



2017 Ministry Overview

A YEAR OF DISCOVERY

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 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 NIV

Don't you just love a great find? Any intense search for something lost or unknown loves a conclusive discovery.

Because I have such a thirst for knowledge about my ancestors; where they are from, what they did, who lived in their home and the cultural surroundings of their lifetime - I am driven to find actual historical evidence of their existence. Even though I have some dates and names and locations that date back several hundred years from both of my parents, I still hunger for more – what did they look like and what kind of people were they?

The Book of Acts is a great historical document, written by Luke, one of the most learned followers of Jesus, and should be as encouraging as any ancestral find for all of us genealogy buffs (or developing believers). In this book we find the heart of the Body of Christ (the Church) and the founding principles and people in our spiritual heritage; specifically chapter 2.

In Acts 2 we get the prophetic announcement of the “last days” unveiled; the Holy Spirit’s dramatic entrance into the lives of God’s people; the powerful deliverance of the first sermon under the Spirit’s direction and the consequential results – 3,000 souls welcomed into the fold!

We also learned what the first believers did as the Spirit made His home in their hearts. In short – many signs and wonders brought awe into their assembly (Acts 2:43)! What a great discovery!

THIS IS US!

Many signs and wonders have moved us throughout our 155 years of ministry in Decatur Township of Marion County, none would have surpassed the year we just served.

2017 has to be one of the most inspiring historical years throughout our treasured history! And you were there! The Lord took us from confusion to focus; from unbelief to surrendered faith; from uncertainty to confidence in the Holy Spirit. Look through these pages and discover the documented proof of this year of deliverance. Look at our hope that will carry us on, through the Lord Jesus Christ!

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GROWING PEOPLE CHANGE

WORSHIP

Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission (Webster’s Dictionary, 1828). True worship, in other words, is defined by the priority we place on *who* God is in our lives and *where* God is on our list of priorities. True worship is a matter of the heart expressed through a lifestyle of holiness (Christianity Today, Kennebrew). Worship services are intended for the purpose of bringing people together to honor God with extravagant love and extreme submission.

Sunday 10:30 am: *average attendance was 128*

On Sunday mornings you can expect to be ushered into worship with live music, prayer, and a message shared by Pastor John, which included several sermon series in 2017: Discover Life in Christ, Leading Generously, Thirsty, Roots, Stones, Engage, Faith/Hope/Love, The Grace of Giving, and Focus.

Worship Nights

In addition to the weekly Sunday morning service, MPBC offered two evening opportunities to worship through song on May 31 and July 22 as well as a Bonfire Worship Night in October. Those worship nights then evolved into a full service on Saturday nights called, The River, which met on September 30th and November 18th giving opportunity to families who are unable to come Sundays.

Holiday Worship Experiences

With New Year’s Day landing on a Sunday, we decided to replace the 10:30 service with a unique experience at 5 pm designed to help participants look inwardly and ask the Lord how we can grow and engage in 2017. On Friday, April 14th The Good Friday Experience blended worship through music and a time of reflection as participants journeyed through different stations, interacting with the events of the Holy Week in a new and creative way. Each station included an object lesson created for kids ages 4 and up. The Christmas Eve Candlelight service began at 6 pm (one hour earlier than previous years) with a Christmas worship celebration through music, a message, & family communion by candlelight.

SURRENDER

When you meet Jesus, you give Him authority over your life. In 2017, 13 people gave their lives to Christ and were baptized: Eva Wynne, Tori Linkous, Ava Shipman, Gage Kaviak, Nickel Wrightsman, Nathan Quantz, Jeff Dixon, Erica Lemon, Anthony Lemon, Kixton Lemon, Delilah Lemon, Ashlyn Holmes, and Aliyah Montgomery. Our whole lives are now to become more like Jesus.



Jesus has changed us and is changing us. We live our lives in response to what Jesus has done for us by becoming more like Him.



GROWTH

The only way to experience the abundant life Jesus wants for us is to take the next step and experience Him in the process. The best way to discover your next step is to study God's word. MPBC offered many learning opportunities of spiritual growth for all ages in 2017.

Sunday School: *average attendance was 46*

Two adult classes met at 9:30 am for study. A staffed nursery and toddler room are available for families at the beginning of the worship service. PreK-6th grade students are dismissed to their classes from the worship service. A new curriculum, *The Gospel Project*, was introduced to students in the toddler through 6th grade classes. We have an awesome team of teachers who serve the families of MPBC on Sunday mornings!

Wednesday Family Nights : *average attendance was 96 (Jan-May, Sep-Dec)*

It is a privilege to come together mid-week to regroup and refocus our busy lives on Jesus. We have a meal together then break into small group classes, appropriate for all ages.

The Pre-K to 6th grade students engaged in Answers Bible Curriculum studying scriptures that support the truth that *God Protects and Restores*. Week after week we have a team of dedicated volunteers who shepherd the children through teaching and mentoring!

Wednesday is also a time for teens to gather and study the Word, learn how it applies to their lives, and connect with one another. In 2017, students used the following curriculum to guide their lessons: *The Story Bible*, *The Truth About Sex*, and *Do Hard Things*. We are so grateful for the leaders guiding the Middle and High School students!

Pastor John led the Adult small group on Wednesdays with lessons that followed up on the previous week's sermon and two video-based studies provided by RightNow Media: *Unstuck—Moving from the Mundane to the Meaningful*, and *The Book of Titus*.

Men's Study

A group of men met in the Summer to study the curriculum, *33 The Series Vol 4: A Man and His Work*.

Women's Studies

Three studies for ladies were offered in 2017: *All Things New* by Kelly Minter (Winter), *She's Got Issues* by Nicole Unice (Summer), and *Nehemiah* by Kelly Minter (Fall).



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I CAN'T DO LIFE ALONE

Jesus didn't do life alone. He brought his disciples everywhere. If the Son of God didn't do life alone, why would we? We need others who will challenge and encourage us to take next steps.

Events were planned to offer opportunities to build relationships with one another.

Men's Ministry

A group of guys took a road trip on July 1st to the Great American Ball Park to watch the Cincinnati Reds take on the Chicago Cubs.



Women's Ministry

Ladies were invited to lunch at Cracker Barrel and shopping at Gilley's Antique Mall on May 20th. In October, the Women's Ministry hosted brunch and shopping at the church, featuring Trades of Hope. TOH is an organization that empowers women out of poverty all around the world.

Youth Ministry

In February the youth attended Winter Jam at Banker's Life Fieldhouse. It was a night of testimonies and music featuring Crowder, Tenth Avenue North, Britt Nicole and more. On March 18th, it was pizza and Skyzone for the win! Eleven teens and three chaperones traveled to Union U. in Jackson, TN for Centrifuge camp from June 26th to July 1st. The youth ended their summer break with an afternoon of water fun, featuring a slip-n-slide kickball game and pizza.



MPBC Kids Ministry

Summer camp for 3rd-6th graders was held in a new location, Highland Lakes Camp in Martinsville. Eleven kids and five chaperones spent two nights and three days experiencing a variety of outdoor activities, crafts, and bible study.



Family Ministry

We celebrated our nation's independence by gathering at Grace Church in Mooresville to watch the Pioneer Park fireworks show on July 4th. The kids, youth, and even some big guys had a great time playing in the large field as we waited for the sun to set. On December 20th, we continued our tradition of visiting the homes of shut-ins to sing carols. Afterward, families enjoyed cookies and hot cocoa at the church.



In special Baby Dedication ceremonies, two families committed to raise their babies in a home centered around Jesus Christ: Ben & Vanessa Graves (Malachi) and Hiram & Rosa Banda (Jace). It is exciting for the congregation to come along side the families and commit to being a part of their spiritual development.

SURRENDERED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE

Want to become more like Jesus? Focus more on serving others than on being served. The best way to improve our marriages, make a difference in our workplaces & communities, and discover our Spiritual gifts is to serve those around us.

Providing a positive first impression and welcoming atmosphere is a very important part of serving everyone who enters through our doors. This facility is more than just a building, it is a haven for meeting spiritual & physical needs and a place to introduce your family, friends, and community to Jesus.

First Impressions

Our First Impressions team faithfully serve on Sunday mornings greeting people with a smile and handshake, answering questions, and collecting the offering. These volunteers are a vital part of the Sunday morning service!

Hospitality

Our hospitality team encourages fellowship by providing coffee every Sunday morning and meals for special occasions.

This team was responsible for getting up early and preparing a wonderful breakfast for us to enjoy before the worship service on Resurrection Sunday. Following the Christmas program, *What a Beautiful Name*, presented by the Music Ministry, our hospitality team put on a fabulous Reception with hors d'oeuvres, cookies, and punch. Both are special traditions for families to attend!

Building & Grounds

Our church building not only gives us a place to worship and learn, but is a lighthouse in the Decatur Township community. It takes a great deal of time, manpower, and money to take care of our building and grounds. Mowing, snow removal, and painting give an accurate impression of a congregation who takes care of their facility. At the end of the year we received a gift of new flooring in the main entrance.

We brought back an old tradition, Hanging of the Greens, this year. A large group gathered on November 26th to decorate the church for Christmas and partake in cookies and hot cocoa.

We are grateful for the volunteers who serve by giving their time and energy to projects that beautify our facilities!



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I CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD

It is a spiritual impossibility for us to outgive God, because He has already given us everything. When we give, we're giving God back a small portion of what He's already given us.

MPBC believes in biblical giving, that we are to honor the Lord with the "first fruits" of our labor. That's why for every dollar given to MPBC Ministries, 10% goes to support missions. Half of that 10% impacts missions right here in Indiana! Our Missions team provided support to 15 organizations/missionaries.

We used your gifts to the Deacon Benevolence fund, food pantry, and clothing bank to minister to those in need in Decatur Township by giving them assistance in the following ways:

- ◆ 374 bags of food, 248 bags of clothing, 25 coats, & 8 blankets
- ◆ \$3,032 in rent, utility, gas card, & grocery assistance

We hosted the Indiana Blood Mobile two times in 2017 and donors gave 28 units of blood.

As a congregation, we took part in the Forget the Frock Movement, which encourages people to use their purchasing power to affect world change by purchasing T-shirts to wear Easter Sunday. A total of 91 shirts were purchased from Feed the Orphans, providing 4,368 meals to orphans in Africa and East Tennessee while also providing employment for Haitians who made the shirts.

In October, a challenge was issued to raise \$14,375 by Thanksgiving to fulfill our Missions commitments and make up for a general fund deficit. In less than three months, God used the people of MPBC to surpass the goal! Then in a clear message of God's provision, the company that leases our cell tower discovered an underpayment and notified us that we would be receiving an additional \$2,083. An unexpected gift from God!

We had the honor of making Christmas memorable for a family of nine. In keeping with the generosity of this congregation, all seven children received everything on their wish list! Not one ornament remained on the Angel Tree!

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And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

2 Cor. 9:8 NLT

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Thanksgiving Challenge

\$16,053.50 of \$14,375 raised

39 supporters 112% ← **WOW!**

FOUND PEOPLE FIND PEOPLE

It's impossible to love someone and not care about what they care about. Jesus cares about the lost, and the more time we spend with Jesus the more we'll begin to care about those who are far from Him.

Egg Hunt

We invited the community to an Egg Hunt on April 15th and used the opportunity to share with children and families the message of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.



Vacation Bible School

MPBC, in partnership with other Decatur Township Churches, held VBS at Stephen Decatur Elementary School from June 12-16. Using the Maker Fun Factory curriculum, Decatur Township children were taught that God created them for a purpose.



Carnival

To kick off Wednesday Family Nights for 2017/18, we held a Carnival on August 23rd complete with games & prizes, hotdogs, popcorn, Kona Ice Truck, grilled corn on the cob and MORE! We used this event to invite families to connect & learn during our dynamic family programming on Wednesday nights.



Back To Church Sunday

On Sunday, September 17th, MPBC joined churches across the Nation and invited our communities to come back to church. After the worship service, we had a tailgate party with free food, games, and a pick up touch football game to encourage people to stick around and get to know each other.

Harvest Festival

On October 25th we offered a safe Halloween alternative with a meal, games, pumpkin decorating, hayride, and MORE! The evening closed with trunk-or-treat.

Elder Board

Our Elder board serves as the spiritual advisors for the church and Ministry Board. The Elders are working to cast a vision for MPBC's core values and ministry direction as we fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus gave to every believer: "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." —Matthew 28:18-20



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SAY YES

God's gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully.

1 Peter 4:10

2017 MINISTRY BOARD

Elders

Bill Bartlett, Mike Davis
& James Sells

Deaconate

Drew Hollingsworth
& Heather Ward

Administration

Joe Griffith & Bob Owens

Church Growth

Madi Davis & Patti Wilson

Missions

Jeannie Cooper & Janice Hynes

Spiritual Development

Marie Gourley, Amber Howard
& Kari Weddle

Clerk

Stacy Froman

Treasurer

Jan Owens

Moderator

Tom Coffey

CHURCH STAFF

John G. Dunaway

Pastor

Allison Sells

Office Administrator

Bethany Hollingsworth

Associate Office Administrator
Worship Director

Don't miss out on all God has for you. Say YES to CONNECTING with Him, SERVING those around you, and GROWING in your faith in 2018. Look over the list of opportunities below and see what interests you. Some commitments are for a one time event and others might involve being on a rotating schedule. If you have any questions, call the church office. Our Office Administrators are eager to help!

Administration

Grounds crew (mowing and/or snow removal)
Building/equipment maintenance & upkeep

Church Growth

First Impressions team (greeters, ushers)
Community Outreach events
Adult & Family Ministry (get togethers, outings, events for fellowship)
Hospitality team
Comfort Food Meals Ministry team

Missions

Short term mission trips
Missions team

Spiritual Development

Children's Ministry teacher/assistant
Youth leader for classes or activities
Adult study leader/facilitator
Vacation Bible School
Church Library

Music Ministry

Praise team (instrumentalists, vocalists)
Sound & lighting team
Kids for Christ Choir

Deaconate

Food Pantry
Clothing Bank
Community Garden