



**Our Purpose is to expand God's Kingdom, as we reach, teach, disciple and activate people for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Morganton First Church of God Weekly Schedule

<b>Communion in the Prayer Room</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday School:</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday Evenings</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Power House Youth and Prayer Service</b>	
<b>Wednesday Fellowship Supper</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday Small Groups</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday Evening Services</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Adult Bible Study, KidsPlace &amp; PowerHouse Youth</b>	

**Our Website: [www.mfcog.com](http://www.mfcog.com)**



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**PROCLAIMER**



## From Our PASTOR

### Happy New Year!

The year 2008 is a memory and in the history books. The New Year is here, and opportunities lie ahead. A neat little scripture is tucked away in Philippians 3:13-14 "...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What a great verse for us as we look to a new year! Perhaps there are some things

that we need to leave behind. Just maybe, there are some things that, for the life of ourselves, and for others, we had better leave behind. It has been too many times, that in holding on to some of the baggage from yesterday, last year, whenever, that we became bogged down. We can loose or effectiveness, even, by holding on to things that would better be left behind.

Failures, shortcomings, offenses towards others and by others -- so much stuff -- that should be left behind. A fellow student in high school was always "turning over a new leaf." He was resolving to do better, to stay out of trouble, to cause less trouble. I think that he was attempting to leave some things behind, and to press on. But, every week, he was turning over a new leaf.

Reaching forth, pressing on, stretching for the mark. Set your goal high. God's standard is high. Anything less than a calling to press on the high calling of God would diminish us. The Creator, God, Lord knows each of us. And he sets the mark. The reaching and pressing imply a straining after. It costs us some effort. It requires something of us. Just as in any significant accomplishment in life, a sacrificing effort is required.

For 2009, we can join the Apostle Paul by saying, "I choose to forget some of the things that are behind. I willingly lay them down. And, then, I strain to reach the high calling that God has for me in Christ Jesus." What is God calling you to this New Year? The Bible would instruct us to seek diligently for His calling in our lives.

God bless you as you open yourself to Him this year.

Sincerely, Pastor Don