

CHURCH MATTERS

September
2016



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Facebook: Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA.

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

September Birthdays

2 Scott Holbert, Jr.	15 Nancy Douglas
4 Connor Bartlett	21 Richard Stevenson
4 Nancy McPherson	22 Darlene Virgil
8 Hayla Josephs	23 Amanda Leamer
10 Evelyn Shepard	24 Jeff Cring
11 Budd Bracy	26 Michael Gay
11 Jessica Jacobs-Broedel	26 Jim McPherson
12 Erin Dutcher	28 Andrew Kent
14 Ron Bush	29 Mikyla Broedel
15 Dru Bartlett	29 Mikenna Broedel

September Anniversaries

2 Bert & Joann Conrad
30 David & Catharine Andrews

Pulpit Supply

September 4	Rev. Ray Lighthall
11	Jeanette Michaels
18	Rev. Ray Lighthall
25	Elizabeth Smith

The Clothes Basket at the Morrisville Community Church will be closed Saturday, September 3, Labor Day weekend, and the week after for changeover.

We will reopen on Wednesday, September 14 at 10 a.m. fully stocked with fashions for fall and winter. Regular Saturday hours will resume on September 17. Regular days and hours will be Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Baked goods will be available on Saturdays as usual.

Please, no donations until September 14.

September 2016 Calendar of Events

- 1 PW Ministry Team 6:30 Library
- 1 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 5 **Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)**
- 5 CE Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm SS Room
- 5 Deacons Mtg. 6:00 pm Library
- 6 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 6 Rebekahs 2 pm Fellowship Hall
- 7 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 7 Worship Sermon Class 6:30 pm Library
- 8 Property Committee Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 8 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 12 Worship Committee Mtg. 6 pm Library
- 12 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm SS Room
- 13 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 14 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 15 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 15 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 17 **Presbyterian Women's Retreat**
9 am - 4 pm at Katie's Cafe
- 19 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 20 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 21 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 21 Worship Sermon Class 6:30 pm Library
- 22 **Autumn Begins**
- 22 Book Read "Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake" by Anna Quindlen 12 - 2 pm at Marie Smith's home
- 22 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 27 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 27 Rebekahs 2 pm Fellowship Hall
- 27 Faith Circle 12:15 - 2 pm at Esther Davis' Fellowship Room at Madison Lane Apts in Hamilton
- 28 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 28 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 29 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall

Please Note:

Clothes Basket is 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 unless otherwise noted.

From the Worship Committee

How Has Your Garden Grown?

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” Luke 8: 8

From fields of corn and hay to backyard gardens of vegetables and flowers to the potted plant sitting in a window, we are all gardeners. Growing things is a passion, and by summer’s end the fruits of our labors are abundantly clear: flower gardens are a riot of color; stands over flowing with sweet corn are open and ready for business; and signs appear along rural by-ways and highways telling us that if we turn right and go a mile, we can purchase blueberries and raspberries. Whew! We have all been busy, and the busy has been very productive and very delicious.

Our gardens have done well. It is now time to stop and ask ourselves: During this busy time how well have we tended and nurtured our spiritual garden? This is the garden where God’s word, as proclaimed by Jesus, has been planted. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus illustrated that what we plant (sow) can fall where it can be trampled and eaten by birds or fall on rocks where it comes up as weeds and soon dies, but it can also fall on “good soil” where it flourishes. This flourishing we understand—good soil is best for growing things. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed that fell on good soil “yielded a crop a hundred times more than was sown.” (Luke 8: 8) *In Luke 8:11 & 15 the meaning of the parable is made clear to the disciples and to us:* “This is the meaning of the parable: the seed is the word of God...the seed on good soils stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by preserving produce a crop.” Our challenge and commitment is to cultivate the gardens of our hearts to enable us to sow God’s word in our community and to the entire world.

Prayer: Dear God, we give you thanks for the flowers, fields, trees, and gardens. We give you thanks for the rains that make all this possible. Our spiritual gardens also need nourishment. We know that as sowers of the word we need your guidance. Give us the strength to rekindle our commitment to nurture the good soil of our hearts so we can speak your word to others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Submitted on behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

From the Property Committee

The Property committee reviewed the Wedding and Building Usage forms and will present them to Session at the September meeting for approval. We are suggesting that a church manual be made to include all polices and forms of the church.

Bob Mitchell has completed the painting of the Youth Room and the surrounding hallway walls. A big thank you to him for his time and effort.

The tractor is in the shop for service and repair. Usage of the copier will be discussed with Kaaren about over usage charges.

The private luncheon for Tom Davis will be held Saturday, August 27 in the Fellowship Hall. A request for a wedding on September 24 was approved.

Our September meeting will be held Thursday, September 8 at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon

From the Deacons

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!!

We are continuing the “Box of Socks” through this month as well. You can fill the box with child size socks, underwear, or sweatpants. This will help our young people in the Elementary School.

Hints of the Holiday Season will be creeping upon us in stores and their playlist. We will be looking for can fruits, veggies, and other things for the Christmas baskets in the near future.

We wish all elementary and high school faculty, staff, and students the best in 2016-2017. We hope you have a wonderful school 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,
Tom Lemery

Another September

I cried today.....

It wasn't like a cry of other days.

The morning sun came in on regal rays,

But the tears of years spilled over anyway.

On such a day so warm and full of light,

With joys and happiness upon my sight,

How could one feel so sad and lost and lone?

How could this royal day have lost its tone?

The simple truth was there before my eyes.

One needn't be a genius or so wise

To see the reason for this sad, glad day...

My youngest child went off to school today.

This coldness grasped me like an icy pool

The first days that my daughters went to school.

Years scurry by, one after one

Till now the turn is for my baby son.

I cried today.....

The tears of joy and sadness are at bay.

The plan fulfills and I am growing gray.

My youngest child went off to school today.

Submitted by: Irene R. Akers

UNCOMMON COURTESY

By: Pathrik Olsson

A.K.A. Mr. Bonnie

Psalm 104:34

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

This month's attempt at literacy is about 'common courtesy' or more to the point 'uncommon courtesy'.

In my mind courtesy and kindness are the same thing. They both mean 'doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do'. Ephesians 2:8-10 warns us "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

If we are here to do "good" for the sake of doing "good" then why is it so hard? It is because we are not saved by doing good works? Yet, are we not rewarded

by God for every good deed we do? That warm feeling we get when we help someone and they really appreciate what we did for them; that is God's reward. Proverbs 11:24 promises us this reward and warns us of not aiding each other "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

And why does it seem that every time someone does something nice for someone else it ends up all over the news and social media? Shouldn't it be that courtesy and kindness are so common place that they are unremarkable?

Paul wrote in Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

"Against such things there is no law." And yet it almost seems that, sometimes, it's against the law of human nature.

Remember James 2:26 "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Let us think of this another way...

Time and time again God tells us "Be fruitful and increase in number". However, with a world population of over seven-point-five billion "increasing in number" by increasing the population may not be such a good idea. I think it's time for some interpretation. In Chapter Six: Verse Thirty - one Luke tells us "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Let us combine Luke's words with one of my favorite Hymns titled; "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love".

So, if we do to others are we would have them do to us then they would know that we are Christians by our love and since Love and Kindness are forever linked...wouldn't they want to be like us and thus increase our Christian numbers?

If we remember Hebrews 10 verse 24 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds" then maybe, just maybe, we create a world where "Common Courtesy really is common place?

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team

The following were in attendance at our August 4 PW Ministry Team Meeting: Naydene Ames, Katie Bracy, Ellen Davis, Karen Jacobs and Marlene Miner.

Under Local Missions, we give a monetary donation each year to the Thea Bowman House in Utica and they always send us the nicest thank you notes. We post correspondence received on the PW bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to share with our church family.

The Morrisville Needler's Group has raffle tickets to sell on the beautiful quilt that was donated to them by our very own Rachael Armstrong. Rachael received a Blue Ribbon on this quilt at the State Fair. This group plans to donate the proceeds to our church for letting them use the library every Tuesday at no charge. The drawing will be held on November 6 at our PW Fashion Show. Please see Ellen Davis for ticket information.

An update was given on our PW Retreat scheduled for September 17. If you didn't register and want to join us please see Katie Bracy. Mark your calendar for the Fashion Show on Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 p.m. If you signed up to be a model, please be sure to get your outfits from the Clothes Basket and let Ellen know what you picked out. Ellen has to write up the commentaries which takes time so PLEASE do not wait until the last minute to select your outfit(s).

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. All ladies of our church are welcome to attend.

Respectfully,
Naydene Ames, Secretary

Rev. Sindima offered the preaching class some insight into the "Lectionary". He has chosen to share this information with our members and friends. Each month we will be running a portion of Rev. Sindima's handout for your information.

The Lectionary

What is the lectionary? The lectionary refers to the pre-selected readings of the Bible used in the church for worship, study, and other uses. The selected passages go through the Bible in a logical manner according to their appropriateness to church seasons.

History

The history of the lectionary goes back to the early church. The idea of a lectionary was inherited from Judaism whose scriptural readings were according to the celebration of their religious festivals. Later, the Jews enlarged readings to cover the whole year. They called the sections of the reading *miqra*, which originally meant "calling together," because they all read aloud Torah, or the laws of Moses, the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books made the Hebrew Bible in the early years. After reading the assigned reading portion for the day, the priest explained its meaning. Nehemiah 8:8 shows us how the Jews read *miqra*: "They read (*vayiqr'u*) from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood (*bamiqra*) what was being read."

Later, way before the time Jesus, the Jews added the writings of the prophets to the Torah (the five books of Moses) be part of the scripture. They still called the new collection the Torah (law) so they took the voice of the prophet as the law of God. With the addition of the prophets, they could not read the whole Torah in one year. So they divided the new Torah into 150 parts to be read continuously in a three year cycle: One lesson from the Five Books and one lesson from the prophets each week. The weekly divisions were called *sedarim*, meaning division or what we might call chapter.

When Christianity started, the early believers continued to follow the Jewish practice of reading the *miqra* (reading the Torah aloud together) and also having the weekly readings on the first day of the week, Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. They read the Torah and sung the Psalms as Paul instructs Timothy. " (1 Timothy 4:13). However, in the 50s and 60s, the early Christian communities began supplementing the *miqra* or the Hebrew Torah, with the writings of the Apostle Paul as Paul himself instructs: (1 Thessalonians 5:27 and Colossians 4:16). The early Christians were no gospels at this time for the first gospel, the Gospel of Mark, was not completed until the year 60. When the gospels were written and in circulation, the early Christians added them to their collection of readings for worship service.

By the end of the first century, a tradition had been established of reading the Torah, the gospels as Justin Martyr (d. 166) wrote in his letter called an "Apology" which he wrote to defend Christianity from attacks. He wrote, "On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together in one place, and the memoirs of the Apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president [presiding minister] verbally instructs and exhorts to the imitation of these good things." Christians continued to add on celebrations of their faith and accompanying readings so that by the fourth century, they had established Advent and Pentecost festivals as well as commemoration of saints and martyrs complete with designated readings. These readings for worship were for one year, but each following its own selections of readings. Three hundred years later, Charlemagne, the King of France. asked his advisor, Alcum (735-804) to standard the readings in his empire. The church readings continued to be for one whole year and more church celebrations were added, the last one being in the twelfth century when Pope Innocent III (1160-1216) added Trinity Sunday. This is the Sunday that marks the end of the celebrations of the church, after which the church enters in what is known as "ordinary time." The lectionary was for a year-cycle.

Outreach and Evangelism

The committee would like to remind everyone that we will be having our Chicken BBQ on October 1. Anyone interested in helping please contact Mark or Connie Shepard. We will be having a short organizational meeting after church on September 11.

We have given information to Morrisville State University about our church worship service for incoming students.

Please feel God giving you guidance to join our committee. We need new ideas to help the church grow. We meet the second Monday at 7:00 in the Sunday School room.

How is everyone doing with their Bingo numbers?

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
August 7	40	\$ 3635.00	\$ 495.00
August 14	50	\$ 1165.00	\$ 75.00
August 21	45	\$ 3132.00	\$ 0
August 28	38	\$ 1080.00	\$ 225.00

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. If you did not get a card yet, please see Ellen Davis or Connie Shepard. It is never too late to join in the game.

Look for "typos" in this newsletter also. There will be two of them. Let your friends know so they can come and join in the fun. When your number forms a "cross" just call the office to have your card verified. Let the competition and fun begin!

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

THE TABLE IS SET

**"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?" --
Psalm 78:19**

The Peace and Global Witness offering exists to ignite a movement of Presbyterians engaged in the Christian witness peacemaking and reconciliation. For generations, and to the ends of the earth, Presbyterians have borne witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Our witness has been profound in our communities and in places we ourselves have never been, around the corner and around the world.

Gifts to the Offering support ministries that deepen relationships between Presbyterians and inspiring peacemaking leaders as well as opportunities to learn more about some of the most difficult areas of conflict around the world. These ministries offer resources Presbyterians can use to create peace in their midst, as well as respond to cultures of violence all over the world. By sharing the money raised, the Offering allows the local congregation (25%), mid councils (25%), and ministries at the national level (50%) to deepen their commitment to the transforming work of the Spirit.

This year's theme is inspired by the cry from a people feeling abandoned to a cruel existence: The psalmist quotes the people as they ask; "Can God

spread a table in the wilderness?" In response, the author reminds the people that the God who delivered them from bondage in Egypt could not only spread a table in the wilderness, but had already done so over and over again.

For many of us, it is easy to see the violence around us and hear the violence across the globe and feel as though it is a wilderness we are abandoned to. In the stories shared here, we hope you see just a few of the ways that God spreads a table of peace where the world offers violence and division. They serve as reminders of times when people have been brought together at "tables" of all types. From tables where hard conversations have taken place, to tables where people sat in protest against injustice, to tables where seemingly intractable hate was transformed into compassion and community. All these tables are God's. Even in our doubts, our fears, or suffering, God can spread a table of peace for all to share. We see it in these stories, and it is revealed anew at the communion table.

On World Communion Sunday, people are joined from all over God's earth, looking at our world and our lives and asking, "Can God spread a table in this wilderness? Even in my wilderness?" To which God responds and says, "Come to the table of peace.