

CHURCH MATTERS

FEBRUARY

2016



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Service 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am- 12pm

Office 684-3314

Clothes Basket 684-9970

Fax 684-7817

February Birthdays

2 Ashley Kent	13 Quinn Graves
3 Barbara Manley	13 Louis Olney
5 David Lemery	18 Louisa Bartlett
8 Nathan Miller	18 Marcia Vair
9 Dan Akers	24 Joann Conrad
11 C.J. Suarez	24 Thomas Leamer, Sr.
12 Christine Covington	28 Connie Shepard
	28 Jason Zbock

No February Anniversaries

FACEBOOK "like" AND "share".

Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA.

Pulpit Supply

February

7	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima
14	Elder William Porter
21	Rev. Ray Lighthall
28	Elder William Porter

March

6	Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams
13	PW - Gifts of Women
20	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Palm Sunday)
27	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Easter)

February 2016 Calendar of Events

- 1 CE Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm SS Room
- 1 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm Library
- 2 **Groundhog Day**
- 2 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 3 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 3 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 4 PW Ministry Team 6:30 pm Library
- 4 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 6 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 7 **Tailgate Party for Super Bowl Sunday**
(following service)
- 8 Worship Committee Mtg. 6 pm Library
- 8 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm SS Room
- 8 Property Committee Mtg. 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 9 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 10 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 10 New Hope Circle 6:30 pm Library
- 10 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 11 Finance Committee 7:00 pm Library
- 11 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 13 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 15 **President's Day - Office Closed**
- 15 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 16 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 16 Faith Circle 12:00 Marcia Vair
- 17 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 17 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 18 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 20 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 23 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 24 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm
- 24 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 24 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 25 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 27 Clothes Basket 10 - 2 pm

The Rumble, Grind and Flash of a Snowplow and Other Winter Pleasures

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1: 17

In mid January winter arrived in Morrisville. This first storm arrived with a blast. Nick and I, listening to the howling wind batter the house with sleety snow, were cozy in front of our fireplace stove enjoying our first cup of morning coffee. (And yes, even in winter the first cup always tastes the best.) Soon a snowplow went rumbling, grinding and flashing by the house. I said, “I have missed that sound of winter. It is like an old friend.” Nick replied, “Yes, it is a comforting sound. It’s nice to know we are being looked after...and the road is clear.”

Whew, what a statement: Snowplows as caregivers. That was an interesting thought. As I mulled this over in my mind, I remembered that during Advent we were encouraged to focus on gratitude—aka, the quality of being thankful. Ellen Davis suggested the idea to the congregation and also suggested that we start a gratitude journal. Did you write a gratitude journal? I started my journal immediately but I must admit my journal “died aborning”. But that rumbling, flashing snowplow reminded me of all the everyday happenings, especially in winter, for which I can be grateful: an array of interesting birds and wildlife (mostly, squirrels) at the birdfeeder; snow-laden evergreens; early morning coffee by the fireplace stove; and college basketball games. As I thought about all the many small things in life that make it good—and I try to keep unhappy thoughts at bay—my gratitude list has grown. I hope yours will grow too.

Prayer: Dear God, winters are often a challenge here in central New York. During the winter season our hearts are not always grateful for that “which falls from the heavens”. Help us to put our grumbling winter thoughts aside and remember to be grateful each day for the many small pleasures that make our everyday lives happy, interesting or both. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,

Maxine G. Hunter

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hard to think about snow and sleet and freezing rain, but...**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 with school closings are:

WSTM Channel 3	WTVH Channel 5
WSYR Channel 9	YNN Channel 10

Radio Stations are:

WKLL 94.9FM	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	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Valentine Express

We will be distributing valentines to the residents at Crouse on Thursday, February 11 at 1pm. If you can volunteer for this, please let Karen Jacobs know.

A Final Thank You from CAP for Morrisville Community Church's generous in kind donation, valued at \$361.50, of food items to Community Action Partnership's Food Pantry. As you know Morrisville Community Church has taken over the operations of the Food Pantry for Madison County.

Update Your Directory New mailing addresses for: Audrey Clark - 113 Dollie Mae Lane, Stephens City, VA 22655

Audrey Howard - 3508 Manorbridge Ct., Fayetteville, NC 28306

New email address for: Catharine Andrews - catharineandrews@gmail.com

Per Capita Assessment for 2016 is \$35.00 per member. We have 106 members on our active roll at this time. That means the church will pay \$3710 this year. For those that can afford this it would be helpful if members paid their individual assessment. Please keep this in mind as you plan throughout the year.

Statistics for January 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Jan. 3	45	\$ 3860.00	\$ 895.00
Jan. 10	40	\$ 2060.00	\$ 75.00
Jan. 17	25	\$ 870.00	\$.00
Jan. 24	35	\$ 1111.00	\$ 225.00
Jan. 31	40	\$ 1815.00	\$ 225.00

From the Property Committee

You will find our yearly report in the Annual Meeting Report to be handed out on January 24.

Colgate has contacted us about their annual COVE project in which their students volunteer time to area group commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. They will be giving the Youth Room a good cleaning along with the hallways in the lower level on Friday, Jan. 22.

The four filing cabinets (that we do not need) have been removed from the building.

We will be scheduling maintenance on the sprinkler system, tractor and circulating pump. Hopefully we will find a business that will evaluate our building on heat loss.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia McKinnon , Property Committee

From the Deacons

The Deacons hope your first month of 2016 was good to you.

This month, we are getting ready to do something "super." As you may know, Super Bowl Sunday is February 7. We are encouraging you to come to the Special Super Bowl Sunday Service. In addition to our monthly "Souper Sunday Lunch," the Deacons are going to host a "tailgate party" in the Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy!!

Just a reminder: The Deacons are here for you if you need anything.

Finally, the Deacons hope that all of you have a blessed month. May all of God's Love surround you always.

In His Service -- Tom Lemery

News from Session and Annual Meeting

We are improving financially over the last year or two, but not enough yet to consider a pastoral search. While that is a disappointment to some, others have seen it as a way to develop our church and allow greater participation by our congregation. We hear different speakers from other churches as well as our own lay speakers. We can explore our faith from different views and strengthen it in the sharing.

Where do these speakers come from? Who chooses them? You hear Ellen Davis ask for volunteers and suggestions regularly.

This is all due to our church structure. We are led by a Session which oversees standing committees. Worship Committee, chaired by Ellen Davis, also has members Maxine Hunter and Karen Jacobs. Their responsibilities are numerous, but I'm thinking now of Sunday worship. They are in charge! What a job they have done. Few realized when Pastor Thomas left how this would work, but they knew and stepped right in.

Week in and week out we have had meaningful and thoughtful worship services thanks to these women. I urge anyone to talk with Ellen if they have suggestions or concerns.

This information and much more is available in the Annual Report. You can get a copy in the narthex if you weren't here Sunday.

Nancy Douglas, Clerk of Session

Church Officers

ELDERS

Class of 2016

Ellen Davis
Nancy Douglas
Priscilla Suits

Class of 2017

Henry Douglas
Sylvia McKinnon
Mark Shepard

Class of 2018

Jeff Cring
Lois Thurston
Bonnie Olney

DEACONS

Class of 2016

Tom Lemery
Ron Brodeur
Naydene Ames

Class of 2017

Calla Miller
Connie Shepard
Sue Bartow

Class of 2018

David Link
Robert Link
Robin Suarez

ONE OF GOD'S TOOLS

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

One seemingly normal day last summer, I was organizing my tools in the garage. Just killing time till I had to leave for an appointment. My appointment was at five o'clock PM and I had to leave by four to make it on time. At one point, I glanced at the clock and it was three forty-five. Thinking I was late, I panicked, and ran to my car jumped in and raced off. Less than five minutes later, I met a car coming at me at high speed. He was rounding a corner and was traveling in my lane. I slowed he swerved and we missed hitting head on by mere inches. Looking in my rear view mirror, I could see he was now driving much slower.

I breathed a sigh of relief and continued to my appointment. The rest of the trip was thankfully uneventful. Arriving at my destination, I looked at the car clock and realized I was twenty-five minutes early. I sat there, and was for a moment, confused as to how came to be so early when I should have been late. I had, after all, rushed off because I was late. Reflecting on my last moments in the garage I remembered thinking that a 'quarter of' the hour was a 'quarter past' the hour and I also remembered that that clock was ten minutes fast.

Well, I thought, that accounts for the twenty-five minutes. Now how do I explain that after all these years not only do I suddenly not know how to tell time I also forgot that my clock is ten minutes fast as has been my practice my entire life.

Time for some musing. And, since I seem to have some time to spare...

Let's see now – the only thing that happened during the drive to the appointment was meeting the other car and causing them to slow down and drive more carefully. And, had I **not** misread the clock, I would **not** have been at **that** particular point on the road at **that** particular time to meet them and slow them down...

Had my mad dash to get on the road been all about meeting them? Had God used me as a tool to get one of His children to slow down so they would get to their destination safely? Had I, by my loss of time sense, prevented an accident saving someone's life, and so kept God's plan on track? Are we all tools to be employed by God, when needed, to do his will?

I think in some sense we are. We all influence each other's lives every day and in every way. And I, for one, am ok with being a Tool of God. His Plan seems like a worthwhile project and, besides, He seems to take pretty good care of his tools.

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team

The following were in attendance at our January 7 PW Ministry Meeting held at the church library: Naydene Ames, Ellen Davis, Maxine Hunter, Karen Jacobs, and Sylvia McKinnon.

Karen reviewed the December 2015 Financial Report and the 2016 Proposed Budget. A motion was made and approved to give a \$50.00 memorial donation to the church in memory of Dorothy Campbell and to give a \$100.00 donation to the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE). This last donation will help cover travel expenses and for speaking engagements for a PWSNE member to participate in the PW 2016 USA Mission Experience in September 2016 in California. We hope to invite this member to be a speaker at our PW Spring Social in June.

Many of our church family and community have helped support our PW programs by their attendance, donations and purchases to our Country Crossroads Bazaar, the Fashion Show and the Clothes Basket. The income generated from these programs allows the Presbyterian women of the church to give generously

to many missions and/or programs in our local community and also world-wide. We want to share with our church family the programs and missions that the Presbyterian Women of the church support. They include (but are not limited to) the following:

Missions:

Christmas 2016	\$200
MECS G.A.A.	\$200
MECS Elem. School Nurse for children in need	\$150
MECS Middle/High School Nurse for children in need	\$150
St. Joan's Church Thanksgiving Food Baskets	\$200
Our Church Deacon's Christmas Food Baskets	\$200
Vanderkamp	\$200
Malawi Project	\$200
Northern Comfort	\$200
Theo Bowman House for children, Utica	\$200
Pledge to our church	\$2,000
Building Fund to our church	\$1,000
Presbyterian Missions	\$1,200
Presbytery Operating Fund	\$100

Programs:

Valentine Express (for Crouse Nursing Home)	\$100
PW Retreat	\$300

Scholarships: Two at \$150 each for children to attend church camp

In addition to the above:

- Items not sold or given away during the current season are boxed up and donated to St. Pauley's Mission in Rochester, NY which sends usable clothing, shoes and household items to third world countries. Cloth items not sent out of the country are sold by St. Pauley's to a rag company which generates money for St. Pauley's to continue their mission.
- Every December PW opens up the Clothes Basket on several evenings and makes appointments with families to bring their children in for the children to shop for family members. The children can pick out gifts, have them wrapped and tagged, and take them home for under the tree, at no cost. Parents also shop while waiting for their children and can take anything needed, at no cost.
- Low income individuals/families in need can obtain vouchers to shop at the Clothes Basket. These people are referred by the local school

nurse or Community Action Program.

- Baked goods are available at no cost every Saturday at the Clothes Basket, compliments of the local Price Chopper grocery store.

Under Old Business, we were pleased to have a good number from our church participate in our Christmas Caroling at Crouse Community Center. The men at Unity Acres in Orwell, NY appreciated all the Christmas cards received from our church. Please be sure to check out the picture and article posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall that they sent to thank us.

**Next PW Ministry Team Meeting
all welcome to attend)**

**Thursday, February 4, 2016
Church Library at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully,
Naydene Ames, Secretary

FACEBOOK

We now 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.

**If it is to be, it is up to me!
If not me...then who?**

This became our mantra in 2014. Although we haven't chanted it much this year we need to continue to think about it. Our members and friends have been dedicated to doing what needs to be done and have worked together to make our endeavors a success.

We continue to have challenges that we work to overcome. Primary is financial concerns which are always in the picture although this congregation rises to the occasion when approached. Additional money raised for the paving/sealing of our driveway and parking lot is one example.

At this time we are without a pastor and this will not be rectified in the near future since our financial situation will not permit employing a minister. However we continue to manage under the direction of session. Ellen Davis continues to assume management of the daily business and as chairperson of the worship committee sees that the pulpit is supplied each Sunday. Sylvia McKinnon continues to deal with issues concerning the building and grounds. Our secretary, Kaaren Arrington, takes care of office details and the calendar which helps to keep us all on track.

As you will see in the committee reports we have had an active year and continue to work to see that our church is recognized in the community as we provide opportunities to reach out to the area. Our latest outreach is the local food pantry. The Morrisville Community Church assumed management of this important and necessary mission on January 1, 2016. As the year progresses there will be updates in the bulletin, newsletter and other media outlets.

Rev. Earl Arnold continues to be our moderator appointed by Presbytery. He attends session meetings and advises the group. Rev. Arnold is also present for formal events requiring an ordained minister such as installation of Deacons and Elders and the annual meeting.

It is time to remember, with thankfulness, the bad and good times we have experienced. Everything adds to our strength. It is time to give thanks and grant forgiveness where needed. Remember the congregation that once was and is reemerging again.

It is time to reflect. Where are we coming from?
Where are we now? Where do we want to go?

The church is people. People of all shapes and sizes with varying styles and talents. Each of us needs to be willing to share our time and talent to ensure the continuing success of our church. This means determination and commitment from each of us.