



# Markham Messenger

By: Pastor Joe Wendorph

## Spotting Spiritual Spoofer's

Living in the digital age has offered us so many advantages. Just a few years ago, pastor's like myself would spend hours gleaning through books and other such resources when preparing for a message or Bible study. There are upsides and downsides to our new web-based tech society. First, as a pastor, I can no longer have a monopoly on jokes for sermons. Most of them get posted and shared to the masses, so in "Mass" there is no surprise. Second, who needs a seminary degree! Now everyone can be a Bible scholar. You no longer need to study Greek and Hebrew in order to exegete (read out of) Scripture. It is all there on the web – just let your fingers do the walking!

However, there are more serious downsides to our new "connectedness" through the new technology. We are never really sure everyone is who they say they are? Identity theft is a huge problem today; and pastors and churches are a prime target. Unfortunately, this phenomenon found its way to MWPC.

Like most pastors, my identity is easily available as both my phone and email address are printed and listed on everything Markham Woods. As I have often said, criminals are very smart. They will find a way to separate you from your money with the least effort. So, for the second time in the past year, my identity as a pastor was used to produce a heartfelt, yet counterfeit plea for money. And why not, you trust your pastor, don't you? Who wouldn't want to help your pastor in real need – even trouble? Unfortunately, the generous and giving hearts at MWPC were the target of what is called "Spoofing."

What is email Spoofing? *"Email spoofing is when someone sends an email with a forged sender address. Typically, the sender's name or email address and the body of the message are changed to mimic a legitimate source such as a bank, newspaper, or company (pastor or church). They can also mimic messages from friends and family. By pretending to be someone the victim trusts, the scammer directs their victim to a fake website that collects their personal information (a process known as phishing)."*

As "trusted figures" pastors are prime targets of such deception. I have often wondered how successful these criminal types could be if they would put their brain and effort into a legitimate business. So, for the record, as a pastor, I would never ask for money through an electronic request of any kind. I never have. Those who know me, know that I rarely would solicit resources for the church even in face-to-face dialogue.

First of all, it is not my style. Secondly, in my life and in ministry, I have found that God always provides! Thirdly, I have no reason to ask for additional support for our ministry because of your generous hearts. In our tradition, you know that we formally offer an invitation to support God's ministry at Markham Woods one time each year. The Biblical word for this is stewardship, which means management of God's blessings. In recent years, we have had no reason to ask for any additional support of our budget. You trusted God, and you trusted this church to manage your shared blessings. Therefore, I feel no need to ask for more!

Identity is a big deal today. I am so glad that your identity as a follower of Jesus Christ is visible, meaningful, and tangible! Shortly, once again, we will be offered an invitation to respond out of our faith identity, and this one is legit! This is where you can trust God who showers blessings and knows you personally through Jesus Christ. We will act courageously in our identification as Jesus' Church on October 25.

In the next few weeks, we are excited to share with you, not only what God has been doing through you, but how much more lies ahead. This will include a new sermon series called "Courageous Christian Living. In a few days, you will also receive our annual R.E.A.L. Church magazine, including an invitation to respond - it is the real thing! This one you can trust as God trusts you with blessing to share!

October 2020



## MARKHAM WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

**By: The Finance Committee**

This is the church's financial position through August. The financial actual cash flow for the church remains favorable year-to-date by \$13,300. The majority of the positive cash flow is due to lower program costs which has offset the reduced income.

As projected, Heathrow Christian Academy (HCA) improved significantly with the start of the school year and early tuition payments. Enrollment is lower as expected but the staff is making adjustments to minimize costs. Initial enrollment projected a negative cash flow but enrollment projections continue to improve with each passing week which may result in a balance of income to expenses by year-end. The Finance Committee continues to work with HCA staff and the HCA Board to ensure proper support to maintain the high standards of the school.

<b>Church Budget (Does not include HCA)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Favorable (Unfavorable)</b>
Church Income	\$492,200	\$516,500	(\$24,300)
Church Expenses	\$478,900	\$514,600	\$35,700
Overall (Income less Expenses)	\$13,300	\$1,900	\$11,400

### **MWPC Endowment Fund Status**

The Session and Finance Committee are pleased to announce that Markham Woods Presbyterian Church endowment fund has been approved and established. This endowment is established for the perpetuity of the campus. Additional details of the endowment were included in the March edition of the Markham Messenger. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the full 14 page document, please call the church office (407) 333-2030 or send an email to [church@mwpcusa.com](mailto:church@mwpcusa.com) or [receptionist@mwpcusa.com](mailto:receptionist@mwpcusa.com). Summary of the key points is listed below:

#### **Objective**

Endowment contributions will be directed to maintain the long term financial health of Markham Woods Presbyterian Church (MWPC) and provide a safety net in the event the church has financial difficulties and cannot maintain the facilities. The funds will be for the perpetuity of the campus.

#### **Management**

As an endowment, the principal of the contributions will remain in the endowment fund. Only interest and capital gains can be withdrawn. The endowment funds will be kept in the MWPC brokerage account. The investments and accounting will be segregated from other MWPC investments. The Finance Committee will manage the fund initially. Once large enough, an endowment committee will be established and insure that the officers for this committee will be elected by the congregation. This endowment committee will oversee that the investments and endowment rules are followed.

The contributions will be invested in low fee, broad market exchange traded funds, mutual funds, bonds and cash instruments. The investment goals will be long term growth and income with limited risk and low fees.

Once the endowment investments are able to produce \$5,000 or more per year, the Endowment Committee, if requested, will begin making distributions to the MWPC general budget to maintain facilities.

#### **Safety Net**

If MWPC has difficulty drawing enough revenue to meet a future budget, the budget must first be cut by 20% of the average of the three previous years. If after the 20% cut, MWPC cannot meet its financial needs to maintain and operate the campus, principal funds in this endowment can be used to pay the bills needed to keep the campus operational.

#### **Participation**

Any individual, trust, or other entity can participate in the endowment fund. All information will be kept confidential. Details for participation can be obtained through the church office. Information available includes the trust charter, full details for managing the trust, conditions for accepting physical items and details for electronic transfers.

## Courageous Living and Dying

By: Pastor Jody Mask

When I hear the word "courage," my mind automatically conjures up images of people who put their lives on the line for the greater good. Recently, we have seen such selfless heroism emanating from the legions of firefighters battling blazes on the west coast. As fire seasons lengthen and deepen, many people still feel called to that dangerous work.

One such hero was Charles Morton. He died on September 17 while fighting the El Dorado fire eighty miles east of Los Angeles. Charlie was a squad boss for the Big Bear Interagency Hotshots, an elite team of wildfire fighters employed by federal agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Patrick Gaines, a former hotshot from Wyoming, described the work in an Associated Press story. "This is arduous. It's serious...It's very strenuous. It's very demanding — not just physically, but mentally."

That statement points to the heart of courage: it is as much physical as it is mental (and spiritual, of course). Courage is a whole-person experience. If you are trying to steel yourself to do a difficult thing, you might take a deep breath, or shake off nervous energy. Think of all the wild gesticulating that Bert Lahr incorporated into his portrayal of the cowardly lion in *The Wizard of Oz!*

Also consider the determined steps of John Lewis and 600 other folks across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. We call that day "Bloody Sunday" because of the violent response from law enforcement to a non-violent march protesting the police killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson in a near-by civil rights march.

The Rev. Maurice Ouellet was a priest with The Society of St. Edmund, a Catholic mission "that had been working directly with those suffering the worst effects of a segregated Selma" according to a CNN article from 2010. Father Ouellet also felt a call to courageous living, in opposition to local officials who enjoyed the status quo, and even church leadership, as evidenced by this excerpt of a letter Ouellet received from Bishop T.J. Toolen:

I won't stand for any priest of the Diocese going in parades or sit-ins. ... The march on Washington and the marches in Baltimore have done absolutely no good. ... Of course, you realize you are stirring up great trouble for yourself, as I have told you, Selma and the surrounding country as far as the negro is concerned is and always has been the worst in the state. They hate the negro, and hate him worse than they love the Church. ... While I am Bishop of Mobile, there will be no picketing by priests or nuns, and no marching.

The irony of this letter is that Bishop Toolen was himself a civil rights advocate, earning a racial epithet nickname from whites hostile to his efforts. The year before Bloody Sunday, he ended segregation in Catholic schools in Alabama. But peaceful marches seemed too confrontational to the bishop, and he removed Father Ouellet from his ministry.

As courageous living is the centerpiece of our annual stewardship campaign, you are going to hear the word "courage" and its synonyms quite a bit. Courageous living is a call God places on all who dare to follow Jesus. The call demands faith in God's purposes, setting aside our own comfort, risking loss, and following the bold vision and wild abandon of The Holy Spirit.

Do not worry—we are not asking you to risk your life for Markham Woods Presbyterian Church! But risking it for the gospel is a hallmark of Christian discipleship (Mark 8:35). Jesus taught and embodied the truth that courageous living dovetails with courageous dying. "Yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 24:22)

So steel yourselves for this journey of faith this fall. Shake out the nervous energy. Pray to be receptive to the messages you hear. And know that you do not receive this call in isolation, pandemic or not. Join siblings in faith and embrace the courageous life.

## Deacons Article Revisited

Have you ever heard anyone say they can't do something because they are too old? Sometimes age can become our excuse for many things we don't have the skill or desire to do!

Growth starts the minute we are conceived but switches to aging even as early as our 20's and older. But this aging only has to do with our bodies. What I have been pondering is: Do our spirits grow old too? Maybe some of us are feeling "old" in our spirits. I've heard the adage "old soul". Is that a positive description? I'm not sure. Of course some people are described as "never growing up". I'm not sure that is a positive description either. Does that mean some of us never learn responsibility or to follow directions, a basic part of growing up mentally and emotionally?

Ephesians 4: 14 - 16 (NRSV) speaks of growing up in Christ. "We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way in him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

If the Spirit of Christ is in each of us then we have the 'DNA of Jesus' to be one of body parts needed to function in Christ's body. Are you part of the Body of Christ? Or are you easily swayed by new religious ideas that come along? Are you feeling pushed around by people who try to trick you into directing your focus from Jesus to some other trend or interest? I believe to grow up means to allow the Spirit of Christ to guide us. We are to center ourselves in Jesus' way and be available to Jesus for the work he calls us to do. We can't do it alone. We must be a working part of the Body, His Body, the church.

To grow up means we must speak lovingly but with conviction to those who would persuade us that there are other religious notions that are newer and better than Jesus, or there are other books more important than the Bible because Jesus and the Bible are outmoded or archaic. As we grow in our understanding we can remind them that Jesus is alive and that God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4: 12).

To not grow old and feel useless we must be tightly connected to the Body of Christ. If we hang out there just kind of watching the activity of the Body, we start to disconnect and disconnected body parts usually die because they lack the flow of blood that supplies nutrients and water necessary for life. Our spirit needs the blood of Christ who called himself the Living Water. He is ever new and ever filling us when we are closely connected to His Body.

I invite you to consider re-committing yourself, reconnecting to your church. If you are not a member I invite you to prayerfully consider joining Markham Woods Presbyterian Church. If you are a member, I invite you to prayerfully re-commit your time, energy, talent, and spirit to the worship of God and ministry of the Body of Christ here at MWPC as we minister inside and outside these walls. Even as I have watched the new walls of the new buildings going up, I wonder how are we doing building us, the church, up in love? We need each other to encourage and assist as we build ourselves up in love. In Christ we don't grow old, we grow up in love and are new creations, beautiful to behold in Jesus our Lord!

## Christmas Greenery

Once again, there is an opportunity to sponsor the Christmas trees and greenery that adorn the sanctuary this Christmas season. This is an exceptional opportunity to honor and remember loved ones through sponsorship of the trees, wreaths and greenery.

Please call the church office at 407-333-2030 if you would like to sponsor sanctuary greenery.



It's almost SHOEBOX SEASON here at Markham Woods. Can you believe it? Here's the scoop: Traditionally, we have participated in shoebox drives sponsored by Love Missions and Operation Christmas Child. Why both? What's the difference?

Love Mission shoeboxes are distributed in the Seminole County area, mainly Sanford and Lake Mary in local elementary schools. Operation Christmas Child boxes will be distributed internationally and some in the US. Due to shipping costs, Operation Christmas Child suggests a \$9.00 donation be made with each box. Love Missions does not have shipping costs so there is no suggested donation.

Shopping lists are very much the same. It's quite fun to see how much stuff one can fit into a shoebox. Are you up for the challenge? We'll be collecting shoeboxes in November in Anderson Hall by the Missions Bulletin Board.

Love Missions suggested items:

- ◆ Plastic shoebox with a "stay in place" lid (secured by a rubber band). The students reuse these boxes
- ◆ School supplies
- ◆ Soap, washcloth, comb
- ◆ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ◆ Socks, gloves, hats
- ◆ Toys/games
- ◆ Stuffed animal, coloring books, or other small educational items
- ◆ Non-melting candy
- ◆ A small Bible or Bible story book
- ◆ Be creative for other small age appropriate items

Operation Christmas Child has a great set of suggested lists by gender and age group. A copy of the five pages is on the bulletin board in Anderson Hall but basically follows the Love Mission list of a toy, personal care items, school items, and craft/activities. Due to shipping, no liquids or wet items can be included. See <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/> for more details. Have fun shopping. We'll have more ways to get involved in the holidays, including the beloved Turkey Drive in the next Messenger.



**We need volunteers for the Pumpkin Festival and Pumpkin Patch!**

**Sign up today!**

**Pumpkin Festival:** <https://www.bit.ly/mwpcpumpkinfest>

**Pumpkin Patch:** <http://www.bit.ly/pumpkinpatch20>



1	Charles Welscher	18	Mandy Brawner
3	Mark Sutton	18	Barbara Jones
4	Kim Eggleton	18	Lisa Kaizer
5	Addy Lavery	18	William Stiles
5	Peter Lorie	20	David Beck
5	Cameron Parks	21	Paige Hawkins
6	Reid Allison	21	Mary Watson
8	Valerie Swadling	23	Linda Emerine
9	Christopher Hajas	23	Bill Ketelhut
11	Kyle Lavery	23	Adelyn Thornton
11	Sally Rosemond	24	Kaaren Nelsen
12	Preston Lovette	25	Ruthann Conklin
13	Charlotte Bullard	25	Vicky Cross
13	Donna Chamberlin	28	Lexi Kaizer
13	Phyllis Conklin	28	David Terwilleger
13	Mackenzie Renzulli	29	Debby Emmert
14	Ella Edwards	29	Maggie Pesarik
14	Ellen Paladino	29	Cindy Teetzel
15	Erin Andrus	29	Julie Thompson
15	Elizabeth Andrus	30	Jenn O'Brien
16	Gregory Fry		
16	Heidi Limongi		
16	Faith Rivers		

5	Kurt & Chris Leinenkugel	29
9	Herman and Susan Miedema	6
10	Tom & Robin Reininger	28
11	Bryan and Ashley Southard	12
11	Anthony & Tiffany Thornton	12
15	James & Venisha Lyon	54
17	Anthony Fedullo & Arlene Yong	40
23	Eric & Joan Dauphinee	35
24	Jay & Lynn Klahn	33
25	Wallace & Tracy Hall	23
26	Paul and Susan Herrick	24

**TO VIEW NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

<https://www.mwpcusa.org/messenger-newsletter>

**TO VIEW THE WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE**

<https://www.mwpcusa.org/church-bulletin>



By: Cindy Teetzel

**Rooted Kids Wednesday Program**

**Begins: September 16, 2019 4:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.**

Rooted Kids is a unique program free of charge and open to the community. Every Wednesday beginning September 16 in Anderson Hall from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. children in kindergarten through fifth grade learn and actively participate in Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks.



## NEW DAY of the week!

By: Chris Leinenkugel

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, October 22 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Cracker Barrel on Hickman Dr. just off SR 46 in Sanford. All men are welcome! Contact Mark Roberts 407-718-7837 or [Markroberts0622@gmail.com](mailto:Markroberts0622@gmail.com) for more information or call the church office at 407-333-2030.

### Time and Talents 2021

Because many hands make light work and because we are a congregation actively serving our members and greater community, we are asking each recipient of the Time and Talent survey they receive in the mail to complete the survey and bring it to church with you on **October 25**.

We all have been blessed with the talent and skills entrusted to us by God. God asks us to use these spiritual gifts to God's service, for our church home and to help our neighbors. The survey you will receive will help you identify talents and skills where you can share in the mission of Markham Woods Presbyterian Church. Please note that you can volunteer as much as you like for any area you are interested in. For example, if you would like to read scripture during services, you can offer to read monthly, quarterly, or once a year. Thank you for always giving to MWPC!




By: Clayton and Cassidy

We can't believe summer is over, and fall is here! Impact has a couple of in-person events, as well as a Zoom hangout opportunity this month! So, don't forget to mark your calendars because you will not want to miss these events!

All of our in-person events are mask-mandatory, so please make sure to come with a face mask. If you don't bring one, we will provide you with one. If you are interested in attending, please contact [impact@mwpcusa.org](mailto:impact@mwpcusa.org) so we can save you a spot!

### Events:

**Zoom Hangout:** The next Zoom Hangout will be on October 4 at 6:30 p.m.; I will send information next week to join!

**S'mores Game Nights:** On October 16, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., Impact is hosting a game night and having a bonfire! We will meet in Anderson Hall for a Super Smash Bro's tournament, and after, we will be walking over to the bonfire pit located at the back of the church.

**Halloween Night:** On October 30, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Impact is hosting a Halloween Party in Anderson Hall! We will be having a viewing party for season 2 of The Mandalorian, serving up pizza and all-you-can-eat Kona Ice snow cones!

We hope to see you at one of Impact's events!  
Cassidy & Clayton



*Growing the Faith of the Whole Family of God  
Inwardly Strong, Outwardly Focused*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MID-FLORIDA  
PERMIT #0064

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

# October

## Mark Your Calendars



The second annual Great Pumpkin Patch is coming to MWPC. The pumpkin patch will be open from October 17 through October 31. Mark your calendars for October 17 at 3:30 p.m. for pumpkin delivery day. We need many hands to unload the truck and get the pumpkins set up in the pumpkin patch. Volunteer link: <http://www.bit.ly/pumpkinpatch20>. All proceeds from the pumpkin sales will go towards replacing the fence around the youth playground.

Contact Cheryl Beck at [cheryl.beck@hcamwpc.org](mailto:cheryl.beck@hcamwpc.org) or 407.333.2045 if you have any questions.

**Markham Woods Presbyterian Church Fall "Pumpkin" Festival  
October 25 from Noon – 4:00 p.m.**



MWPC's outreach to our community is fast approaching! What a fun way to kick-off fall for our community and church family. We need lots of volunteers, donations for prizes for the children's games, and new items for the silent auction. Please contact Cindy Teetzel at [cteetzel@mwpcusa.org](mailto:cteetzel@mwpcusa.org) if you have any questions. Volunteer link: <https://www.bit.ly/mwpcpumpkinfest>