

# CHURCH MATTERS

December  
2017



## MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3824 Swamp Rd., P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, NY

[www.morrisvillechurch.org](http://www.morrisvillechurch.org)

[morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net](mailto:morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net)

Facebook - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Kitchen\ Clothes Basket 684-9970

### December Birthdays

1 Kyle Graves	14 Catharine Andrews
4 Kaydin R. Dutcher	14 Steven Broedel
5 Jill Leamer	15 Calixto Suarez
10 Delaney Graves	20 Greg Dutcher
12 Natalie Turner	22 Corey Olney
13 David Holbert, Jr.	31 Bob Mitchell

### December Anniversaries

14 Steven & Jacalyn Groves
19 Ken & Pat Parker
20 Jeff & Karen Gay
20 Jason & Laurie Zbock
21 Nate & Calla Miller
21 Paul & Audra Mockovak

**Pulpit Supply** for upcoming weeks are as follows:

December 3 - 24 Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima  
(Advent 1 - 4) & (Christmas Eve 7:00 pm)

31 Rev. Ray Lighthall

**Clothes Basket -**

**Wednesday and Saturday 10 am - 2 pm.**

**Annual Reports for 2017** are due in the Church Office by December 31, 2017.

Attention...All Committee Chairs, please have your report in to Kaaren, Church Secretary by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Kaaren at 315-684-3314. Thank you.

**Per Capita Assessment for 2017 is \$37.50 per member.**

### December 2017 Calendar of Events

- 3 Communion Service/First Sunday in Advent 10:30 am
- 4-8 Children's Christmas Distribution 6-8:30pm
- 4 CE Committee 5:30 pm SS Room
- 4 Deacons 6:30 pm Library
- 5 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 5 American Red Cross Blood Drive (1 - 6 pm) Fel. Hall
- 7 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm SS Room
- 7,8 Community Christmas Project Setup - Fellowship Hall
- 9 Community Christmas Project Distribution (9 - 1 pm) Fellowship Hall
- 9 Christmas Caroling at Harding Nursing Home 3:00pm
- 10 Christmas Caroling at Crouse Comm Center 3:00pm
- 11 Outreach Committee 5:30 pm SS Room
- 11 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 11 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 12 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 12 Rebekahs Christmas Lunch 12-2 pm Fellowship Hall
- 14 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 14 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm SS Room
- 14,15 Deacons Christmas Food Basket Setup - Fellowship Hall
- 16 Deacons Christmas Food Basket Distribution - Fellowship Hall
- 18 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 19 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day - Office Closed
- 26 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 27 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 31 New Year's Eve

#### Please Note:

**Adult Bible Study** has been discontinued for the summer, and will resume after Labor Day every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library.

**Sunday Hour of Prayer** is held every Sunday from 6:30-7:30 pm. This will be time for anyone from our church and community to gather with others and share a time of prayer.

## *Put Balance in the Bounce of Advent and Christmas*

A few days before Thanksgiving, I made what I hoped would be a quick stop at the Dollar general. Of course shopping is never quick particularly when you want it to be quick. As I waited in line to check out I had time to observe what was happening around me, particularly the grandmother who was checking out ahead of me. It was not going quickly because she kept getting interrupted by her teenage grandchildren. They were polite kids, but they kept bringing items they wanted to their grandmother, who told them "No, put that back. Remember Christmas is only 5 weeks away." The grandson with a typical teenage sigh said, "Even if its 200 days to Christmas, you always tell me I must wait because Christmas is coming."

Does this incident resonate with you? Waiting in line to check out when you are in a hurry? Or did you, too, as a kid want "it now" with the feeling that Christmas Day was always in the process of coming but never arriving? Usually I am not patient at all, but for some reason this day I relaxed, waited and enjoyed the tableaux in front of me. Later, as I thought about the incident, I realized I had experienced an Advent moment of a very human kind.

Advent, the shortest season in the liturgical year, is the special time we await Jesus' first coming, celebrated on Christmas Day, as well as making it a time of reflection and expectation for when Jesus will come again. During this period we are told to pause, pray, reflect, wait and watch. The key is to take the continual "bounce" from activity to activity, and balance all these Christmas preparations—baking, seeking the perfect gift, decorating our homes, community and church sanctuary, etc.—with prayer, study and reflection, the inward journey of preparation. Ellen Panter Dollar in her article, "Busy Hands, Quiet Hearts: Thoughts on "Advent" summarizes it best: "There are no Christmas elves to perform the many tasks that precede a joyfully observed Christmas. There is only us—our busy hands, our expectant hearts, both preparing to welcome the long-awaited, incarnate love of God, both necessary for knowing that love more deeply and sharing it more widely."

Blessing: May these words, "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope," Psalms 130: 5, and this line from the Communion Prayer be our Christmas Blessing: "Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love

and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart."  
Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Christmas,  
Maxine G. Hunter

## *Reflections from the Worship Committee*

The Worship Committee would like to return to some practices from the past in order to enhance our worship and create a reflective environment.

We are encouraging everyone to move into the Sanctuary in a timely manner upon arrival on Sunday mornings. Our thought is that this will cut down on the noise in the Narthex that filters into the Sanctuary. We would like the Sanctuary to be a quiet place so that those who wish can experience a quiet time of reflection and prayer before the service begins. Therefore, the doors will be closed at approximately 10:15 as Keith provides some spiritual music conducive to meditation. Thank you for your cooperation.

***Remember When...*** A year ago we began making this part of our monthly newsletter. If you would like to see this continue we need some input. You might search your archives for pictures, newspaper articles, past writings from newsletters or other sources. You might also consider writing down a memory that you have. We appreciate your help.

### ***From the Property Committee***

The following were brought before the Property Committee at their November 13 meeting:

- Kaaren Arrington has started sending schedules to Ralph Colvin for plowing. He did his first one this week.
- Woodcock/Armani has replaced the bearing assembly for our heating system. This is not covered under our contract/we are charge. The PM has been done on the elevator and paid for. Our dishwasher functioned very well for our Memorial luncheon. We are waiting to hear from Frontier about replacing the office phone that was not working. We pay rent for it, monthly.

- Ron has been doing many maintenance jobs around the building: securing the grill on its stand, blown bulbs, securing the Dutch doors in the kitchen and nursery, putting styrofoam over vents in the kitchen, securing vents in the bathrooms for the winter, changing time and batteries in clocks. Health permit needs to be renewed for the kitchen.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairman

### **From the Food Pantry**

Please note a correction to the name of the new Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension that I noticed on their website, Karin Bump, not Corine. Nothing has changed as far as the move.

Mark, Henry and I attended the Food Bank of CNY workshop held on October 20, 2017 at the Food Bank in Syracuse. Our Safety Certificates were updated and we were also advised that all volunteers and distributors of any program doing business with USDA are required to be informed of the Civil Rights Guidelines with verification by signature on a training log to show we are in compliance. The log is to be kept on premises in the event of a state or federal review. This instruction has been accomplished to all of our volunteers, at the Pantry, minus a few sub-volunteers. If you are a sub-volunteer, please see Sue Bartow to schedule a time to receive this instruction.

We have received the United Way Food and Shelter Grant in the amount of \$970 for reimbursement of past food expenses in 2017 that were not paid for with any other grant money. We have also been awarded our HPNAP (Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program) grant money in the amount of \$1,800 for the period November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2018. This averages out to approximately \$150 a month to buy food from the Food Bank. We can only attribute this large decrease to our bank balance at the end of 2016 and the decrease in number of families coming to the pantry at the time of application. This along with the Food Bank having \$150,000 less in grant money to allocate for 2017-2018. It will be necessary to be inventive in raising additional funds, if

necessary, to get through 2018 and look for additional grants.

As far as our Produce Grant application and Operation Support Grant (Rent) application submitted back in May 2017, they are on file at the Food Bank. We received notification that until such time as they enter into a new five year contract with the NYS Department of Health these funds would not be distributed. They were expecting full contracts to be executed by November 1, 2017 and our applications would be evaluated at that time.

Visitors to the pantry in October totaled 38 families (130 individuals). Meals provided totaled 1,170. Monetary donations totaled \$165.00, food items and other products totaled 265.

Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

### **From the Deacons**

Deacons would like you to know we are here for you. If you need any special requests or prayers please let us know.

We are collecting cans of fruit for the Christmas baskets, they seem to be the item we never have enough of. Thank you in advance for your donations.

We would like to wish everyone who has a Birthday or Anniversary this month the most blessed day and many more to come. Prayers that everyone feels God's love every day.

God Bless,  
Deacons

#### Deacon Greeters:

- 3 Sue Bartow
- 10 Calla Miller
- 17 Sue Bartow, Tom Leamer, Jr.
- 24 Tom Leamer, Jr.
- 31 Rachael Armstrong, Norma Galbreath

FIT TO BE TIED and  
THE FIRST AND THE LAST

By: Pathrik L. Olsson  
A.K.A. Mr. Bonnie

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Psalm 104:34

*May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in  
the LORD.*

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I was recently asked why I have so many ties. Why do I have a tie for every occasion, even for occasions that aren't occasions?

The short answer is to celebrate the greatest of all occasions... Life.

Ecclesiastes chapter three verse four reminds us that in life there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance".

My collection of neckties celebrate the sad times as well as the happy, the serious as well as the silly.

Most of my ties celebrate the happy times and the silly times and God willing we will all collect more happy times than sad.

And I will collect more silly ties than serious.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST

Genesis 1:1

The Beginning

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

These words are familiar to most they are the "Beginning". They are Beginning of Life as well as the Beginning of the Bible.

But what are the final words of the Bible?

Revelation 22:21

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."*

I like this a lot better than something like 'at the end God destroyed the heavens and the earth.'

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. "Amen" is a better way to close out the Bible because they may be the last words of the Bible's, but they are not the last of God's Word. Amen.

## 2018 Valentine Express

The **6th Valentine Express** will be held **Tuesday, January 16, 2018**, 1 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m., Morrisville Community Church's Fellowship Hall.

During an afternoon of fun and fellowship, we invite you to help make valentines to fill up the Valentine Express. The purpose for this activity: to deliver the valentines to Crouse Community Center, Valentine's Day 2018.

Materials for making the valentines will be provided. If possible participants should bring their own scissors! Those that want to make valentines using stamping-up materials will need to bring their own stamping supplies.

### **All aboard! Join the Valentine Express.**

This event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team of the Morrisville Community Church. Questions: contact Maxine Hunter, 315-684-9278.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Community Blood Drive** - Tuesday, December 5 from 1-6 pm Morrisville Community Church, 3824 Swamp Road, Morrisville in Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment to donate call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Keyword: morrisvillecommunitych

## **Christmas Eve Gift to Our Church**

A couple of years ago Rev. Sindima suggested that as we are planning our holiday shopping that we consider setting aside a percentage of our shopping budgets as a gift to the church. We followed through with this suggestion by providing envelopes for this special offering.

Through the generosity of our church family and friends we have been able to make a welcome addition to our general fund. Therefore, we are once again preparing to receive a special Christmas Eve offering. Special envelopes will be in the bulletins for December 17 and again on Christmas Eve. Please pray and prepare to give your Christmas gift.

## **Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team** **News**

(PW Team: Naydene Ames, Ellen Davis, Maxine Hunter, Karen Jacobs, Sylvia McKinnon, Marlene Miner)

We want to thank all who contributed items and/or volunteered their time to make our PW Country Crossroads Bazaar a success. Money is still coming in, but we will have the exact profit amount to report after our January meeting. We know we made at least \$2,000! We are all ready making plans and working on projects for our next Bazaar to be held the first Saturday in November in 2019! Time seems to fly by so we encourage people to start now on making projects for 2019. A few suggested items to keep in mind are:

- Knit hats and mittens needed, especially large size hats.
- Hand Towels to hook onto kitchen drawers are popular along with kitchen scrubbies. Could use more hand towels with fall print.
- Fleece Blankets sell well
- Aprons needed
- Items are needed for St. Nicholas' Shop: Ornaments, snowmen and other holiday decorations. Perhaps you have a handmade ornament on your Christmas tree that you could make or share with us to make.
- The Country Peddler Shop could use wood made items, handmade cards, photos and/or cards of our church
- Looking for some different, unique items. For those who purchased items from other Bazaars or receive homemade gifts for Christmas, we would love to have you share new ideas.
- Save nice, interesting floral containers you receive this year for The Twisted Vine (give to Maxine)

The Presbyterian Women will be singing Christmas Carols at Crouse Community Center on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to join us. Meet us in the lobby at

Crouse at a few minutes before 3pm. To share JOY this holiday season we are sending Christmas cards to Unity Acres again. There is a basket in the narthex to put your cards in.

Ladies, join us if you can with making Valentines for all the residents at Crouse Community Center. We will meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. and we provide the materials. We hope you can join us for fun and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. All ladies of our church are welcome to attend. MERRY CHRISTMAS

Respectfully,  
Naydene Ames, Secretary

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**When the school is closed, so is the Church Office and the Clothes Basket.** Local radio and TV may say, but the District Website at [www.mecs.org](http://www.mecs.org) will also have the information. The school district phone is 684-9300.

TV Channels: WSTM Channel 3    WTVH Channel 5    WSYR Channel 9    YNN Channel 10  
Radio Stations are:    WSYR 570 AM    WMCR 1600AM    WMCR 106.3FM    WFRG 104.3FM  
WODZ 96.1    WLZW 98.7FM    WIBX 950AM    WOUR 96.9FM    WOMX 102.5FM  
WOKR 93.1FM    WTLB 1310AM    WKLL 94.9FM

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

#### **ELDERS**

##### **Class of 2017**

Henry Douglas  
Sylvia McKinnon  
Mark Shepard  
Priscilla Suits  
Nancy Douglas

##### **Class of 2018**

Jeff Cring  
Lois Thurston

##### **Class of 2019**

Pathrik Olsson

#### **DEACONS**

##### **Class of 2017**

Calla Miller  
Connie Shepard  
Sue Bartow

##### **Class of 2018**

David Link  
Roberta Link  
Robin Suarez

##### **Class of 2019**

Norma Galbreath  
Rachael Armstrong  
Tom Leamer, Jr.

### ***Statistics for November 2017***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Regular Offering</u></b>	<b><u>Building Fund</u></b>
5	35	\$ 2,637.00	\$ 375.00
12	42	\$ 1,076.00	\$ 275.00
19	32	\$ 630.00	\$ 75.00
26	30	\$ 728.00	\$ 0