

CHURCH MATTERS

DECEMBER

2018



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Facebook - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Kitchen\ Clothes Basket 684-9970

December Birthdays

2 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 Anniversary

14	Stephen & Jaclyn Groves
19	Ken & Pat Parker
20	Jeffrey & Karen Gay
20	Jason & Laurie Zbock
21	Nat & Calla Miller
21	Paul & Audra Mockovak

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

December

2 Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Advent 1 - Communion)
9 Rev. Ray Lighthall (Advent 2)
16 Ellen Davis (Advent 3)
23 Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams (Advent 4)
24 Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm)
30 Rev. Bud Adams

December 2018 Calendar of Events

- 2 Communion Service/1st Sunday in Advent 10:30 am**
- 3 Deacons 6:30 pm Library
- 4 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 5 American Red Cross Blood Drive (1 - 6pm) Fellowship Hall**
- 6 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 6-7 Community Christmas Project Setup Fellowship Hall
- 7 Food Pantry moves into Church Building**
- 8 Community Christmas Project Distribution (9 - 1pm) Fellowship Hall**
- 10-14 Children's Christmas Dist. 6-8:30p Clothes Basket
- 10 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 10 Outreach Committee 6:30 SS
- 11 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 11 Rebekahs Christmas 12:00 - 2:00pm Fellowship Hall
- 13 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 13 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 13 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 15 Deacons Christmas Basket Distribution (9 - 11am)**
- 16 Christmas Caroling at Waterville Residential 2:30p**
- 17 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 18 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 20 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 21 First Day of Winter**
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm**
- 25 Christmas Day - Office Closed**
- 26 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 27 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 31 New Years Eve**

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 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

Christmas Memories

Memories of Christmases generally sleep quietly in the back of my mind. I know they are there, but they are quiet. But as December drew near, they awakened. Every time I began writing for this newsletter, these memories would intrude and hijack my ability to write. Finally, I surrendered. So, forgive me as I indulge in sharing a couple of pesky memories.

First, I will begin with a funny happening from three years ago. I call this "The Christmas of My New Mary Janes". (For the guys that don't know, Mary Janes are women/girls' shoes.) I put these shoes on my Christmas list. On Christmas morn when I opened up my presents there was a box labeled, Mary Janes, size 8 M. I was thrilled until I opened the box and found a pair of teenage boys running shoes with turquoise shoelaces! I reread the outside of the box. It still said Mary Janes, but the content of the box did not change. Needless to say, Nick was as surprised too. Then Nick said, "I think there is a teenage boy somewhere on this Christmas morn wondering why his Mom gave him Mary Janes." We had a good laugh. I am still wondering who got my shoes!

Secondly, there is the memory of the-forgotten gift. The Grace family is large. Because it is large, we cousins drew names at Christmas. On this one particular Christmas, I felt forgotten because the cousin—who shall remain nameless—forgot to bring my gift to the family gathering! As gift after gift is given out, and I keep thinking, "There aren't many left, but I must have one somewhere in the pile." But soon all presents are given out and there I stood empty handed. I finally had the courage to tell my uncle that I didn't receive a present. Whew! That set off a flurry of conversation between all the Aunts and Uncles. The next day, the forgotten gift—a tiny gold heart locket—arrives by way of the forgetful cousin's mother. This memory stays with me not so much because of the forgotten gift, but it reminds me of my big family of loving uncles, aunts, Grandpa, Grandma, and my fun, but sometime forgetful cousins. What a family! What a time it was!

Yes, December is Christmas time, and Christmas time is filled with memories. Christmas remembering is special. These memories, even a silly memory like the shoe mix-up, illustrates that though we look forward to giving and receiving gifts, the gift of importance is sharing moments together with family and friends. It also illustrates that the focus isn't the gift, but our faith. Without our faith the events of December would be empty. So, it is nice to

remember, and may the remembering help restore our connection to each other, to the past, and to the future. But most of all may our recollections refresh our day to day lives and help strengthen our faith.

Enjoy your memories! Share your memories! Make new memories! And have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

~Peace~

Maxine Grace Hunter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapel at Morrisville Community Church is open for your use of prayer and reflection 24-7 everyday, Monday thru Sunday.

Clothes Basket will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 to 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Adult Bible Study will be held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library during the school year.

Community Blood Drive - Wednesday, December 5 from 1-6pm at Morrisville Community Church in Fellowship Hall.

Annual Reports for 2018 are due in the Church Office by December 31, 2018.

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

The **Finance Committee** is in need of more members. This committee meets once a month. If you are willing serve, please contact Mark Shepard. Thank you.

Per Capita for each member in 2018 is \$35.22.

From the Property Committee

Ron is back on board as custodian. He is still limited with lifting items. A thank you will be sent to Owen and his parents for taking over the job for 3+ months. A job well done. A maintenance item (motor for one boiler) needs to be replaced so it has been ordered (back ordered/2-3 weeks). Pay from building fund.

Nate and Sylvia spent some time organizing the trash that was left after the cleaning of the Kitchen/Pantry.

The cleaning was done by Karen Holbert and Cathy Merkle starting Sunday at 2:00 PM and ending Monday at 4:00 PM. The cabinet in the pantry was warped and out of alignment so was discarded. A new one has been purchased and will be assembled. The P.W. has paid for the work and cabinet.

Discussed the leaking outside faucet. Nate suggested Roger Gray from the college(retired). Sylvia will call.

We have tried to acquire a print-out of the new phone system and it's "working" but it has not been provided.

Personal Graphics has completed most of the sign work. Rest to be done.

Ron has been working with Mark to get the double classroom ready for the FOOD PANTRY. Checking on accommodations/electrical outlets, doors etc.

Recently the church has been "dumped on" with boxes of items for the clothes basket being placed after hours in the chapel vestibule!! Will try to figure out a way to limit this as we cannot lock those doors because of the chapel being open 24/7.

Via De Cristo will be using the building 11/15 thru 11/18/18. Limited access will be for Sunday service on 11/18/18.

Sylvia McKinnon, Chairman
Property Committee

From the Food Pantry

The Food Bank of CNY Madison County meeting was held on October 18, 2018 at Compassion Connection in Canastota, NY. Directors from several pantries were present. Mike Watros our Agency Relations Coordinator presided and discussed recent changes at the Food Bank, and educational programs "Just say yes to Fruits and Vegetables" and "Disabilities and You" that are available to food pantry guests by enrollment.

We learned that grants are based on size of county, poverty level, number of people on food stamps and pantry service area. The floor was open for discussion and pantries shared some of the things they are doing and what they do for their holiday baskets. Most are still giving turkeys. The Cupboard in Hamilton delivers once a month to Madison Lane Apartments. We might give some thought to doing something similar at Cedar Street Apartments.

In October we served 41 families, received \$54 in cash and 14 donations totaling 252 items of canned goods, fresh produce, bread, pastries and eggs. We did receive our Food Grant \$2,000 and Equipment Grant \$2,779 for the period November 2018 to October 2019. We hope to purchase a new freezer with the equipment grant. The Food Bank did not, however, have funds, this year, to distribute for Space(rent) Grants that we applied for. We do have one more quarter to pay to Cornell for the period October to December in the amount of \$412.50 that will not be covered by any grant money.

The Pantry will be moving to the lower level of the church on December 7, and will be open for distribution on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. Our new hours and days of operation are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00-12:00 noon and the first Saturday of each month from 10:00-12:00 noon. A mailing announcing our move will be going out to pantry clients organizations and vendors thanks to Dave Andrews entering all of this information into a data base.

Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

From the Deacons

Hey everyone!! We pray all of you were blessed last month. If not, we pray December will have more blessings for you. If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, we pray that it's a wonderful day for you!!

We will be busy this month. We are preparing the Christmas baskets to help make some of the area families make their Christmas a little brighter this year. Thank you to those who donated to the Christmas baskets this year. We appreciate it

YOU ARE INVITED: We are also going to Waterville Residential December 16 at 2:30 pm to sing for the residents and staff. If you would like to carpool with someone, meet at the church by 2 pm.

In the near future, the Deacons will have a joint meeting with the Session.

Your Deacon should be in touch with you by phone, a note, or a visit this month. Any questions or problems, call Tom Lemery (315-684-7535.)

If you know of someone who is need of our assistance, please let a deacon know. This is one of our responsibilities, and need your help to care for our church family.

As a reminder,...God loves you, and SO DO WE! If you need anything, please call on us.

May the Love of God fill your hearts, and may December bring you many blessings!!

UNITY ACRES

It is time for our mission project of sending Christmas cards to the residents of Unity Acres. This is a home for homeless men in Orwell, NY near Pulaski.

Please address the envelope "*to a friend*" and sign the card, "*from a friend*". Colle November 25 thru December 16.

They will be sent to the home's director and be distributed to the men at their Christmas meal.

Christmas Eve Gift to Our Church

As we are planning our holiday shopping let us consider setting aside a percentage of our shopping budgets as a gift to the church.

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 16 and again on Christmas Eve.

Please pray and prepare to give your Christmas gift to our church.

2019 Valentine Express

The **7th Valentine Express** will be held **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**, 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 2019.

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.

Statistics for November 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
4	35	\$ 1,913.00	\$ 250.00
11	34	\$ 1459.00	\$ 250.00
18		\$.00	\$.00
25	35	\$ 665.00	\$.00

[Psalm 104:34](#)

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

A question – Why, if Jesus was divine, did He live such a mundane life during the “missing years” and suffer so much at the end? And why do we suffer?

An answer – God wanted us to have a closer, more personal relationship with Him.

Let's explore...

God gave us His only Son and sacrificed Him for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

“...we might become the righteousness of God.” Remember these words but for now let us continue with Jesus.

Jesus not only suffered on the cross for us but He understood and felt all matter of human suffering. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus tells His companions “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” He is not only sad but requests human company. Even though He prays alone he still wants them there with Him. How very human.

As Jesus was praying He asked God three times to take the cup of responsibility from Him. Again how very human to know that even Jesus was dreading to have to do what is right and necessary no matter how much it hurts.

Jesus' humanity is also evident in John 11 verse 35 which simply states “Jesus wept.” At the end of His human life Jesus comes to understand the full brunt of human despair when He cries out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (Which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

Jesus lived a “normal” and suffered so we could more readily identify with Him and believe in Him. The larger than life gods of the old days did not allow for the personal relationship that God wants from us.

So now it is our turn...

Human life is full of suffering. From birth to death. The bible tells us time and time again that suffering is not only part of life but a necessary part. Suffering and perseverance are parts of the things that “grow” us as people.

Consider James 1 verses 2 through 4, Trials and Temptations, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

And this is not the only example there are many more such as [Romans 5:3-5 and 1 Peter 5:10](#).

We suffer so we can identify with Jesus so that we can more readily accept Him in to our hearts. Even though we are suffering we are not left to suffer alone.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Praise to the God of All Comfort, tells us that God is with us and will help us through our suffering and will enable us to help each other. We are never alone.

Our growth is part of what is what the Bible refers to as “transformation”. Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God is within us transforming us. It says “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us”.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 gives us hope that it is all worth it. “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

“May be revealed in our body”...

To be transformed...

However it cannot all be left up to God. We must do our part...

We are told in 2 Corinthians 3:13-18 that we will not understand the transformation without Jesus. The veil will not be lifted without Jesus. Now that we have let Jesus in there is still more for us to do. Knowing Jesus is not enough we must believe and let Jesus change our very attitudes.

Romans 12:1-2, A Living Sacrifice, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

And...

Ephesians 4:21-24 “when you heard about Christ and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

And now we come to the end of our transformation...

Romans 8:16-18 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

And as written in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

And so we have been transformed into the image of Christ. It has been a long road. With a lot of joy and quite a bit of suffering as well and even though Ecclesiastes 7:8 sums things up pretty well stating that “The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.”

I think we will give the last word to John writing at the end of chapter 16 verse 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**”

Transformed in Jesus we have overcome the world and become the righteousness of God.

AMEN

Thought for the Month: The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.