



# Manhattan

## BAPTIST CHURCH

*"It's not religion, it's The Relationship"*

**November 2013**

### Up Coming Events

#### Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday,  
November 20, 2013  
6:30 PM

Manhattan Baptist Church is supplying the turkeys.

Please bring a few covered dishes, enough for your family and some to share. Come join in the family and friend fellowship.

### Revive Worship Service

#### **Need a Mid week boost?**

**6:30 PM**

**Wednesdays**

*Traditional worship service with old favorite hymns, and hearing from God's Word. Come prepared to experience God in a fresh new way.*

### What Is Our Impact In South Tampa?

A question that I have been kicking around for the past several days is this: "If Manhattan Baptist Church ceased to exist, what would the reaction be from the surrounding community?" Would those that live in our community be excited, or would they be distraught?

I've heard statistics that the culture in which we live changes anywhere from every 15 to 24 months. Can you believe this? If our culture is changing every 2 years or less, the question that we must address is: "Are we changing every 2 years as well in order to be relevant and to meet the needs of our culture with the love of Christ?" Please, please do not misunderstand. By seeking to be relevant to the culture, I do **NOT** imply that we alter in anyway shape or form the timeless message of Scripture. **Never!** Here at MBC, we stand on our convictions that the Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16 – 17)! Yet, the reality is that we do proclaim an *unchanging* message (Scripture) in an ever-changing culture. The culture is rapidly changing around us and we either keep up, or we get left behind. By being relevant, this gives us an opportunity to share *The Hope* that is only found in God's Word.

I want to boast in the Lord of how He recently used MBC volunteers to positively impact the South Tampa community for the cause of Christ. On October 26, 2013, we watched God do a mighty work as **He** provided and brought 30 show cars, an estimated 300 – 400 people in attendance, and over 30 corporate sponsors to the MBC campus for the 2013 MBC Car Show/Fall Festival. This was all God as we followed His leading and in-turn we were able to reach out to our community and share the love of Christ in a tangible way.

It is amazing what God does when we become the servants that He has called us to be. Being the hands and feet of Christ is not listening to a sermon-- it's living the sermon! When we are willing to take time out of our day so that someone else can see first-hand Christ's love in action, this is what being a Christian is all about.

If MBC ceased to exist, what would the community say? My prayer is that there would be an uprising from even the unbelievers in South Tampa who would say, "You can't leave. We need the hope and the love that MBC is sharing with this community."

*And the King will answer and say to them, assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*

- Matthew 25:40

Pressing on toward His calling,

Jon

## Bible Wisdom for Becoming the Person God Designed You to Be

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

- **Ephesians 5:18**

To get drunk you have to consume large quantities of alcohol, not just a little. In a similar way, to be filled with the Spirit we have to depend on Him every moment, not just once or twice every now and then.

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*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."* - **Psalms 23:1**

Sheep are completely dependent on the shepherd for provision, guidance, and protection. The New Testament calls Jesus the Good Shepherd (John 10:11); the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20); and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). As the Lord is the Good Shepherd, so we are his sheep—not frightened, passive animals, but obedient followers, wise enough to follow one who will lead us in the right places and in right ways. Once you know the Good Shepherd, follow him!

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*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

- **Isaiah 9:6**

This message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ. The four royal names express His divine and human qualities. As our Wonderful Counselor He is our infallible source of guidance and inexhaustible wisdom. As the Mighty God, Christ is God incarnate, the Omnipotent One. As the Everlasting Father, Christ cares eternally for His followers. As the Prince of Peace, His reign will be characterized by justice and peace.

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*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* - **1 Peter 1:3**

Do you need encouragement? Peter's words offer joy and hope in times of trouble, and he bases his confidence on what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We're called into a *living* hope of eternal life. Our hope is not only for the future, eternal life begins when we trust Christ and join God's family. No matter what pain or trial we face in this life, we know that it is not our final experience. Eventually we will live with Christ forever.

### Deacon Schedule for November

Nov 4 - Nov 10	Charles Inman	224-5752
Nov 11 - Nov 17	Dee Dawson	831-2202
Nov 18 - Nov 24	Tom DeGroff	289-0224
Nov 25 - Dec 1	Dean Hutchison	839-2026

### Nursery Schedule for November

Nov 3	Lorraine Lundy
Nov 10	Maria Brown
Nov 17	Elizabeth Coronado
Nov 24	Lorraine Lundy

**Prayer Requests** can be Called in at 813-419-7790 or  
E-mailed to: [mbcprayerline@gmail.org](mailto:mbcprayerline@gmail.org)

**WEEKLY GATHERING**

Sunday Connect Groups (Sunday School): 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45

Wednesday Revive Service/Bible Study: 6:30 PM

# NOVEMBER 2013

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					<b>1</b>  7:00 PM Systematic Theology	<b>2</b> 11:00 AM Ladies' Tea
<b>3</b> 4:30 PM Deacons and Hospitality Committee	<b>4</b>  7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>5</b>  7:00 PM Property Team  7:00 Men's Study	<b>6</b> 10 AM Homebound Visitation 5:30 PM Choir Re- hearsal  6:30 PM Revive Worship Service	<b>7</b> 10:45 AM Young-at-Heart  6:30 PM Women On A Mission @ Horizon Bay	<b>8</b>  7:00 PM Systematic Theology	<b>9</b>  9:30 AM Finance 10:00 AM Church Council 11:00 AM By-Laws
<b>10</b> Connect Group Teachers Meeting after AM Service	<b>11</b>  7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>12</b> MOPS Bus Leaves MBC at 8:30  7:00 PM Men's Study	<b>13</b>  5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Revive Worship Service	<b>14</b>  6:30 PM Women On A Mission @ Sue's	<b>15</b>  7:00 PM Systematic Theology	<b>16</b>  8 AM Women of Prayer Breakfast  10:30 AM G.O. Team Outreach
<b>17</b>  1:30 PM Youth Activity	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Senior Driving Safety Tips  7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>19</b> 11:30 AM Sunshine Class  7:00 Men's Study	<b>20</b> 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  6:30 PM Thanksgiving Dinner	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Dorcas Class	<b>22</b>  7:00 PM Systematic Theology	<b>23</b>  7:30 AM Metropolitan Ministry
<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Community Christmas Service At New Beginnings	<b>25</b>  7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>26</b>  7:00 Men's Study	<b>27</b> 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Pack for Feeding the Homeless	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Feed The Home- less Happy Thanksgiving	<b>29</b> Office Closed  7:00 PM Systematic Theology	<b>30</b>



11/3  
11/5  
11/5  
11/7

Janice Kanoy  
Lee Hourigan  
Andrew Myers  
Jewell Fern

11/10  
11/11  
11/13  
11/14

Nancy Steiner  
Richard Coombs  
Johnny Macias  
Cleo Ford

11/16  
11/21  
11/27  
11/28

Jackie Cox  
Elizabeth Stanfield  
Ted Williams  
Dorothy Fletcher

**STAFF/DEACON LEADERSHIP**

Office Administrator: Sue Erickson (info@manhattanbaptist.org)

Chairman of Deacons: Charles Inman

Connect Group Director: Mary Valentine

Youth Director: Brandon Newell

Worship Leader: Matt Maines

Men's Ministry/Chairman of Deacons: Charles Inman

Women's Ministry: Lorraine Lundy

Family Pastor: Bob Billeisen

Pastor: Jon Couch

**Theology From My Cat**

Dear MBC Family;

I am astounded when I hear non-believers scoffing at the idea of there is a God. A Supreme Sovereign Being who created and set everything into motion and, furthermore, gives a rip about you or I. But the truth be told, His fingerprints are everywhere; God has not hidden Himself. Romans 1:20 informs us, *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."* (NKJV)

This brings me to the point of this writing. This past week I had to say goodbye to one of my best friends; no, Cynthia is just fine...I'm talking about Sebastian our cat. I know, for some people you may ask, "What's the big deal?" Well, Sebastian had been a part of our family for the last seventeen years. He and I had an inseparable bond. As Cynthia would often comment, "He is definitely your cat". I have come to realize that that "hairy little heathen" taught me more emotionally about God and our relationship with Him than three years of seminary ever did.

First, let's talk about unconditional love. I think pets are the closest to true unconditional love that we will ever encounter in our earthly lives. Have you ever accidentally stepped on your pet or scolded them to have them run off and sulk for a little bit...but usually sooner than later back they come to sit in our laps, or be by our- - all has been forgiven. What that represents in the smallest way is the unconditional love God has for the greatest of His creation. Don't misunderstand me, God does not love our sin...in fact it grieves Him. But despite all our wrong doings and betrayals He still loves us as much as ever. With outstretched arms it is He who waits for us to climb into His lap and love Him.

Second, we are accepted just the way we are. I could come home sweaty and smelly and Sebastian was just as happy to see me as he would be if I had just stepped out of the shower. God is just the same way. Now, let me be careful here. When we come to God with a repentant heart He will gladly accept us in whatever condition we may be in. Despite our external condition, with a heart that is repenting of sin He longs for us to jump up into His lap and freely express our love and appreciation of Him. In fact, He is the One who can cleanse us of any filth.

And last, the seventeen years we had Sebastian was an incredible gift from God Himself. God allows people, places, and things in our lives for a reason. Sometimes it is to teach, sometimes to be taught, and sometimes just for sheer happiness. I do not believe things happen randomly or simply by coincidence; everything exists and occurs through the sovereignty of God for a purpose which will ultimately glorify Him.

So I must admit a bit of humility when I acknowledge the wonderful things that Sebastian taught me about God. Perhaps this is a little bit silly for some, but it has been eye opening for me. Besides, if God can teach from the mouth of a donkey, why couldn't He teach from a little white cat? Goodbye and thank you Sebastian!

In God we trust,  
Charles Inman  
Men's Pastor  
Isaiah 6:8