

CHURCH MATTERS

JANUARY

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

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 John Eriksen | 14 Dawn Stevenson |
| 8 Robert Ballard | 15 Esther Davis |
| 9 Ameiliana Ames | 17 Naydene Ames |
| 9 Julia Bush | 17 Rachael Armstrong |
| 10 Ann Mullenax | 17 Bradley Dean Temple |
| 12 Rebecca Eriksen | 18 Laurie Zbock |
| 13 Lenore (Kouk) Davis | 22 Wayne Smith |
| 13 David Link | 24 Kenneth Parker |
| 14 Stanley Davis | 26 Jessica Burch |
| 14 Gillian Gay Crescent | |

January Anniversary

- 2 Dave & Becky Burgess

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

January

- 1 Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima (Communion)
 8 Elder Bill Porter
 15 Elder Bill Porter
 22 Rev. Earl Arnold (Annual Meeting)
 29 Rev. Jerry Saliba

February

- 5 Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams
 12 Rev. "Bud" Adams
 19 Rev. Ray Lighthall
 26 Evangelism Committee

January 2017 Calendar of Events

- 1 New Year's Day**
2 New Year's Holiday - Office Closed
 2 CE Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm SS Room
 2 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm Library
 3 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
 5 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
 7 Christmas Cleanup 9 am
 9 Worship Committee Mtg. 6 pm Library
 9 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm SS
 9 Property Committee Mtg. 7 pm Fellowship Hall
 10 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
 12 PW Committee 6:30 Library
 12 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
 12 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
16 Martin Luther King Holiday - Office Closed
 16 Valentine Express setup in Fellowship Hall
 16 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
 17 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
 17 Faith Circle 11:30 - 2 pm at Irene Akers
17 Valentine Express 1 pm Fellowship Hall
 19 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
22 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
 24 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
 25 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
26 American Red Cross Blood Drive
1 - 6 pm Fellowship Hall
 26 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
 31 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

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

Pause! Reflect! Proceed!

“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing... (and)... he rested from all the creating that he had done.” Genesis 2: 2-3

“See. I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams into the wasteland.” Isaiah 43: 19

The New Year, 2017, is here. In the week leading up to the annual Happy New Year celebration I take a break. I pause and let my thoughts take me on a memory journey. There are happy memories with family and friends; there are embarrassing memories such as an inexperienced physical education teacher I set up the archery targets in front of a brick wall and many broken arrows ensued; and there are sad memories such as the leaving behind of friends and family due to moves to new locations. Yes, the memories are many and varied.

You and I are often cautioned about memories, aka, “living in the past”. This is not what I suggest. I feel that our lives are formed from the events of our life journey. As God’s children I feel that the pausing and reflecting is very much a part of our DNA, so frankly it is not easy to simply forget our past. Our memories are a part of who we are. Our past helped shape us, but the past is not the stopping point. As God created the world and mankind; proclaimed it good; and paused on the seventh day to rest and reflect on his work, I feel a pause for reflection for all of us, just as God paused and reflected, helps us see how God has been working in us and through us. This is who we are at this moment in time. I feel that the week before New Year’s was a good time for us to pause. Then after a pause, a reflection, and now that the great crystal ball in Time Square dropped at the stroke of midnight indicting a new year’s arrival, we are ready to proceed. We proceed, not with New Year’s resolutions that will soon be broken. But we proceed to live the best Christian lives we can with the knowledge that God is with us; that God is in the everyday; and that God has planned a “new thing” for us in the wilderness of another New Year. As the Isaiah scripture implies: in God we’ve seen nothin’ yet! Greater things will come.

Blessings to all and Happy New Year!

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

It is here - the New Year.
It came to you on a plate
To fill up, eat up, and enjoy
All the happiness that you create.

May your heart be dear
In the New Year
To make plates beyond compare
That's filled up, given out, and enjoyed
By others with whom you share.

May you be blessed in 2017
May it bless you in its days
May it enrich your life endlessly
May it bless you in many ways.

Tom Lemery
December 2016

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.

From the Property Committee

The following were brought before the Property Committee at their December 12, meeting:

- Session was presented and approved the revision of the Building Usage Forms for Non-Church Groups.
 - Woodcock & Armani came and replaced the bearing assembly. He had to return immediately as it was leaking. Tightening helped, but may need a new gasket.
 - Nate and Ron will work together to get the bulbs in the parking lots replaced. Bulbs will be ordered and a lift will be rented from Cooleys (\$250 a day).
 - Sound sister is back in order. Two cables had been pulled. Connor Bartlett was sent a note of thanks for helping.
 - Children (using the Nursery) and parents are keeping the Nursery in good order after usage.
 - Bob Mitchell has volunteered to also clean and paint the lower level front hallway after the holidays.
 - Ron and Charlene will be away: December 30-January 1, and February 23-March.
- Ron will be retiring from the college on May 18, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

From the Food Pantry

Our volunteers served 43 families in November providing 1,395 meals. A total of 592 food items and other products were donated to the Pantry. In addition, \$230 in cash was received.

It's hard to believe that next month we will be closing out the first year of operation since opening the Morrisville Community Church Food Pantry.

Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

From the Deacons

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

The Deacons hope that you had a good month last month. We also hope those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month have a great day!!

December was a busy month for the Deacons. We sent care packages to three college students.

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Food Bags. We truly appreciate the food and monetary donations from our church family and area businesses. This year, we made 71 families' Christmas a little brighter. Thank you again!!

There was a good representation at Waterville Residential (formerly known as Harding Nursing Home). I also heard that a special visitor in a red suit came to sing with us. I'm sure the residents were very appreciative of the singing.

The Board of Deacons welcome Norma Galbreath, Rachael Armstrong, and Tom Leamer Jr. to the board. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Thank you to Ron Brodeur and Naydene Ames for their dedication and service. Ron and Naydene, along with myself, have "graduated" from the Board.

The Deacon Greeters for January are:
January 1 - Sue Bartow, Norma Galbreath
January 8 - Roberta Link, Dave Link
January 15 - Norma Galbreath, Rachael Armstrong
January 22 - Robin Suarez, Connie Shepard
January 29 - Calla Miller, Sue Bartow

On a personal note, I have been blessed to work with all of the members of the Board. Thank you for your hard work this year.

As a reminder, we are here for you. Talk to your Deacons, and share any joy and concern (if needed) with them.

And, as always, we hope all of you have a blessed month. May all of God's Love surround you always.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Lemery

2017 Valentine Express: Please join us!

The 6th Valentine Express will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 1 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 of activity: to deliver the valentines to Crouse Community Center, circa Valentine's Day 2017.

Materials for making the valentines will be provided. If possible participants should bring their own scissors! Those that want to make valentines using stamping 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, 684-9278.

MIRACLES:

MIRACLES OF TIMING AND PRECISION

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

Psalm 104:34

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

We talk about miracles or even divine intervention almost daily but how many times do we stop to consider that it really was God in action? I believe that God can work any miracle He wants by controlling the forces of the universe. I believe what makes a miracle is either the timing or the precision of the event or both.

Here is one of the reasons I believe this...

I was watching a documentary on the latest theory on the formation of the moon. Let me summarize it ...

Our moon is unique in the known universe because it is 1/4 the size of the Earth. No other moon is so big compared to its host planet. Science has also shown that the moon is made of earth rock.

The latest theory is that in the early days of earth's formation hundreds of millions of years ago a stray planet the size of Mars and made almost entirely of iron hit the Earth threw off enough material that it formed a ring around the Earth which later formed the Moon. The iron of this planet sunk into the Earth started spinning thus providing us with our spinning iron core which creates the Earth's magnetic field.

Scientific theory suggests that this collision event and its results are directly responsible for not only the Earth's ability to sustain life but life evolving out of the oceans.

Here's how...

Once the moon formed in to a ball its gravity pulled on the Earth slowing it down. (The moon was much closer to the Earth back then.) Prior to the moon our Earth's spin was causing winds in excess of 1000 miles an hour. No seeds can take root anywhere with those winds. The closeness of the new moon would later cause tides that were in the hundreds of miles causing tide countless tide pools that when they dried up forced life to adapt to living on land. Our moon's gravity also stabilizes our rotation causing predicable seasons to which life can adapt and flourish. Life cannot survive if seasons are unpredictable.

Here is where God's comes in... Computer modeling shows the in order for all this to happen the size of the planet that hit the Earth, its speed and its angle of impact must be precise.

For example if the angle was off by as little as 10 degrees either way the planet deflects off and does goes away or it destroys both planets.

The odds of a planetary collision that gives us the perfect moon are, quite literally, astronomical. I don't think it could happen without divine intervention.

Oh, and as far as our spinning core and its magnetic field. Without that, the solar wind would strip away our atmosphere in no time.

God, the cosmic billiard player, nails a perfect shot. A miracle of precision.

For some examples of miraculous *timing* let's look at the Book of Exodus and start with the plagues of Egypt and end with the parting of the Red Sea... again I watched a documentary.

Each of the ten Plagues of Egypt can be attributed to natural forces.

- a. The Plague of Blood. Could have been either a massive silt release from upstream or red bacteria called 'Red Tide'. Both have been recorded in the Nile River. Each will effectively remove the oxygen from the water.
- b. The Plague of Frogs. With the Nile choked with silt or bacteria the frogs are leaving the Nile.
- c. The Plagues of Gnats and the Plague of Flies. Again the silt or the bacteria cause oxygen levels in the Nile to decrease, the fish then die float to the surface and rot attracting gnats and flies.
- d. The Plague on Livestock. With so many flies around plus very little drinkable water (due to the silt or Red Tide) animal disease is a certainty. There is speculation that the Israelites homes were far enough from the Egyptian center of living to have been spared.
- e. The Plague of Boils. Flies and gnats in those already horrible conditions will bring disease to people.
- f. The Plague of Hail. Volcanic ash and pumice from the Mediterranean has been found in Egypt. Burning chunks of rock falling from the sky.
- g. The Plague of Locusts. As if the Egyptians don't have enough problems. Locust swarms are not uncommon.
- h. The Plague of Darkness. Volcanic ash can and will block out the sun.
- i. The Plague of the First Born. This has two theories that I have heard. The first is 'lake inversion'. This is cause when a body of water like the Nile Basin inverts. The naturally rotting vegetation on the bottom produces carbon monoxide. If the gas can't escape it will build up under the sediment and eventually burst free. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that is heavier than air and will float along the ground. In Egyptian society the first born male slept on the ground floor of the house next to the house's 'throne'. All other family members slept above the ground. (This very scenario happened in Africa a few decades ago. Only livestock and people sleeping on the ground, 1500 people or so, died overnight). The other theory involves the eating habits of the Egyptians. The firstborn son always received an extra portion of food to keep him strong and ready to take over the family. If because of the previous plagues the Egyptians had to eat stored food it is very possible that the older food was contaminated and the oldest sons got double helpings.

This covers the Plagues but what about the Parting of the Red Sea? There is a phenomena call "wind set down". When the wind blows on a body of water with enough force for a prolonged period of time the water will push to one side if it happens on a shallow

area the water will "part" leaving a dry strip. To part the Red Sea where documentary I watched said it may have parted would take a twelve hour sustained sixty to seventy to mile per hour wind. The blowing wind is an accumulative effect when the water parts the last bit of water leaves quickly and as long as the wind blows there is dry land. All this is within the realm of possibility. When the wind stops the water rushes back in to place.

All these things, the Plagues and the parting of the waters can be explained through natural forces, not explained away, just made possible.

What an awesome God to be able to set events in motion so that miracles occur just when they are needed most. To erupt a volcano thousands of miles away, cause wind to blow the ash and pumice over Egypt just when Moses needed it to. Or to cause the wind to blow on the water for hours, so just when Moses needs it, the waters part and then stop the wind and have the water rush in just in time. Not to mention leading Moses to that spot in the first place.

And now for the biggest miracle of all...Life.

When asked if I am a Creationist or an Evolutionist I answer "both". I think the "Spark of Life" can also be called "Divine Intervention". I believe in the evolutionary process but, I do not believe it can happen spontaneously. Especially in regards to mankind. Every species on earth stopped evolving, for the most part, millions of years ago. Except for man, who for some unknown reason, went through a period of intense evolutionary changes in a relatively short time. I believe that the 'unknown reason' is God.

These are some big examples but what about our everyday lives. The tree that falls in front of your car slowing your travel so that you miss being on the overpass when it collapses. What caused the tree to fall slowing you down? Sure it can be attributed to insects killing the tree or beavers or, whatever. Then a sudden gust of wind hits it at the exact moment you are on the road and it falls in front of you...

It has been said that there are no coincidences. But there is God

God is performing Miracles of Precision and Timing every day but sometimes, I think, we miss them in the heat of the moment. Personally I try to make it a point to acknowledge them when I find them. Sometimes I see so many that I stand in awe of the One controlling it all.

Christmas 2016 Family Shopping Nights at the Clothes Basket

The Clothes Basket was open four evenings during the first week of December for families to bring their children in by appointment to shop for gifts. The families were selected by the elementary school nurse. The purpose of this program is to have children select gifts that they could give to their family members at Christmas. While the children selected gifts, volunteers helped wrap and tag and pack them so they could be taken home and put under the tree. Parents were able to shop the Clothes Basket for clothing and household items while we worked with their children in the youth room. Everything selected was given to the families at no cost to them. Seventeen (17) children shopped for members of 7 families. We wrapped and tagged over 270 gifts.

A big thank you to the 14 workers who helped with this program: Claudia Loomis, Irene Akers, Sylvia McKinnon, Sandy Merkle, Kierra Merkle, Allison O'Hara, Lexi Whitehead, Nancy McPherson, Judy Griese, Kaaren Arrington, Jackie Groves, Connie Lassiter, Ellen Davis and Karen Jacobs. And *a big thank you* to the congregation for your donations of gift bags and tissue paper.

Those items made wrapping so much easier than using regular paper and tape. Thank you all for your support of our program.

REMEMBER WHEN.....

This photo, submitted by Marcia Vair, was taken in 1989. I think there is one person that we can easily recognize and that is Hank Douglas who continues to be an active participant in our church. The other person may not be as recognizable to those of us who are newer to the congregation. Pictured with Hank is "Red" Laraway. Red, who lived on Maple Ave. (the current home of Ron Bush) worked at the heating plant at the college. He served as treasurer for the church for many years. His wife, Mary, sang in the choir. Red was well known for the doughnuts he made for the bazaar. The chairs in the choir loft were purchased in his memory by his family. I am sure many of you have other memories of Red and Mary.

Statistics for December 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
December 4	43	\$ 4595.00	\$ 505.00
December 11	46	\$ 842.00	\$.00
December 18	44	\$ 1755.00	\$ 210.00
December 25	30	\$ 1250.00	\$ 75 .00

BULLETIN BINGO

Bulletin Bingo began on July 17. Bingo “typos” in the bulletin should be marked on the card that was provided to everyone who wished to participate. The following is a listing of all the Bingo Numbers that were given for the weekly Bulletin and the monthly Newsletter. Check the numbers to your card, and let us know if you have a winner!

Bingo Numbers called are as follows:

- B** 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 14, 15
- I** 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29,30
- N** 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
- G** 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60
- O** 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 7

B	I	N	G	O	B	I	N	G	O	B	I	N	G	O
		FREE SPACE				FREE SPACE					FREE SPACE			

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.