

CHURCH MATTERS

February

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 9:30 AM

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Kitchen\ Clothes Basket 684-9970

January Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

No February Anniversaries

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

February

4	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Communion)
11	Bill Porter
18	Rev. Jim Pollock
25	Rev. Bud Adams

Clothes Basket -

Wednesday and Saturday 10 am - 2 pm.

February 2018 Calendar of Events

1	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
2	Groundhog Day
2-3	Closer Walk 6 pm Fri. thru 3:30 pm Sat.
6	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
8	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
12	Outreach Committee 6:30 pm SS Room
12	Worship Committee 6 pm Library
13	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
14	Valentine's Day
14	Ash Wednesday
15	Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
15	Finance Committee 7 pm Library
15	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
19	President's Day Holiday (Office Closed)
19	Joint Deacons & Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
20	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
20	Homecoming Committee 6:30 pm Library
22	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
27	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
28	WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall

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.

When Cornelius Met Peter

"The minute Peter came through the door; Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him..." Acts 10: 25

In these interesting times, we are hearing the cry for walls—walls to keep out the “others”. These walls are not only the cry for a physical barrier (which never work—Remember Hadrian’s Wall? Remember the wall of China? Remember the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain?) but we, also, have erected barriers against beliefs, culture and race, which separate us from one another. With this in mind the complete story of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion and Peter, in Acts 10: 1-48 is worth a thoughtful read. But for now here is a brief review of the journey which led Peter to meet Cornelius. The key in this story is the identity of both Cornelius and Peter.

First, Cornelius: He is a Centurion with the rank of sergeant-major in the Roman army. He is a Gentile. He is Roman in nationality. He is a man seeking God. All of these facts mean that Cornelius is way outside Jewish Law, for in the eyes of Jewish Law, Cornelius is unclean. The fact that Cornelius is a Roman Centurion was even worse, for no strict Jew would ever invite such a person into their house, nor would any strict Jew ever enter such a person’s house. Any Jew associating in this would become defiled—unfit to enter the synagogue.

Peter enters the story: Peter is still a very strict Jew. Even though he is a disciple and instrumental in establishing early churches, at this point in his ministry he is still struggling in his own heart with his devout and strict Jewish heritage. Do you remember the many times that Jesus shocked the disciples by associating with those outcasts unfit in Jewish Law? Well, at this point, Peter still hasn’t gotten Jesus’ message. In fact, Peter has recently been reprimanded by Paul because he refused to eat with Gentiles.

Next, each receives a vision from God which leads to the invitation: Peter’s journey to Cornelius begins with an invitation. Peter is invited to visit Cornelius’ house. For both Peter and Cornelius this is a huge leap of faith. From the story we learn that Peter did accept Cornelius’ invitation to visit his home. Peter took the giant step for humankind by crossing the threshold of faith when he enters Cornelius’ home. This event is a major turning point in the history of the church. It is the first time a Gentile is admitted into the fellowship of the church.

This story tells us much about the difficulty of crossing barriers. How hard it is to reach out to those we disagree with or to those that are culturally and racially different. We have come a long way in this journey, but

we have yet to arrive. We must remember that our job is not to build barriers. Our job is to cross difficult thresholds. This is the way that the “walls” we built both literally and figuratively will begin to crumble. This is what God directs us to do. Peter’s words describe it best: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” (Acts 10: 34)

Prayer: Dear God, help us remember that barriers built to exclude is not the vision you have for us, the church, our nation, and the world. Guide us to do the right thing. In Jesus name, Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine Hunter

From the Property Committee

Property Committee January 8 meeting notes:

- All members received copies of the Annual Report and it was handed into the Secretary.
- Discussed the use of the building by “Closer Walk” on Feb. 2-3. It was emphasized that the Secretary’s and Pastor’s offices should not be used by any group.
- Went over the proposed budget for the Finance Committee suggesting any changes we felt necessary. Sylvia will meet with the Finance Committee on 1/11/18 with suggestions.
- Reviewed position description for custodial. Bring up at Session the area of “hours”.
- Agreed to have COVE (Colgate) come again on their “work” day 1/26/18. We are asking for 4-6 students to come to do cleaning of all tables and chairs, cleaning the walls and floor of the (t & c) closet and clean toys in the Nursery.
- We still have not heard about our phone replacement. Sylvia will speak to Jeff Gay about the contact.
- We need to look over the new insurance policy with HFC.
- Discussed Ron’s vacation to determine what coverage is needed (cleaning, garbage, shoveling/salting sidewalks).

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon

The Service of Diminishing Lights

Lent offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. In our busy world, Lent provides us with a time to reflect upon our daily life, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done or failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

During the Sundays in Lent we will share in The Service of Diminishing Lights. We begin Lent with seven candles inserted into a crown of thorns. The candles symbolize Jesus' journey to the cross and the events that led him there. According to three of the Gospels a woven crown of thorns was placed on the head of Jesus during the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. It was one of the instruments of the Passion, employed by Jesus' captors both to cause him pain and to mock his claim of authority. It is mentioned in the gospels of Matthew (27:29), Mark (15:17), and John (19: 2, 5) and is often alluded to by early Church Fathers.

We begin with all of the candles lit and on each successive Sunday in Lent, one of the candles is extinguished. The circle of gathering darkness and the crown of thorns serves as a constant reminder of the role of human sin in bringing about the crucifixion and the need for Resurrection.

We will remember that Jesus came to bring hope and light to the world, but at every step there were those who willingly tried to put out that light.

On Easter Sunday all the candles will again be lit symbolizing the hope and light of Jesus Christ.

(Submitted by Ellen Davis)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Blood Drive held on January 30, 2018 had a goal of 24 units of blood, 25 were collected and 75 patients helped. Thank you to all who participated. Our next Blood Drive is on **March 30**.

The Worship Committee has decided to post the "Rules of the Nursery" again as a reminder for everyone. They are:

1. Nursery volunteer supervisor (12 years or older) – may have 1 (one) assistant.
 2. Only children up to Grade 3 allowed.
 3. No unsupervised children—all children stay in sanctuary until after the Children's Message.
- The rules are posted on the door of the nursery. If you have any questions, please see anyone on the Worship Committee (Ellen Davis, Bonnie Olney, Pat Olsson, Karen Jacobs, Maxine Hunter). Thank you

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

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...

Do you remember when the Morrisville Community Church "played" in the FIRST "Super Bowl" against "The World?"

It was January 26, 1997 at St. Joan's Church. St. Joan's was generous to let us worship there while our church was being built. It was a play within the service.

Dave and Jean Puddington were our coaches. Nate Miller was our "Q-B", Jim Dutcher was the referee. Shannon Puddington was the "Water Girl." Tom Lemery was the Broadcaster and Announcer. Rev. Harvey Sindima was our "Backup Quarterback." Steve Groves videotaped it. The ushers (Norma Galbreath, Sally Larchar, Dorenda Koehl, I think) had their hands full with the offering and the cans goods.

It was a wonderful service to witness!! You may have some memories as well.

(Submitted by Tom Lemery)

From Outreach & Evangelism

We haven't met for the last couple of months due to family health issues. We will be meeting February 12 at 6:30 in the Sunday School room. Everyone is welcome to come join us. We need some new ideas that can help our church grow.

God Bless,
Mark Shepard - Chairperson

2018 Valentine Express Workshop: Success!

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018—a lovely day for making valentines—thirteen creative women gathered in the Fellowship Hall to make valentines. In a flurry of selecting the perfect color of paper, pictures, stickers, doilies, verses and ribbon, accompanied by laughter and the continuous question “where is the hole puncher?”, over 85 valentines were created. Although 120 valentines are needed, we are fortunate that we began the day with 35 completed valentines. Do the math! All is well! However, if anyone would like to make a few more valentines to add to the mix, please let me know. It is always good to have extra.

The plan is to hand out the valentines to the residents of Crouse Community Center on or near Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2018. Day and time has yet to be scheduled. Stay tuned for this information.

Thanks to all for making this a fun and productive afternoon.

Maxine Hunter

STRENGTH OF GOD

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

[Psalm 104:34](#)

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

“My God is stronger than yours” has been a rallying cry since the beginning of time. And don’t forget “my father can beat up your father”.

But just how strong is our Father?

Several Hymns sing of the might of God notably “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” and “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”.

Where did the Hymnists get their inspiration from...

The first hymn “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” says that “no weapon that’s fashioned against us will stand”...

This makes me think of Ephesians 6 verses 10 through 17, The Armor of God, especially verses 13, 14,16, and 17 which inventories “the full armor of God with its ‘belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.’ But more than just armoring and arming us God will sometimes fight for us as Moses promised in Deuteronomy 1 verse 30...

The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes,” and chapter 3 verse 22 “Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you.”

But what of protection? The second Hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” says, “A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark (barricade) never failing”. This hymn is based on Psalm 46 which says in line 7 the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress”. The Psalm also talks of the mighty warrior for peace that is our God. “He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire...” but the Psalm mainly of God as a refuge and protector no matter what happens.

I also find Psalm 27 conveys the same message. Verses 1 and 2 say “The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.”

The Bible also records numerous miracles which speak to God’s strength. Parting the Red Sea and so forth.

All in all it seems that God is amazingly strong and powerful and that my Father could beat up your Father.

Thankfully God is Love and Peace and, therefore, won’t ever be beating up anybody else’s Father.

A couple of random thoughts...

Death. No matter how sudden and disrupting it is for us, whether our own death or a loved one’s, isn’t it comforting to know that God is always ready?

When our troubles are too much for us to handle give them to God... remember that God made us *all that we are not all that He is...*

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team News

The PW Ministry team met on January 11. Karen Jacobs presented the Financial Report for December and we were amazed to learn that the total income received from the Bazaar was \$4,054.50. Thank you again to all who donated items to the Bazaar; shopped at the Bazaar, dined at Mrs. Claus Kitchen or gave a monetary donation!! We have ladies who are already making things to put away for our 2019 Bazaar.

We received 150 Christmas cards from the congregation for the men at Unity Acres. We had seven people participate in Christmas Caroling at Crouse Community Center on December 10. Ladies from the Clothes Basket hosted the Family Christmas Shopping Program in December where six families were invited to shop.

Upcoming events include an Indoor Garage Sale on January 13 (weather depending); the 7th Annual Valentine Express on January 16 and the Gifts of Women Sunday Service on April 15.

We will not be meeting in February. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.** We will be discussing the Fashion Show at this meeting. Do we want to continue having the Fashion Show? Those interested in this program are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Respectfully,
Naydene Ames, PW Secretary

MCC Homecoming 2018

Mark your calendar for August 25 & 26, 2018. Morrisville Community Presbyterian Church is having a Homecoming celebration!

"Save the date" cards will be going out to current members, former members, and friends of the church, including our four former pastors.

Planning is still in the preliminary stages, but we will begin with a number of activities on Saturday afternoon for adults and children followed with a chicken barbecue. There will be a hymn sing, as well as time for reminiscing, Saturday evening. The weekend will culminate with a church service Sunday morning.

The next planning session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 in the library of the church. If you are interested in helping to plan this homecoming event, please come. Also if you have ideas or thoughts

and can't attend the meeting, please give them to the church office.

Respectfully,
Sue Leamer

From the Deacons

This month we will start a new year with our new Deacons. We are looking forward to seeing what God will have us doing.

We want to thank Calla Miller and Sue Bartow for their years of service. You will be missed.

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

We would like to wish everyone that 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.

Deacon Greeters for February

February 4 - Calla Miller & Connie Shepard

February 11- Rachael Armstrong & Norma Galbreath

February 18 - Ron Brodeur & Tom Lemery

February 25 - Tom Leamer, Jr. & Robin Suarez

God Bless,
Connie Shepard (on behalf of your Deacons)

From the Food Pantry

As we close out our second year of operating the Morrisville Community Church Food Pantry, December continues to be a slow month for visitors to the pantry. We served 28 families in December. On average, per month, we assisted 37 households, 122 individuals and provided 1,099 meals. The annual number of meals provided in 2017 totaled 13,194. The donations received from M-ECS, Stockbridge Valley, Dougherty's and Morrisville State College functions, clubs and organizations, (1,297 items) during this holiday season, have totally stocked our shelves.

The Morrisville Community Church congregation's collections recorded in 2017 of canned and boxed foods, hygiene and paper products totaled 92 along with cash donations of \$358. Again, this year, additional food, hygiene and paper products were received from individual members who brought their donations directly to the pantry.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support from our church family members, organizations and programs. Total cash donations received in 2017 were

\$2,269. Food and other products donated totaled 3,448.

Sue Bartow
Coordinator

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

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

DEACONS

Class of 2018

Jeff Cring
Lois Thurston
Bonnie Olney

Class of 2018

Robin Suarez

Class of 2019

Pathrik Olsson

Class of 2019

Norma Galbreath
Rachael Armstrong
Tom Leamer, Jr.

Class of 2020

Sylvia McKinnon
Mark Shepard
Tom Leamer, Sr.
Sheila Bartlett
Ellen Davis

Class of 2020

Connie Shepard
George Fearon
Tom Lemery
Allison O'Hara
Ron Brodeur

Statistics for January 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
7	35	\$ 3,061.00	\$ 450.00
14	13	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 250.00
21	35	\$ 1,321.00	\$ 160.00
28	35	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 280.00