskets located at the entrances to and exits from the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Follow instructions provided by the Staff on exiting the Sanctuary after Sunday worship services.
- ◆ Wear a facemask.
- ◆ Stay home if you have a fever, cough, sore throat, or if you have had any suspected contact with Covid.

We will continue worship services and Bible Study as long as we receive no restrictions from the government. Each Sunday School class can determine whether it will continue. Classes may decide whether they will meet at church or at another location.

If a person who attended services on Sunday tests positive for Covid-19, the church family will be alerted.



Hospital/Homebound Visits

During the Corona-virus pandemic, our Staff has not been making in-person visits to the hospital or homes unless requested by the patient or family. We continue calling to check on the condition of individuals who are ill. Please be aware of the Regional’s Healthcare System’s policy: “Patients at Spartanburg Regional’s hospitals will be allowed one visitor per patient.” *Any* visitor would preclude a family member from seeing their loved one that day.

Sympathy Extended to

... Mildred Whisnant and family in the death of Mildred’s son, Greg Whisnant, on January 7 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

... Jason and Amy Dodds and family in the death of Amy’s grandmother, Geraldine Mobley, on January 8 in Woodruff, South Carolina.

... Family and friends of Joyce Lewis who passed on January 11 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Thank You Notes for Your Prayers and Support Received from

Ben and Linda Alverson
Bobbie Elliott

Ministers on Call during Weekends

Fridays	Steven Owensby	590-7985
February 6-7	Laura White	828-447-2175
February 12-14	Steven Owensby	590-7985
February 20-21	Jack Dodds	590-8951
February 27-28	Laura White	828-447-2175

Morningside Baptist Church
897 South Pine Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302
Rev. Dr. Steven R. Owensby, Pastor

Office: (864) 585-5457 Fax: (864) 585-6217
Website: www.msidechurch.org
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Ministers - All Members of the Congregation

Steven Owensby, Senior Pastor (Ext. 3).....sowensby@msidechurch.org
Jack Dodds, Associate Pastor (Ext. 6).....jdodds@msidechurch.org
Laura White, Associate Pastor (Ext. 4).....lwhite@msidechurch.org
Robert Mitchell, Worship Minister (Ext.5).....rmitchell@msidechurch.org
Connor Bastin, Interim Youth Director (Ext. 8).....cbastin@msidechurch.org
Paula Joye, Organist.....paulajoye@charter.net
Gail Medlin, Pianist.....gmedlin@wildblue.net
John Kelly, Finance (Ext. 7).....jkelly@msidechurch.org
Robin Kelly, Finance (Ext. 7).....rkelly@msidechurch.org
Linda Alverson, Membership (Ext. 1).....lalverson@msidechurch.org
Kathy Green, Communications (Ext. 2).....kgreen@msidechurch.org
Jeremy Powers, Media Specialist.....jpowers@msidechurch.org
Andy Bogan, Sound Tech.....abogan@msidechurch.org



Mside Weekday Preschool

Ashley Searcy
Interim Director

Office: (864) 585-5424

Email: msidepreschool@msidechurch.org