

CHURCH MATTERS

FEBRUARY

2017



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

February Birthdays

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

No February Anniversaries

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------|----|-------------------------|
| February | 5 | Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams |
| | 12 | Rev. "Bud" Adams |
| | 19 | Rev. Ray Lighthall |
| | 26 | Evangelism Committee |
| March | 5 | PW - Gifts of Women |
| | 12 | Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams |
| | 19 | Open |
| | 26 | Rev. "Bud" Adams |
| April | | Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima |
| | 2 | - Communion |
| | 9 | - Palm Sunday |
| | 16 | - Easter Sunday |
| | 23 | Elder Pat Olsson |
| | 30 | Elder Bill Porter |

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

February 2017 Calendar of Events

- 2 **Ground Hog Day Observed**
- 2 PW Committee 6:30 Library
- 2 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 6 CE Committee 5:30 pm SS Room
- 6 Deacons 6:30 pm Library
- 7 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 9 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 13 **Delivery of Valentines to Crouse Comm. - 2 pm**
- 13 Outreach Committee 5:30 pm SS
- 13 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 13 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 14 **Valentine's Day Observed**
- 14 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 15 Wednesday Club 1 - 4 pm Fellowship Hall
- 16 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 16 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 20 **President's Day Holiday - Office Closed**
- 20 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 21 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 21 Faith Circle Noon Dot Mulcahey's home
- 22 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 23 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 26 **Members & Friends Congregational Service**
- 28 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

Please Note:

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

Adult Bible Study is held every Sunday at 9:30 am in the Church Library during the school year.

The Tilted Candle

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matthew 7: 25

The white candle in the center left sanctuary window was tilted yet again. I walked over. Lifted up the glass chimney around the candle and straighten it. Even though we do not burn the window candles that often in January and February, I made sure it was firmly standing up right in the candlestick. I replaced the glass chimney. I then continued to the choir location and sat down. I looked over at the candle. It was beginning to tilt. After choir practice I straighten it again, and proceeded to the choir room to get ready for church. As the choir processed into the sanctuary I looked over at the center window. Sure enough, the candle was slowly tilting to the right. By the end of the service the candle resembled the Leaning Tower of Pisa. After church I straighten it again.

This little ritual has been part of my Sunday worship experience since Epiphany Sunday. Was I annoyed by the ever tilting candle? No, I was mostly curious as to why it continued to slowly but surely tilt even though I would straighten it with all due force and with all the candle straightening techniques I had ever learned. In fact my first effort was not good and resulted in breaking the candle in half. I thought the new candle would solve the problem. It didn't. That is when I decided there was a message hidden in this mundane every Sunday occurrence. The message: The ever titling candle illustrated that all things need a firm foundation. It also illustrated that a firm foundation needs a good support surrounding it.

We know the foundation of faith on which our church and lives are built. Yes, indeed, Jesus is the Rock!! But like that candle which continues to tilt, there are times when we too can feel the foundation in our lives is out of kilter, a.k.a tilted. The causes for this are not always easy to understand. Perhaps we feel discouraged by something in our lives such as church, family, the world. Perhaps we are feelings left out and isolated. Or we simply feel engulfed under crashing waves of too much work and too little time to do it. I feel that in times like this we can gain support from prayer and faith, but we also need each other. The type of support we give each other should be gentle and patient. I say gentle and patient, because remember that tilting candle: when I hurriedly removed the glass chimney that was supporting the titling candle it crashed and broke. So don't rush in the fixing. Be gentle and patience with yourself and each other. Don't worry when you or someone you rely on tilts away again and yet again.

Keep the faith and once again with patience, gently help each other to once again stand straight on the firm foundation of Jesus—the rock— which is the firm foundation for our lives.

Dear God, We give you thanks for our friends and church family that surround us with support helping us to stand firmly in mind and deed on Jesus, the rock of our salvation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee
Maxine G. Hunter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Blood Services - The results of the recent blood drive held on January 26 brought in 24 donors, collected 22 pints of blood, and helped 66 patients. Thank you for making a difference!

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

REMEMBER WHEN.....

Remember this jolly group? It is the infamous "Lemon Sisters" in holiday mode.

The Lemon Sisters first appeared at the Thank You Dinner that our church had for St. Joan of Arc Church in 1997. After their successful debut, they were invited to perform at various venues, such as a picnic at St. Joan's, using the back of Douglas' little red pick-up as their stage. This photo was taken of the "sisters" after a performance for the Morrisville Travel Club circa 1998, The group continued to perform off and on, with few changes in personnel, until around 2005.

From the Property Committee

We accepted an invitation from COVE (the volunteer group from Colgate) to have 4-6 students come on January 27 afternoon to do cleaning in the sanctuary, fellowship hall and lower level of the building.

Doug Mennig will be contacted to replace batteries that need replacing in the security lights.

We will be working on a plan to understand the workings of the sound system to publish and post it.

Sylvia will be away May 9 -17.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

From the Deacons

The Deacons want you to know we are here for you. If you need prayers or help with anything just let one of us know. We want to wish everyone who has a birthday or anniversary this month that you have a blessed day and many more to come.

We voted in new officers. Calla Miller and Connie Shepard are co-chairs and Sue Bartow is Secretary. We revised our Deacon caring list with our new members.

The Deacon greeters for February are:
February 5 – Calla Miller, Connie Shepard
February 12 - Tom Leamer, Jr., Sue Bartow
February 19 - Dave Link, Roberta Link
February 26 - Rachael Armstrong, Norma Galbreath

We pray that everyone has a very blessed month with God's loving arms surrounding you and your families.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Shepard

From the Food Pantry

The month of December was very fruitful with donations. Although the number of visitors to the pantry was down, 35 families, the generosity of our community and surrounding area was exceptional. Nine hundred fifty two (952) items of food, hygiene, and paper products were received in addition to \$1,732.

As we close out the first year of operating the Food Pantry, Henry, Mark and I would like to thank all of you for your support and contributions in 2016. I feel I'm being repetitive, but our success could not have been possible without the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our supporters

and volunteers, I think I can speak for my partners in saying how important and rewarding this outreach program has been. The spirit of the Lord has filled our hearts and guided us through this year.

The Morrisville Community Church collections, recorded for 2016, of canned and boxed foods, hygiene and paper products totaled 349 items. Additional donations were also received from several of our parishioners who brought their donations into the pantry.

On average, per month, we served 43 households, 138 individuals, and 1,245 meals. The annual number of meals provided totaled 14,940.

The total cash donations received in 2016 were \$5,414.85. Total food and other products received from donations were 7,129. Please see the full annual report that was distributed at the recent annual congregational meeting held on January 22.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

TORN PAGE PART TWO: THE VERSES

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

Some time ago I wrote about the torn page in my pew Bible. Recently I was looking at the torn page and wondered, "Is there something that could be learned from the verses that were torn. I decided to look at just the torn words. Whether they were at the beginning, middle or end of a verse I would start or stop there and see what God was telling me.

The first part that was torn was from Matthew Chapter 13, Verses 15 through 17.

... hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

How very true. We all need the Lord's healing from time to time because how many false prophets and self-proclaimed righteous people are in the world today causing pain and suffering in the name of God?

Which leads us to what was on the other side of the torn page. Again looking at just the torn words from Matthew we are still in Chapter 13 this time but verses 24 through 30.

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said...

We can all read the parable and learn what the servants said to the owner. But what would we say?

Would we also ask "where did the weeds come from" or would we ask "why are there weeds at all?"

Why is there evil in the world in the first place?

I think the torn verses teach me that it is not for me to know God's 'whys' but to trust that even if I don't understand He will be there to heal me if I listen to His words with my ears *and* my heart.

[Psalm 104:34](#)

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

From Outreach & Evangelism

Outreach and Evangelism are planning a covered dish dinner on May 13 at 5:30 pm. in Fellowship Hall. We are having the "Friend's of God" band once again. We are inviting other churches to join us. We would love to have anyone who would like to perform to let us know. Please come join us for fellowship, food, and a fun evening.

The committee is working on how we can help the church to grow. We believe that God is on the move in our church. We want to invite all the members and friends of our church to a

congregational service on February 26. We want everyone involved in trying to come up with a new vision for helping our church to move forward with growth. We believe that God and the Holy Spirit are with us every Sunday. God is showing us that we need everyone involved with their talents and knowledge. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the February 26.

If you have any ideas for Outreach and Evangelism, please contact Mark, Connie, Ellen, or Pat. We meet on the second Monday at 6:30 in the Sunday School room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Outreach and Evangelism Committee

REPENTANCE...

Repentance is central to Lent. It means to turn around, a complete change. Lent is a serious season but we may miss all the good that comes with it. Repentance isn't a gloomy, dreary act. In the gospel stories, when Jesus is present - as he is with us today - repenting is a joyful act which offers newness and breeds hope.

Below is a way of keeping Lent. The author suggests this is a way to "improve relationships with others, the planet, yourself and God." It takes up the familiar theme of "fasting" during Lent, and opposes it to "feasting".

Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion
Fast from greed, Feast on sharing
Fast from scarcity, Feast on Abundance
Fast from fear, Feast on peace
Fast from lies, Feast on truth
Fast from gossip, Feast on praise
Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience
Fast from evil, Feast on kindness
Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement
Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude
Fast from noise, Feast on silence

Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope
Fast from hatred, Feast on love

(The above article is paraphrased from a Pebble Hill
Presbyterian Church newsletter and submitted by

Ellen Davis)

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 January 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
1	30	\$ 3058.00	\$ 350.00
8	35	\$ 1409.00	\$.00
15	46	\$ 1579.00	\$ 350.00
22	35	\$ 1325.00	\$ 75.00
29	38	\$ 1720.00	\$.00

