

## December 2019 Calendar of Events

- 1 **Communion Service/1st Sunday in Advent 10:30 am**
- 2 Deacons 6:30 pm Library
- 2-6 Children's Christmas Distribution 6:30-8:30 pm in the Clothes Basket
- 3 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 5 **American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**1-6pm Fellowship Hall**
- 9 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 9 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 10 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 10 Rebekahs Christmas 12:00 -2:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- 11 **Food Pantry Christmas Luncheon**  
**Noon - 2pm Fellowship Hall**
- 12 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 12-13 Community Christmas Project Setup in Fellowship Hall
- 14 **Community Christmas Project Distribution**  
**9 -1 pm in Fellowship Hall**
- 14 **Deacons Christmas Basket Distribution**  
**9 - 11 am in the Library and Youth Room**
- 15 **Christmas Caroling at Waterville Residential at 2:30pm**
- 16 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 17 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 21 **First Day of Winter**
- 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm**
- 25 **Christmas Day (Office Closed)**
- 31 **New Years Eve**

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

**Adult Bible Study** will be held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library during the school year.

**Clothes Basket** will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 to 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted. **The Clothes Basket will be closed Saturday, December 21 and 28, and Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1.**

**Food Pantry** will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to 12 noon and the 1st Saturday of every month from 10 to 12 noon, unless otherwise noted.



**DECEMBER 2019**

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

## **MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

3824 Swamp Rd., P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, NY 13408

[www.morrisvillechurch.org](http://www.morrisvillechurch.org) morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

FB - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Service 10:30 am

Church Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 am - noon Office: 315-684-3314

Pastor's Office: 315-684-9971 Clothes Basket: 315-684-9970

*Christmas*  
**BEGINS WITH**  
*Christ*

## *A Christmas Eve Story*

*The following story was written by my dear friend, Joan Coop. She wrote the story for her husband, Rev. Bill Coop, to read during their church's Christmas Eve service. Joan later sent the story to me. As this Advent and Christmas season approached, Joan and her story of Matthew Mouse took up residence in my thoughts. Obviously, a sign that this little story, which has been packed away for many years, should be shared. Enjoy! Maxine G. Hunter, Worship Committee.*

Little Matthew Mouse didn't want to be here in this big building called Church. You may wonder how this happened? It happened this way: Every fall when the weather got cold the mouse family, which lived under the back porch of a fine old house, moved from their home under the house's back porch into its basement. But this year they couldn't move to the basement because the people of the house were painting the basement. The paint smelled terrible and Mother Mouse said, "There is no way I am going to live under these conditions."

So Big Brother Mouse began searching for a new winter home. After a fearful night of crossing a big parking lot, he found a hole in the wall of the big church and squeezed in. "Wow", he thought, "this is some place!" There were marvelous garbage cans and paper stored in many places. Next, he found a room filled with cereal boxes and pasta. He even found a cabinet filled with cookies. He raced home to tell his mouse family he had found the best winter home ever. So, on a cold autumn night, the mouse family moved into the big Church. They made comfortable sleeping quarters next to this large machine which was warm in spite of the noise it made. Every night the family scattered about finding all kinds of good things to eat. Mother Mouse got a bit worried because she was afraid that they would all get too big and not fit through some of the small holes they had found.

One night when they woke up to begin their night time feeding, something terrible had happened. All their holes were covered up and an awful smell filled the air. "Don't eat anything", cried Mother Mouse. Right there and then, the family decided that it was time to leave and find a safer home. They picked up a few of their things, and searched madly for a hole to escape through to the outside. Finally, they squeezed under a door, and hoping that their old basement would be safe once again, they dashed back to their old house. To their great relief the basement was fine. They even found their old holes, and, on a new table in the newly painted basement, was a marvelous box of potato chips. "I guess they were expecting us," said Big Brother Mouse with a chuckle. But then all was silent. Where was Little Matthew Mouse?

The whole mouse family began dashing around searching for Little Matthew. He simply couldn't be found. Mother looked at Big Brother and said, "You'll have to go back to look for him." Big Brother nodded and went to the hole leading outside, but it was blocked. It was blocked by snow! Big Brother raced to a window to look outside. To his shock the world had turned white. The snow was so deep he couldn't even see the steps leading into the big

Church. There was no way he could go out and search for Little Matthew. When the mouse family heard this news, they huddled together hoping with all their hearts that Little Matthew would be safe.

Meanwhile, we find Little Matthew, alone, scared and frantic as he searched for his family in the big old Church, where—as you remember—he did not want to be in the first place. It wasn't long before he realized that his family had found a way out the backdoor. But when he tried to squeeze through, he came up against a wall of snow. There was no way out. He was so frightened that he went back to the furnace room and in his old bed he cried himself to sleep.

Something woke Little Matthew up. It was beautiful singing. He crept up the stairs to the big room where the people of the church gathered. He saw a beautiful site. The room was filled with beautiful red flowers. The people had also done something strange—they had a beautiful live pine tree decorated with little red stars—stars much like the stars in the night sky. Matthew hid in the far corner of the big room and waited. Then someone turned off the lights and candles were lit.

As he watched, the boys and girls gathered around the table in the center of the room. A man in a long robe stood at the table. As the man spoke to the children, he moved something around on the table. The children seemed happy. Then the whole gathering broke out in song. Little Matthew didn't always understand human talk but he listened carefully. They were singing about a baby in a manger. Although he didn't quite understand what he was hearing and seeing, he sensed that this was a special night for the people and the church. Then it was all over. The people began to leave and someone turned off the lights.

Little Matthew couldn't wait. He had to see what was on top of the table that had made the boys and girls so happy and had caused all the people to sing with love in their hearts. He scurried up the table leg and found himself in a world of wooden figures.: there were people with animals near them; there was a little house and in the house was a woman and a man looking down on a baby in a wooden box. Little Matthew wondered, "Was the box the manger they sang about?" Suddenly, the door to the room opened and the lights went on. Matthew froze. The man with the long robe looked right at the table and whispered, "Peace." Then the man turned out the lights and closed the door.

Little Matthew looked at the manger and decided it would be his bed for the night. Tomorrow he would find his family. Feeling safe, warm and protected in the manger, and before he closed his eyes, he looked up and saw the star on the tree. With hope in his heart he fell asleep remembering the last word he had heard, "Peace." In some way he sensed it was the Peace that all God's creatures wanted.

*The End*



### 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. | 21 Bob Mitchell      |



### December Anniversaries

- 14 Stephen & Jacalyn Groves
- 19 Ken & Pat Parker
- 20 Jeffrey & Karen Gay
- 21 Nathan & Calla Miller
- 21 Paul & Audra Mockovak

### PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER LIST:** Ron Stanley (Sam & Karen Tucci's friend), David Link, Paul (Sam Tucci's brother), Christine Covington, Missy Landis (Ann Batchelor's friend), Donna Dockray (Peggy Rashford's mom), Debbie Rifenburg (Priscilla Suits daughter), Henry & Nancy Douglas, Sharon Townsend (Ron Brodeur's sister-in-law), Jim & Linda Taylor of Sherburne, NY (requested by Sam & Karen Tucci), Justine Nightingale (requested by Ann Batchelor), Robin Suarez's Mom, Martha Tyre (Maxine's friend), Deanna Moyes (Norma's sister), Jeanna Acosta (Norma's niece), Pat Parker, Tammy Hutchinson (Tara Truett's sister), Shirley Ford, Eleanor Horton (Claudia's sister), Sue Bristow (Hank & Nancy Douglas' daughter), Fred & Gail Banks, Dave & Gerry (co-worker of Tom Lemery), Paul Mockovak, and Service men and women

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| December 1 | Rev. Dr. Clarice Martin/Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima - Communion-Advent 1 |
| 8          | Worship Committee - Hanging of the Greens - Advent 2                 |
| 15         | Rev. Dr. Clarice Martin - Advent 3                                   |
| 22         | Open - Advent 4  |
| 24         | Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima - Christmas Eve (7:00pm)                     |
| 29         | Open   |

**There will be a Memorial Service for Evie Shepard on Sunday, December 1 at 1:30 pm at the church.**

**Unity Acres** - We will be sending Christmas cards to Unity Acres again this year. There will be a basket set out in the Narthex.

**Christmas Caroling at Waterville Residential on Sunday, December 15 at 2:30pm.**

**Resignation** - Connie Shepard is resigning from Clerk of Session. Pat Olsson will be filling this position with the approval of the Congregation.

**The Annual Reports for the year 2019** are due in the church office **no later than December 31, 2019**. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 19, 2020, following the service. Thank you.

**Message from Session** - The session is requesting that you prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on the Christian Education Committee and/or Finance Committee. Both committees are in desperate need of leadership.

**Per Capita** for each member in **2019** is \$38.50.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hard to think about snow and sleet and freezing rain, but...**when the school is closed, so is the Church Office, the Clothes Basket, and the Food Pantry.** 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 315-684-9300.

TV Channels with school closings are:

- |                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 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  |

**From the Food Pantry**

In October the Food Pantry was the recipient of \$341.20, Dougherty’s give back to a local charitable or nonprofit organization of their patients choice.

October statistics: A record 53 households came to the pantry  
4 new enrollees  
1,395 meals provided  
\$721.20 in monetary donations received  
217 food and hygiene products received

We will be holding a Christmas luncheon for all of our volunteers, in the Fellowship Hall, on Wednesday, December 11, at 12:00 noon.

Sue Bartow, Coordinator

**From the Deacons**

Hello!!!

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, we pray that it’s a wonderful day for you.

We will be helping families in need make their holiday each year brighter by providing a “Christmas bag” of food for a Christmas meal. It will be held December 14. We encourage everyone to bring in canned fruits and vegetables. No need to wait anymore. There is a box in the Narthex for it. Please check the expiration date.

We are planning to go to Waterville Residential (formerly Harding Nursing Home) December 15 at 2:30, and spread God’s love by singing Christmas carols to the residents and staff. We encourage everyone to join us for this event.

We pray that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you are in need of anything, please know the Deacons are here for you. God loves you, and so do we. We pray that the Love of God fills your heart and overflows always...and may this month bring you many, many blessings.

Sincerely, in His Name  
Tom Lemery – Chairman

**From the Property Committee**

The Property Committee met on Wednesday for the month of November. We have already had two plowings for this winter by Ralph Colvin.

Culligan came on the November 6. We were closer this time on the consumption of salt. We will continue with a shorter time usage/ filling with 8 bags and leaving 2 extra.

Ron is writing up an evaluation/recommendation for Blue Collar Roofing. It will be sent to them and a copy put in the file.

The boiler proposal was belatedly sent to Woodcock Armani to give them permission to do the replacement work on one boiler. When they have received the parts that are needed a date will be chosen for the work. That date all pipes will need to be drained (no water usage).

Frontier needs to put the payment we sent for the maintenance agreement into the correct account so that both accounts are correct.

Ron may need to get help from Doug M. to finish the battery replacements because of wiring.

Sylvia is in contact with ThyssenKrupp trying to evaluate the correct procedure for having the PM done and the billing date correct for the elevator.

December building usages are: Hanging of the Greens, Clothes Basket Family Christmas Distribution, Deacons Christmas Baskets, Judy Parker’s Christmas.

We spent time working on the spending budget for 2020. Next meeting is 12/9/19.

Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

***Statistics for November 2019***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Regular Offering</u></b>	<b><u>Roof Donations</u></b>
3	40	\$ 3,460.00	\$ .00
10	45	\$ 1,300.00	\$ .00
17	42	\$ 2,118.00	\$ .00
24	38	\$ 1,073.00	\$ .00

## THE MAN WHO FELL *TO* GRACE

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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The Man Who Fell *to* Grace... Many have fallen from grace but only one has fallen *to* Grace.

To learn who we go to the book of Acts...

Our subject is first mentioned at the end of Acts chapter 7 verse 58 says that when Stephen was being stoned “the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.” And in chapter 8 verse 1 “And Saul approved of their killing him...” Acts 8:1 continues “The Church Persecuted and Scattered” On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” And not only did Saul approve of the killing of Stephan Acts 8 2 and 3 say “Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. *But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.*”

Later in Acts 9:1 and 2 “Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.” Saul is now a high and mighty prosecutor of “Christians” armed with the letters of authority to arrest and imprison those “Christians” he sets of on the hunt to Damascus...

The very next verse 9:3 “As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.” We see the beginning of Saul’s fall *to* Grace. Jesus appears before him and Saul goes blind.

A disciple in Damascus named Ananias is called upon by God to go to Saul and restore his “sight”. Ananias asks God why in verses 13 and 14 saying “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

God’s response to Ananias in verse 15 “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.” The name Saul name means ‘asked for’. God has asked for Saul to be a servant.

After Ananias restores Saul’s “sight” Saul becomes one of the strongest proponents of “Christianity”. Proclaiming Jesus in the Synagogues. Saul became such a strong force that the Jews even plotted to kill him. He escapes with the help of some other disciples and continues to serve the Lord for some time.

In Acts [13:9](#) the fall *to* Grace is complete “Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit...” The name Paul means “humble”.

Saul the high and mighty prosecutor is “asked for” by God and becomes Paul. God’s “humble” servant.

Saul the persecutor “Fell *to* Grace” and became Paul the Apostle.

## **2020 Valentine Express**

The **8th Valentine Express** will be held **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**, 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 2020.

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.

## Annual Report

### REMINDER

#### Attention Committee Chairmen!

Please have your **Annual Report** to the Church Office  
**no later than December 31, 2019.**

The **Annual Meeting** will be held following the  
service on **January 19, 2020.**

### *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 December 15, and again on Christmas Eve.

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



We have an active Facebook page - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA. There will be regular postings about our church and the events held or hosted there. It is important that those of you who have a Facebook page look at our page and **"like" AND "share"**. We need to get the word out there that we are live, active and moving forward. If you have any suggestions for a posting please let us know. Thank you for your support and help.

### Highlights from the November 14 Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team Meeting:

PW present at this meeting were Naydene Ames, Karen Jacobs, Maxine Hunter and Sylvia McKinnon. Karen Jacobs reviewed the Financial Report for November and reported that the Bazaar brought in \$3,581.68. This figure includes Mrs. Claus' Cafe sales. We were only short about \$200 from matching the 2017 Bazaar profit.

In the beginning of the year when we were discussing the Bazaar we were a little hesitant. We worried that we wouldn't have enough handmade crafts and that we would be short of volunteers to pull it off. We reminded ourselves to have faith and it would all work out and that it did! We want to thank those who shopped and those who shared their talents by making items for the Bazaar, donating their treasures to Grandma's Attic and providing baked goods. A special thank you to the following for their help in either putting up signs, setting up tables, transporting many items upstairs, working in one of the booths or at the cashier table or in Mrs. Claus' Cafe, etc. They all helped to make this a successful Bazaar: Murry and Naydene Ames, Rachael Armstrong, Kaaren Arrington, Sheila Bartlett, Suzanne Bartow, Ann Berlew, Ron Bush, Ellen Davis, Nicky and Brenna Drury, Norma Galbreath, Maxine and Nick Hunter, Karen Jacobs, Sally Larchar, Jill Leamer, Susan Leamer, Claudia Loomis, Sylvia McKinnon, Nancy McPherson, Sandy and Kierra Merkle, Calla Miller, Marlene Miner, Dorothy Mulcahey, Bonnie Olney, Lillian, Dick and Irene Richardson, Connie Shepard, Lois Thurston, and Julie Vair.

Winter activities for the Presbyterian Women include the collection of Christmas cards for the men at Unity Acres, caroling at Crouse Community Center and the Valentine Express. The Valentine Express will be held in the fellowship hall on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 21.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 2020 in the church library at 6:30 p.m.  
Submitted by Naydene Ames, PW Secretary

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **ELDERS**

#### **Class of 2019**

Pathrik Olsson

#### **Class of 2020**

Sylvia McKinnon

Mark Shepard

Tom Leamer, Sr.

Sheila Bartlett

Ellen Davis

#### **Class of 2021**

Lois Thurston

Connie Shepard

### **DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2019**

Norma Galbreath

Rachael Armstrong

Tom Leamer, Jr.

#### **Class of 2020**

George Fearon

Tom Lemery

Ron Brodeur

#### **Class of 2021**

Calla Miller

Robin Suarez

Marlene Miner