From the Pastor

by Adam Schell

Another year has come and gone. As a church, we spent 52 Sundays together. And some of those Sundays were incredible. We had Sundays where we contributed dozens of household items to help the children of the Cabbage Patch House. We had Sundays where we gave enough "Back-to-School" supplies to help an entire elementary school begin their new year. We had Sundays where we gave thousands of dollars to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need.

But as the New Year begins, I can't help but wonder how much of a difference these Sundays made in your life the rest of the week? Did our sermons, Sunday School classes, and Bible studies help you grow closer to God? Did coming to church make you a better follower of Christ?

I don't know how you would answer any of those questions. But I do know that we, as a church, should do everything we can to help you grow in your faith and grow closer to God.

(continued on page 2)
In the book of Jeremiah, we hear God tell the people of Israel, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to give you hope and a future.”

God spoke these words to give Israel hope during a difficult time in their history, but we also believe they are true for us.

We believe that God has a plan for us, a plan that will make us prosper, and give us hope and a future. But before we’re ready to hear these plans—who God wants us to be, what God wants us to do, where God wants us to do it—we have to completely trust in God.

On Sunday morning’s in January we are going to be exploring the story of Abraham, and we’ll see how this giant of our faith often failed to trust God. And we’ll be challenged to face our own lack of trust head on.

Now clearly, none of these questions can be answered quickly or easily. These are the kinds of questions we wrestle with throughout our lives. So you’re not going to be able to answers these questions by spending an hour in church each week.

To answer these questions, it’s going to take work and commitment. But we’re going to walk beside you and guide you through the journey. And if you put in the work it requires to seriously answer these questions, you’re going to grow closer to God...and when 2018 rolls around you’ll

If there is inclement weather on Sundays, we will make a decision by 8:00am that morning, and post cancellation information on local news stations, and our church’s Facebook page.

And, as always, just because the church feels it is safe for us to have services that does not mean it is always safe for you to make it to the

## Never Miss A Sermon

Since we want to help you take your faith to new heights this year, we want to make sure you never miss a sermon.

You can now subscribe to our sermon podcast through iTunes or on Stitcher. Just search for Melbourne Heights and we’ll be the only result.

If you are more of a reader, you can find printed versions at our information kiosk each week. Or you can find them on our pastor’s

## Youth News

So another year has passed by and it seems like it went by too fast. Our youth have had an exciting year with Bible Studies, events, and camp. The upcoming year promises to be just as exciting.

While we don’t have a lot planned for our youth in the beginning of the year, that doesn’t mean it won’t be busy—especially around my house. Elizabeth and I are expecting our second child on January 24, and Patrick will be having surgery on February 7 to hopefully fix some of his aspiration issues.

With all of that going on, I will be out for a couple of weeks, but when I get back we will jump full force into a couple of new studies to start of the year.

We will hopefully be able to do a couple of new things with our youth in the upcoming year as well. Keep praying for our youth in the upcoming year, and all the fantastic things that will be

## Our Winter Weather Policy

With winter upon us, we want to remind you of MHBC’s Winter Weather Policy. Monday through Friday, we follow Jefferson County Public School’s policy. If JCPS is closed then all church services and activities are canceled and our church offices will be closed. If JCPS is open then the church is open as well.

If you would like your birthday published in our church newsletter, please contact our church

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**January’s Sermon Series**

'Trusting God'

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**January Birthdays**

- January 4 | Martha Miller
- January 10 | Becky Cain
- January 10 | Jennifer Cain
- January 11 | Dakota Crawford
- January 11 | Cathy Thompson
- January 12 | Dottie Beals
- January 15 | Virginia Spradlin
- January 17 | Karen Kinney
- January 18 | Jim Tharp
- January 20 | Virgie Bloomer
- January 24 | Tim Cloud
- January 25 | Jake Rieber

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We will still meet at 6:00pm in Rogers Hall. We will have 30 to 40 minutes of discussion before moving into a time of prayer.

Join us Wednesday night, January 11 at 6:00pm,

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Women’s Ministry Update

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All of the ladies of Melbourne Heights are invited to attend.

We also want to encourage our ladies to remember our ongoing collection of personal hygiene items to benefit the young ladies of the Cabbage Patch House.

You can contribute to this collection at any time by dropping off your donations in the basket in the foyer. Our Senior Adults ended 2016 on a very positive note with the annual church-wide Christmas Banquet on December 2. We had more than 70 people attend. The fellowship was outstanding, the food was delicious, and the entertainment was excellent. It was a great way to begin the Christmas celebrations at our church.

Now our attention turns to 2017. We will begin on Tuesday, January 3 with a visit to Becky Gardner’s home to enjoy her Christmas decorations followed by light refreshments and lively conversations around the table.

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Kid’s News

Christmas has truly been a season of joy. We started off with a Birthday Party for Jesus with our preschoolers. 56 children attended and 80 gifts were collected for a crisis pregnancy center. Things got a little wild, as you can imagine with a room full of preschoolers…but it was a whole lot of fun!

As a part of our worship in December, we were also able to teach our kids about the significance of some of the symbols we use to decorate our church at Christmas. We talked about trees, wreaths, candles and the nativity scene.

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