

# CHURCH MATTERS

AUG / SEPT

2011



## MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Rev. Saunda Thomas

saunda.thomas@frontiernet.net

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Service 10:30AM

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am– 12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Clothes Basket 684-9970

Fax 684-7817

## August Birthdays

1 Gabrielle Bartlett	14 Aaron Olney
3 Duane Button	16 Debra Episcopo
6 Danielle Parker	17 Eugene Larcher
7 Henry Douglas	19 William Schurer
8 Denis Mulcahy	24 David Holbert
10 Sue Bristow	28 Calla Miller
11 Robert Virgil	30 Lois Thurston
11 Elijah Zbock	31 Patricia Dougherty
12 Jamie Kent	31 James Parker
13 Scott Holbert	

## August Anniversaries

2 David & Shelia Bartlett
6 Jessica & David Burch
6 Greg & Erin Dutcher
8 Scott & Karen Holbert
17 Sam & Karen Tucci
25 Donald & Donna Shepard
25 Mark & Connie Shepard
30 David & Jean Puddington

## September Birthdays

1 John Galbreath	21 Richard Stevenson
1 Hazel Holborn	22 Darlene Virgil
2 Scott Holbert, Jr.	23 Vanessa Davis
4 Connor Bartlett	23 Brandon Episcopo
4 Nancy McPherson	24 Jeffrey Cring
11 Jessica Broedel	26 James McPherson
12 Erin Dutcher	28 Andrew Kent
14 Ronald Bush	28 Mark Tucci
15 Dru Bartlett	
15 Nancy Douglas	

## August Calendar of Events

- 14 Holy Communion during Worship
- 19 Wedding Rehearsal – TBA
- 20 Wedding in Sanctuary – 5 pm
- 21 Coffee Hour Discussion – “Crazy Love”
- 24 PW Ministry Mtg. Noon – Church Library (bring lunch)
- 25 Set up for Chinese Dinner/Auction - 7 pm
- 26 O & E's Chinese Dinner Auction - 5-8 pm
- 27 Food Sense – 9:30-10:30 am
- 28 “Big Thank You Sunday” worship service

## September Calendar of Events

- 5 C.E. Com. – 6pm
- 5 Deacons Mtg. – 6:30 pm
- 6 O & E. Com. – 6:30 pm
- 11 Sunday School starts
- 11 Fenner Voices will lead Worship Service
- 12 Finance Com. – 4 pm
- 12 Worship Com. – 6 pm
- 12 Property Com. – 7 pm
- 16-17 PW Vanderkamp Weekend
- 19 Session Mtg. – 7 pm
- 20 Faith Circle meets – Noon – K. Tucci's
- 22 Book Read 12:30-2 pm – “365 Thank You's”
- 23 Red Cross Blood Drive – 11:30-7:00
- 24 Food Sense - 9:30-10:30 am
- 28 WIC 8am – 3 pm

Thursdays: Tae Kwon Do – 6-8 pm

**November 5th - Country Crossroads Bazaar**

## WELCOME HOME!

It's very difficult in the middle of July to begin to think again about the onset of fall! But here I am writing a newsletter article intended precisely for that reason. Yes, of course, I will be here in August but Steve and I will be away on our usual September jaunt to the beach. (One cannot be married to a North Carolinian and not go to the beach at least once a year.) We will return in October just in time for me to be writing a November article.

So, I am thinking about you and how you might be feeling as you begin to return from all the fun, and activities that are part and parcel of summer. Things do slow down a bit and get more relaxed in the summer with the effect that fall can seem like beginning to exercise again after a three month break! I hate that when it happens! I feel as though I am trying to push a heavy rock uphill by myself and it takes awhile before my stamina returns. Come to think of it, isn't that the way we feel just BEFORE a vacation?

What I would like to remind all of us of is that we can ease gently but surely back into a more active fall and do it with grace and good humor. All it takes is patience and acceptance; patience with ourselves and each other as well as acceptance of everyone's sense of their energy levels.

We will all begin slowly and that is just fine. Take your time AND be diligent! Part of what I know about tightening body muscle is that you have to begin where you are and keep at it to see any improvement. Be assured that your Deacons, your Session and I have been planning for your growth and well being as well as our outreach into the wider community in the name of Jesus Christ. We are all in this thing called "faith" together!

We have lots to look forward to in this season! Stay tuned and look for your chance to jump in!

Welcome Home to each of you!

*Pastor Saunda*

**Mark your calendars!** The next special event for our congregation will be the "**BIG THANK YOU SUNDAY**"! This event will take place during our regular church service on Aug. 28. During this service we (meaning YOU) will have the opportunity to express your thanks to a person, group, friend, family member, etc. We are once again asking for "audience" participation, so put your thinking caps on! Perhaps

you would like to thank an individual for his/her influence in your life or someone who has dedicated time to the church, or a group that has contributed to the life of our church...the possibilities are limitless. If you would like to participate, please see a member of the Worship Committee by Aug. 21. The committee includes Irene Akers, Karen Jacobs, Maxine Hunter, Saunda Thomas and Ellen Davis. If you don't find us – we will find you.

**Saturday Hours for the Clothes Basket  
through Labor Day: 10 am - Noon.  
Wed. hours 10am-2pm.**

### **BAZAAR BUZZ**

**Country Crossroads 2011** will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Bazaar will feature the following booths:

*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' Café:* serving lunch during the bazaar

Time to get projects started and finished. Need ideas or supplies? We have crafting materials and project patterns and directions in the "bazaar room" downstairs. Help yourself to any supplies that you can use. The door is always open to that room. Not sure if we have what craft supplies you need? Ask Sylvia,...she has been organizing all the supplies in that room and can tell you if we have what you are looking for.

**SOME GREAT WORDS OF WISDOM** from Lee Colan, author of "Passionate Performance" (submitted by Calla Miller)

A pencil maker told the pencil five important lessons just before putting it into the box:

- 1) Everything you do will leave a mark.
- 2) You can always correct the mistakes you make.
- 3) What is important is what is inside of you.
- 4) In life, you will undergo painful sharpening which will only make you better.
- 5) To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. You are all special people with unique talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish.

Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed.

Like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside of you and act accordingly!

**A QUESTIONNAIRE from the PW Ministry Team to members and friends of our church family**

Last November, the PW Ministry Team was asked if they wished to continue with a Hospitality Committee, since many of the committee members have had to step down. The response was YES, we wanted to continue to support our church family and community. Since November, PW has prepared food for three funeral/ memorial luncheons and a luncheon for the Rebekah's. In order for us to carry out future requests in a timely, efficient manner, we have learned that we need a Telephone Calling List. This would be a listing of people to contact who would be willing to help, if available at the time, at funeral/memorial luncheons or any other request for meals that we may receive. Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire.

**Hospitality Committee Questionnaire**

*Please check the box(s) below that you are willing to help the PW Hospitality Committee with, if you are available at the time the request is received:*

- Set up tables and chairs
- Clean up - clear tables and help take down tables and chairs; run dishwasher if needed
- Prepare tables (tablecloths, placemats, silverware, etc.)
- Be willing to donate a dessert (i.e. bake a cake, brownies/cookies)
- Be willing to help prepare food at the church kitchen
- Usually available week days  Usually available on Saturday or Sunday
- Be a driver if needed to pick up food being prepared at home by church members/friends
- Be willing to serve on the PW Hospitality Planning Committee (to prepare list of callers; procedures and menu options).

Your Name:

---

Phone Number(s) we can reach you at:

---

---

For those who travel, go to Florida in the winter, etc., please list dates you are not available:

---

---

---

*Please place your questionnaire in the envelope marked "Hospitality Questionnaire" that is stapled to the PW Bulletin Board in the fellowship hall or drop it off to Ann Berlew in the church office.  
Thank you very much!*

## Exciting Christian Education News for the Fall

Just as we never outgrow our need for milk, we never outgrow our need to think, talk about and grow in our faith by reading and studying our Bible. Statistics show that meeting to learn more about the basics of our Christianity increases our ability to recognize God acting at various levels of our awareness in life. When we talk about these "awarenesses", we encourage one another to look for more of God everywhere it is possible to meet God! Your Christian Education Committee has decided to coordinate our study of the Bible by purchasing a curriculum called "**Feasting on the Word**". Beginning this fall, our youth will focus their attention on the scriptures that will be used as the basis of the sermon during the worship hour. What we have found is that our youth get excited when they hear a reading from the Bible and recognize it in worship!

With that in mind, your committee also decided to invest in the Adult Curriculum that will have the very same focus! Adults will be able to read and discuss Biblical passages used for preaching that very Sunday morning. After the service, a special table will be set aside from the rest of the "coffee hour" tables for the purpose of discussing the sermon in light of the study prior to worship. Everyone is invited to this table, no exception! We want to be able to talk about what we believe!

Our hope is that Adults will respond by meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. beginning October 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 to begin our study. By the way, refreshments will be provided. Please talk with young families around you; invite them and their children to come and take part! **Let's grow our Faith!**

**Pastor On Call:** Pastor Donna Chapman will be the "Pastor on Call" while Rev. Thomas is away from September 1 through October 3. Her cell phone is (315) 447-9196 and her home phone is (315) 687-3853. If anyone has need of her and can not reach her on her cell phone or home phone, please call Ann (684-3314) or Clerk of Session, Nancy Douglas, at 684-3845.

The **Worship Committee** applauds all those who helped to make our outdoor service a wonderful experience. Thank you to Mark and Connie Shepard and family for providing and setting up the canopy. Ron Bush provided and set up the sound system and helped with countless other small details and deserves a big thank you. Thanks to Joe and Tom for providing the special music. Our Outreach & Evangelism Committee did a great job with hospitality. Thanks goes to everyone who shared memories and personal experiences. And last, but not least, a big thanks to everyone who attended and helped by providing food for a great buffet.

Thanks has been extended from CAP for items contributed by this church for Food Pantry.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

We are in the process of having all of the batteries in the security lights replaced. They are the original batteries from 1997. We became aware that they were not functional when we had the power outage. This will be an unexpected necessary expense. The cost of the batteries is \$992.00 and with the installation it will be between \$1500.00 and \$2000.00. Doug Mennig will be doing the installations.

Our committee has been taking care of the building while Ron and Charlene are on vacation (July 22-31).

The dates for doing the sealing of the drive and parking lots have not been determined. Brothertowne will be the contractor.

Steve Groves has sealed the bell supports with linseed oil.

### **THANK YOU**

*I would like to thank Reverend Saunda Thomas and the congregation for the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during my long stay at Crouse Community Center. Your thoughtfulness was deeply appreciated. God Bless you all.*  
*Nan Schurer*

**2011-2012 BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in Church Library 12:30-2:00 p.m.)

Sept. 22 – “365 Thank-Yous” by John Kralik (E. Mabon discussion leader)

Oct. 27 – “Promise Me” by Nancy Brinker (E. Crane discussion leader)

Nov. 17\* – “Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards (S. Thomas discussion leader)

Dec. 15\* – “The “Christmas Sweater” by Glenn Beck (K. Jacobs disc. Leader)

Jan. 26 – “Minding Frankie” by Maeve Binchy (M. Herrick discussion leader)

Feb. 23 – “Winter Garden” by Kristin Hannah (H. Stevens disc. leader)

March 22 – “Water for Elephants” by Sara Gruen (A. Howard discussion leader)

April 26 – “Sarah’s Key” by Tatiana deRosnay (K. Tucci discussion leader)

May 24 – “The Bucolic Plague” by Josh Kilmer-Purcell (D. Mulcahey discussion leader)

June 22 – “The Glass Castle” by Jeannette Walls (P. Nodell discussion leader).

Bring a Bag Lunch. Lunch is at 12:30. Discussion is 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

\* 3rd Thursday

**Presbyterian Women’s Ministry Team News**

Our local PW Retreat at Vanderkamp will be September 16-17; great timing as Christian Education Week is September 11-17. We hope to have a good turnout. Contact person is Marlene Miner.

At our June meeting, we approved scholarship money for Calla Miller and Wendy Simcoe to attend the PWSNE (Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the North East) Conference in Albany on July 22-24. Maxine Hunter, who is the Leadership Network Coordinator for PWSNE, will be leading a workshop.

We look forward to their presentation to the congregation (which is being planned for October 2<sup>nd</sup>).

A new program idea was brought to the table and approved. Next January we will offer a program called “Valentine Express.” It will be a fellowship gathering of the ladies and friends of our church and community to make valentines for the residents of Crouse Community Center. More information will be made available as we get closer to the date.

We also approved a two-year subscription to *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women. Anyone who does not personally receive this magazine, but would like to read it, may do so by adding their name to the magazine routing list. (Those individuals may give their names to Karen J. or Naydene.)

The Hospitality Group will be including a questionnaire in the August/September church newsletter. Anyone who can help this group out in any way is encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible.

A reminder to all that our Country Crossroads Bazaar is November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our next PW Ministry Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at noon in the church library. Ladies who have this day open are encouraged to join us and bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted by Naydene Ames, PW Secretary

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE** is pleased to offer bereavement support groups that are free and open to the community. Some groups offered are *Adult Parental Loss, Spousal Loss, Coping with the Holidays, Pet Loss Grief Support*. Information is available on their website, [www.hospicecareinc.org](http://www.hospicecareinc.org) under the "News" tab. You may also call 735-6487, ext. 240 for more information.

**The Widow's Bereavement Support Group** meets the first Saturday of every month at St. Joan's Church at 1:00 p.m. All women who have experienced the death of their spouse are invited to share in the comfort, encouragement and hope with other women who have had the same experience. The next meeting will be held Saturday, August 6th.

## **PEACEMAKING OFFERING**

**"A harvest of justice is sown in peace".**

*(James 3:18)*

We Christians long for a more just and peaceful world - where the worth of every person is valued, where greed no longer rules and hunger no longer results, where bullets and bombs no longer devastate. God's Word shows us the way: that harvest of justice and righteousness will be sown by peace-makers, planted and nurtured in words and deeds of peace. Each of us who follow Christ can plant these seeds. Each of us can prayerfully seek the "wisdom from above" and sow God's word in our homes, our congregations, our communities, our world. Then, let us all look forward to the bountiful harvest!

Our church will receive the Peacemaking Offering in October 9, We will retain 25% of the Offering to use for ministries of peacemaking within our church and community. 25% is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50% is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Some of the programs paid for by the synods and presbyteries have included money to Haiti after the earthquake; contact with families of prisoners sentenced to life in prison; information addressing gun violence. At the General Assembly level, the Peacemaking Program sponsors the Peacemaking Conference at Big Tent, provides resources for the Season of Prayer with the people of Sudan; provides resources and workshops to help address the study and practice of nonviolence; provides support for returning veterans and their families; provides a presence on Facebook, etc.

Bulletin inserts will be used on September 25th and October 2nd. Offering envelopes will be included in the bulletins on October 2nd and October 9th and will be dedicated on October 9 Communion Sunday.

Please consider making a donation to the Peacemaking Offering as one way you can heed God's call.

## **HOW DRY IS IT IN TEXAS?**

It's so dry in Texas that the Baptists are starting to baptize by sprinkling, the Methodists are using wet-wipes, the Presbyterians are giving out rain checks, and the Catholics, Lutherans and Episcopalians are praying for the wine to turn back into water.

Now, that's dry!

## **BEST POEM IN THE WORLD**

(submitted by Sandy Merkle)

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,

Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp....the thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice. Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought was rotting away in hell, was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take. How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.

And why is everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue."

"Hush, child," He said, "They're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you!"

**JUDGE NOT!!**

Remember....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a past...Every sinner has a future!

## **Bottle/Can Drive**

"As of July 31, I will be turning in an envelope for \$23.75. This will raise our total for the General Fund to \$116.00.

Thank you for your support. Let's start collecting for August."

Sincerely,  
*Tom Lemery*

**ALSO...SNACKS FOR OUR TROOPS** are still needed. These items may also be placed in the appropriate box in the Narthex or dropped off at Judy Parker's. Many thanks for the items that have already been contributed for the platoon from Ft. Drum in Afghanistan. They are much appreciated. If you have questions, see Claudia.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING**

Everyone is invited to the opening of Sunday School which is to be held on September 11th beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will once again have our balloon launch. Please come and join us for a fun time as we begin another year of Sunday School!

## **LETTER TO MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**

"On behalf of hospital patients in your community, thank you for your commitment to the American Red Cross blood program. As a dedicated blood drive sponsor, your leadership in the coming months will help prevent blood shortages. The need is constant. The gratification is instant.

Thank you for your Blood Drive on June 3, 2011.

Blood Donation Goal was 26.  
Donors Scheduled: 33  
Donations Collected: 25  
Patients Helped: 75

Thank you for helping to save lives!"

## **CAMPING NEWS.....**

There's still time to sign up for Family Camping Week (August 14th - 18th). Vanderkamp is offering an intergenerational experience that can be enjoyed by kids, parents, grandparents, neighbors, anyone! All meals are provided and they are opening up their full array of activities, and offering a few extra as well:

Swimming/Boating  
Nature Hikes  
Beaver Habitat Study  
Adult and Youth Life/Bible Discussions  
Campfires  
Archery  
Challenge Course Activities  
Worship

and more!

They have pricing options available for those who want to spend a day, all 4 nights, or anything in between. Want to pitch a tent? Rather spend a night in a beautiful lodge on a 45 acre lake? Rent a rustic cabin? The choice is yours.

Those interested can check out their website at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org) to see what they have to offer or call the office for reservations or more details at 315-675-3651.

Also, there are registration forms in the Church Office.

For one low rate, campers can receive riding lessons every day at North Riding Horse Stables, a neighbor of Vanderkamp. If interested, contact the Vanderkamp office for more information.