

NEWSLETTER

April

2007

April Birthdays

- 1- Ann Batchelor
Kenneth Jr Miller
- 2- Amanda Miller
- 4- William Jr. Braun
- 5- Maxine Hunter
Harriet Stevens
- 6- Sarah Boies
- 7- Nick Hunter
Thirza Suits
- 12- Karen Holbert
- 15- Cindy Marshall
- 19- Paul Mockovak
- 20- George Fearon
Dakota Merkle
- 21- Shannon Hill
- 22- Laurreta Blixt
- 24- Samantha Boies
- 25- Jacalyn Groves
Cheryl Stevenson
- 26- Lindsay Mulcahy
- 28- Russell Duncan
- 30- Janie Duncan

In Our Prayers

Grace Trush
Christine Braun
Joyce Goetz
David Crane
Geri Choate
Dot Mulcahey
Stanley Warner
Harold Thurston
Elsie Loveless
Jean Puddington
Dann Chandler
Lou Olney
Richard Lawler
Kelly Meigs
LaVia Wedge
Andy Sikes



Our Mission

“To glorify God in worship and serve Jesus Christ by understanding and effectively responding to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of Morrisville and the surrounding community.”

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated during worship on the first Sunday of every month. If you are sick or shut-in and unable to attend worship to receive the Sacrament, you are invited to call the church office to request that Rev. Duncan and an elder bring the Sacrament to your home.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!
morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Web site:
morrisvillechurch.or

Anniversaries

4/28 – Steven & Grace Trush

DRIVE THRU CHICKEN BAR B Q

April 28, 2007 4-7pm

Take Outs Only
Dinners \$7.00
Halves \$4.50
Dinners include chicken, baked beans, salt potatoes, cole slaw, roll, brownie

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**FAITH CIRCLE**

April 17th @ 12 noon  
At Marcia Vair's

**HOPE CIRCLE**

April 19th @ 7:30p  
At Sally Covington's  
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Newsletter deadline will **Wed 4/18/07**

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3824 Swamp Road, P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, New York 13408 (315) 684-3314

Rev. Russell S. Duncan

FROM THE PASTOR

“What Does Jesus Want?” was the title of an article I recently read in the magazine *Discipleship Journal*. That is a question we ought to always be struggling with as Christians. The root of that question is the struggle that we face each and every day that we live the Christian life, a struggle that affects each of us as individuals, and a struggle we constantly wrestle with as the church: How do I (we) know what the will of God is (for my life or for the life of our church)?

It is appropriate for us to consider this at this time of the year since struggling with the will of God plays such an important part in the drama of Easter. As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his arrest and crucifixion, he agonizes over God’s will and says in his prayer, “Father, *if it is possible*, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

A group of us recently reflected upon this prayer of Jesus as part of our Lenten Bible Study. Two points surfaced as a result of our reflection. The first point is that it is often difficult for us to pray in this fashion and really mean it. It seems that most often when we offer these words in prayer we do so in resignation. They are a feeble admission that we have no control over what happens, so the only option

available is to say “God’s will be done,” more often with the attitude of blaming God than with any attitude of acceptance. It is rare that we ever truly embrace God’s will with joy.

The second point is that we find it so very difficult to *truly know* whether what we want to do or to have happen is God’s will or if it is ours. Do we claim God’s will to justify our own actions? How did Jesus know that dying on the cross for sin and rising from the dead to new life was God’s will for his life? How do we know what God’s will is for us? What is it that Jesus wants us to be and to do?

While there is no easy answer to either of these questions, there is a path by which we must travel that will help us discern the answers. The gateway to that path is relationship. Throughout his life and ministry on earth, we see Jesus nurturing his relationship with God. We see that nurturing take place in three different ways: through prayer, through his knowledge and study of the Scriptures, and through his relationship with others. While Jesus, as the eternal Son of God, may have known from the very beginning that death for sin and resurrection to new life was the purpose of his life on earth, I feel certain that Jesus, as a fully human person, needed guidance and discernment as much as we do. If the human side of him did

not come into play, why would the Gospel writers let us see him struggle with the temptations of Satan in the wilderness and let us listen to him agonize in prayer during his final hours?

It was through relationship that Jesus came to understand and to accept God’s will for his life. His life of prayer, documented so well throughout the Gospels, and his knowledge of the Scriptures, which must have come through intense study and reflection, helped to deepen his relationship with God. Those were the means he used to keep himself in close fellowship with God during his absence from heaven. Without that fellowship with God, Jesus certainly would have not been able to walk the path he walked. We have no way of knowing what another person desires unless we take the time to get to know that person well. In order for Jesus to know God’s will, he first had to know God intimately.

I also think that the people in Jesus’ life must have had a significant impact on shaping him and helping him to understand and follow God’s will for his life. Mary and Joseph must have shared with him repeatedly the miraculous circumstances of his birth and taught him in his early years that God had a special plan for him. The people with whom Jesus interacted, those whose lives touched his and whose lives he

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touched, must have helped to shape his understanding as well. There is no doubt that God brings people into our lives for a purpose, and an important part of that purpose is to help us discern God's will and to give us opportunities to live according to God's will.

Understanding God's will for our life and for the life of the church is best discerned and understood in the context of community. This faith we profess is not merely a personal faith; it is very definitely a faith that is shaped by community. The author of the article I mentioned above says, "I must admit that I cannot follow Jesus Christ alone any more than I can get married alone. To follow Jesus, I need the fellowship of other believers. So do you, and so has every saint in the history of the church." He continues, "I owe my understanding of Jesus Christ to the scribes who preserved the stories, the saints who lived the stories, and the Sunday School teachers who

repeated the stories even when I was more concerned with impressing the female class members with my belching abilities."

While these insights may not provide an easy answer to the question we all ask about how we come to understand and do the will of God, the relationships that we build with God through prayer and the study of Scripture, and the relationships we have with others all help to shed some light on what God might want us to be doing so that we might catch a glimpse (albeit a small one) of what God's will is for our life. Prayer and Scripture study give us the opportunity to hear God's voice directly, yet those are not the only ways that God speaks to us. Listen carefully to what others are saying to you as well. It just may be that the voice of God is speaking through them. That's part of how I came to be where I am today. If others had not recognized in me gifts for ministry, I may not have

discovered those gifts for myself.

The relationships that Jesus developed with God and with others not only helped him to discern God's will for his life, they also helped him to be faithful to God's will. For Jesus to reject God's will and choose a different route would have violated God's love, not only for Jesus but for the world. It is the love that Jesus experienced, both from God and from the people around him, that enabled him to "carry on" and fulfill his purpose in life.

May the love you experience through your relationship with God and in your relationships with others help you discern God's will for your life. And may that love give you the strength, courage, and determination to follow through and do whatever it is that God is calling you to do.

Grace & Peace
Rev. Duncan

COMMITTEE NEWS

Finance -Due to the Presbytery reconstruction of the mission giving budget the Per Capita apportionment, what each church is asked to pay per member for the running of the Presbytery office and the giving to Synod and General Assembly for mission, is \$39.00 per member for 2007. We have asked members to pay their own assessment to help us offset this expense in our budget. We realize this is double from last year, but hope many can still pay this amount. Also,

their next meeting will be held on April 10th at 4p at Marcia Vair's house – please note the correction from the calendar.

Finance and Session – As most of you are aware, we did not have enough pledges to cover the proposed anticipated expense for 2007. A way you can help us fill this gap is by giving an extra \$1.00 per week. In real life this is a cup of coffee from On the Run, a slice of pizza from the Pizzeria, 2 cigarettes, a large soda – its not much, but if everyone makes this effort it will help out.

CHECK THIS OUT OUR PASTOR'S SERMONS ARE ONLINE!! morrisvillechurch.org

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon News – The deacons will be sending "Thinking of You" care packages in April to college students and young military personnel from our church families. We need your help with this project. We need up-to-date addresses for our college students and military personnel. Please contact Karen Jacobs (684-9119) or the church office (684-3314) any morning by April 9, 2007 with this information. We do not want to leave anyone out. If you wish to donate small sized snacks (non-perishable) to include in these packages, place them in the box set up in the fellowship hall by or before April 9th. Cash donations may be placed in the offering plate, marked clearly for Care Packages. Checks can be made out to the Morrisville Community Church and with Care Packages written on the notation line. Thank you everyone for your help with this ministry.

Property Committee – Saturday May 12th will be the Spring cleanup starting at 9a. It has been asked that tape and thumbtacks not be used on the walls – instead please use "sticky-tack" to avoid damaging the walls. Many other items of business were discussed and can be found on their minutes that are posted in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board.

Outreach & Evangelism – Information is being gathered about the Town of Eaton Bicentennial, the Christmas in July Campout and the Christmas auction. The garage sale and bake sale went rather well. Thanks to all the helped out with this fundraising event.
Their next meeting will be April 3rd.

Faith Circle will meet on Tues. April 17th at noon at Marcia Vair's house. Dot Mulcahey will be doing the lesson. We welcome anyone to join us for our study of Genesis.

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday April 19th at Sally Covington's Community Room at 7:30p. We will be reviewing Chapter 7 in our book. Nancy Douglas will be leading the lesson and Ethel Crane will be providing dessert. All are welcome to join. Light refreshments are served.

Drive Thru Chicken BBQ – Saturday April 28th from 4p -7p or until sold out. Chicken halves are \$4.50. Dinners are \$7.00 and include chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, a dinner roll with butter and a brownie. Don't miss this wonderful event!

A Thank You – The family of Mary Earl Pratt wishes to thank the people of the Morrisville Community Church for the gifts and cards on the occasion of her 90th birthday party. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

The Clothes Basket Bunch – including Sally Covington, Pat Dougherty, Jackie Groves, Karen Jacobs and Claudia Loomis – would like to thank all those who have helped with the Clothes Basket this year. Come and join us any Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:30a. We work hard and have lots of fun. Contact Claudia Loomis if you are able to help Wednesday or Saturday from 10a-12p or 12p-2p.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 1 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

April 5 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

April 6 7:30 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 8 8:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service led by the youth

10:00 AM Easter Morning Worship

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LAMPLIGHTERS CONCERT – *The Lamplighters*, the touring choir of Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, PA, will be returning to central New York in May. We were pleased to host them for a concert in 2004 during their last tour of our area. We have scheduled a repeat performance for this wonderful choir for **Tuesday, May 8**. Please put this date on the calendar and plan now to be present for this evening of music. The time for the performance has not yet been set, but it will be announced as soon as all the details are finalized.

This concert will be open to the public, so you are encouraged to invite your family members, friends, and neighbors. Rev. Duncan sang with this choir during his years as a student there.

As we did three years ago, we will need to provide overnight housing for the members of this group. If you have an extra room or rooms and would be willing to host some members of the choir for one night, please contact either Christine or Russ in the church office. We may also be planning a potluck supper prior to the performance. More details on the supper and the concert will be forthcoming as soon as they are available.

Bazaar Buzz

It's time to start planning for our Bazaar! The date has been set for November 3, 2007. Mark your calendars. For those who are new to the church, the Bazaar is held the first Saturday in November, every other year. It is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women and the proceeds are used to support home, local and world missions. All items for the bazaar are donated by members and friends of the church. Bazaar co-chairpersons this year are Naydene Ames and Karen Jacobs.

Our first planning meeting was held on February 20th. Thank you to Christine Covington, Jackie Groves, Maxine Hunter, Sandy Merkle and Natalie Turner for attending the meeting and sharing your ideas. We discussed some ideas for this year's bazaar and some changes. It was unanimously decided to shorten the time of the bazaar by one hour. The bazaar will start at 9:00 a.m. and close at 2:00 p.m. (instead of 3:00 p.m.) since the last hour has had very few people stopping in. The booths will remain the same as in previous years:

Grandma's Attic: treasures from the past and present

St. Nicholas' Place: Christmas decorations and items

The Country Peddler: a variety of all season items and decorations

The Stitchery: knitted, crocheted, and sewn items

The Twisted Vine: plants, decorative items from natural materials

The Bake Shop: a variety of homemade goodies

Mrs. Claus' Cafe: serving lunch during the bazaar

Please be thinking about what you can do to contribute to the Bazaar. Suggested items to include in the Bazaar are: Thanksgiving items, things for smaller children, hats, household plants, pet items, wooden toys, doll clothes, children's toys, and smaller items for \$.50 or \$1.00.

More information and suggestions will continue in each monthly issue of the church newsletter....look for the "Bazaar Buzz" column for up-to-date information as it becomes available.

A special thank-you is extended to Sylvia McKinnon for all of her help in chairing the Bazaars the past few years. Sylvia, we appreciate all you've done!

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Vanderkamp News

1. Hold the date -- Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM -- for Vanderkamp Center's Spring Clean-up. Round up the family, neighbors, or members of your church to help Vanderkamp get ready for the summer season. Yard work, painting, construction, and plenty of other projects. Lunch provided! Please call 675-3651 for more information or to let us know you'll be joining us.

2. Hold the date -- Saturday, June 2 from 2:00 - 7:00 PM -- for Vanderkamp Center's Annual Benefit Barbecue to support the Campership Fund. It will be a great afternoon for the whole family, featuring food, music, swimming & boating, wagon rides, games, and lots more. Please call Vanderkamp Center at 675-3651 for complete details or to make your reservation.

3. You're invited! Vanderkamp's Annual Open House will be held Sunday, June 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Get a taste of summer camp - meet the staff, take a tour, and enjoy camp activities like crafts, hikes, canoeing, games and more! Call or write for more information: 315-675-3651 or vkcenter@localnet.com.

4. Help Wanted! Vanderkamp is now recruiting energetic, enthusiastic, creative college-aged men and women to work with children in a resident camp setting. If you are looking for a summer job that offers an opportunity to be in Christian service, we would love to hear from you. For more information, please call 315-675-3651 or write to vkcenter@localnet.com. Thanks!

Clothes Basket

Open Wednesday & Saturday 10a – 2p
All are welcome to come
browse and shop
Volunteers are always needed

Clothes Basket Changeover – \$1 bag –
weeks of 4/1 and 4/8

Everything free the week of 4/15

Closed week of 4/22 and 4/29

Reopen Saturday May 5th with Spring and
Summer clothing

Member Highlight

These are our February/March highlights for 2007. Who are the two people for these two months? Well, one may have a clue already. For the rest of us who are reading this, you may be able to figure out who they are.

The first clue is that he has been described as "a good guy" and "friendly." The second clue is she has been described as a "care giver." She has "sunshine," and he "fills in wherever he can." Too much information? If not, then here is another clue....They were both coaches in a Super Bowl 10 years ago. Any guesses? Is that your final answer?

If you guessed Dave and Jean Puddington, then you'll get, as Dave says sometimes, a "full report." Here are more tidbits of information you may or may not know...

Jean was born on June 12. Dave was born on July 9. (We won't say how old they are, or what age they're pushing.)

Dave and Jean were college sweethearts. They were married on August 30, 1952 after Dave "got his wings." They have been married for 54 years. Dave was a pilot in the Navy and flew VP-47s. He served on two tours, as he was stationed in Japan.

Dave served as an Elder, the Nominating Committee, the Chairman of the "Lord's Cup," and with the Rebuilding Fund. Our church finally brought it home!

Jean is serving on the Outreach and Evangelism Committee, and on the Board of Deacons. She does the "Sunshine" for the Deacons.

Dave is currently on the Worship Committee. He has filled in, as our members do, as a reader, greeter, and as an usher. He also has helped at the Drive Thru Chicken Barbecues, and the O&E's Harvest Dinners.

Jean had helped Reverend Duncan with the Officer's Retreat when he first came here. She led the training for deacons

They have three children -- Jim, Steve, and Linda. They also have ten grandchildren. James Jr., Matthew, Ryan, Rebekah, Paul, Meghan, Emma, Heather, Shannon, and Lance. They have a dog named Lady.

As part of the Presbytery Partnership with the Pyongyang Presbytery, Dave and Jean hosted a Korean child in their home. Speaking of hosting, they also hosted one of the Dinners for 8.

They were the Coach and the Assistant Coach of the first "Super Bowl Sunday Service in 1997. As a

"sideline" note....one of the children of the church was born that day.

Along with his wife, children, grandchildren, and God (Maybe not in this order), one of Dave's loves is football. He was a football coach for 18 years. He coached at Washington University in St. Louis, and Kent State in Ohio. Sources say he also coached at Hamilton Central School. He was inducted in the Athletic Hall of Fame at Washington University in 2001, and at Ohio Wesleyan University in 2004.

Some of Jean's hobbies are reading, flowers, and she has a love for birds.

They took a trip to Korea. Traveling seems to be one hobby they share.

Jean keeps busy doing many things in the church and the community. Besides sending out various cards for Deacons, you may receive a card from her and her family on different occasions. She likes to volunteer for stuff (sources say.) One place she likes to volunteer at the Morrisville Public Library.

Despite the fact that Dave has retired three times (sources say), he is active in our church and community. He is our Town of Eaton Supervisor, a member of the American Legion #163, played Reverend Harold Beemer in the MCC Players' production, "Turning to the Light," and one of the leaders in their worship service. He organized the Christian Brothers, is a member of the Ruritans, and helped bring Gravity Fest to Morrisville.

Whether this a "full report" about Dave and Jean, no one really knows. What can be said is their love for their family, church, and the community can fill a ream of paper. This is true blessing to have people like Dave and Jean as members of our church.

Member Highlight

Who is the highlight for this month? Well, let's give you some clues. From these clues, you might be able to figure it out. The first clue is...our highlight's family has been in this area a long time. In "deed" they have. The second clue is...Our highlight likes to go "across" and "down." when they can. Need one more clue? It's okay. There's no need for *fear on* this....you should know by now who this month's highlight is, by George!!

However, if you don't know who it is, it is George Fearon. Do you know a lot about George? Here are a few things that you may or may not know...

- George was born on April 20.
- He is a MECS graduate. We won't say when, but Elvis entered the army that year.
- George's father was the Town of Eaton Supervisor. His mother taught nursing at Morrisville State College.
- One of George's favorite shows on the radio was "Bob and Ray."
- George went to St. Lawrence University for his Bachelor's Degree. You won't see him "throwing the book" at anyone. He went to the University of Michigan. He went there to learn law. After a year, he decided that it wasn't for him.
- He served in Vietnam. His specialty was writing.
- George received his Master's Degree in Journalism at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University.
- He worked at two radio stations....WMCR in Oneida, and one in Utica.
- George was employed for Social Security as a field representative in Batavia. He retired in 1995.
- Some of George's past and present hobbies include doing crossword puzzles, reading, traveling, hiking, riding a bicycle
- He also likes history. He is involved with the Madison Hall Association.
- George has an older sister, Ann. As a side note, Ann's oldest granddaughter, Meredith Stevens, was accepted at SUNY Geneseo.
- You may remember George when he was the referee in the second Super Bowl Service at the church.
- Traveling on the "back roads," you may discover one road that bears George's family name. George's family owns lots of land. His great uncle had built a house on Rocks Road. Through renovations, it is still there.
- George's family owns a lot of land. The "deed" for this land was from the Duke of York in the 1890's
- George's great grandfather donated the land the Pratt's Hallow Methodist church is on in 1845. The first trustees of the church were Fearons and 2 of the stained glass windows are in memory of Fearons
- George's great grandfather built the house on Rocks Road near Fearon Road for his wife, George's great grandmother. His great uncle lived with them.
- George doesn't know when the road became Fearon Road but there were 300 acres of land in the area.
- According to sources, George is known for his dry sense of humor. He also "taught his nephews some 'mischief'he spoiled them."
- He is currently serving on the Board of Deacons. He also serves as an usher. With his deep, distinct voice, he also reads scriptures for the worship services.

These are just a few things about George. He is always willing to help and serve. We are blessed to have a person like him in our church.