

NEWSLETTER

August

2006

August Birthdays

- 1- Gabrielle Bartlett
- 2- Stephanie Shepard
- 3- Duane Button
Emily Widger
- 6- Jenna Weinschreider
Joshua Weinschreider
- 7- Henry Douglas
- 8- Denis Mulcahy
- 10- Sue Bristow
- 12- Jamie Kent
- 13- Scott Holbert
Belinda Vair
- 14- Aaron Olney
- 16- Debra Episcopo
- 17- Eugene Larchar
- 19- William Schurer
- 21- Ann Lanterman
- 23- Deryck Hill
- 24- David C. Holbert
- 26- Carol Andrews
- 28- Calla Miller
- 30- Grant Lanterman
Lois Thurston
- 31- Patricia Dougherty
James Parker

August Anniversaries

- David & Shelia Bartlett 8/2
Erin & Greg Dutcher 8/6
Alisa & Kyle Graves 8/6
Ray & Jennifer Hatch 8/7
Richard & Wanda Gorton 8/8
Karen & Scott Holbert 8/8
Belinda & David Vair 8/12
Sam & Karen Tucci 8/17
Grant & Maria Lanterman 8/21
Ken & Stacey Blodgett 8/22
Connie & Mark Shepard 8/25
Donald & Donna Shepard 8/25
Jennifer & Mark Tucci 8/27
Jean & David Puddington 8/30

To my church family:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your encouragement and support through prayers, cards, flowers, and visits during my time of surgery and hospital stay. I was very nervous for this surgery, but your love and strength helped me gain the courage that I needed to make it through. Your prayers are and example of God working through us and within us.

Thank you,
Jennifer Hatch

In Our Prayers

Dale Jones & Family
Grace Trush
Kelly Meigs
Will Griffin
Tom Davis
Elizabeth Conde
Everett Murray
Tiffany Lopp
Gratia Burleigh
Geri Choate
Ellen Williams



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



Newsletter deadline will be every Thursday following the session meeting. **8/25/06**

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Rev. Russell S. Duncan

FROM THE PASTOR

“So great a cloud of witnesses.” That was the theme (taken from Hebrews 12:1) for the 217th General Assembly that met in Birmingham in June. The cloud of witnesses that this theme refers to included the commissioners who attended the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as those attending the General Assembly meetings for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. All three General Assemblies met concurrently at the same site.

What a wonderful privilege it was to have served as one of the commissioners from our presbytery this year. While the business of each of these assemblies was conducted separately, we gathered together as one body in worship on numerous occasions. What I have heard from others in the past I found to be true myself: worship is the highlight of the General Assembly meetings! What an experience it was to have 5,000 Presbyterians gathered in the Birmingham stadium to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday evening, June 18, to participate in the Ecumenical Worship Service, and to celebrate together the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Two of the other highlights for my time in Birmingham occurred outside of the daily schedule of meetings.

During free time late Friday afternoon, I wandered around the city on foot searching for a shop to repair a broken watchband. Upon finding a shop, I was engaged in a very lively conversation with the proprietor for more than half an hour. It was very enlightening to hear his opinion on some of the issues we would be dealing with at the Assembly meeting.

The other highlight came on Sunday. I attended morning worship with a friend of mine at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. This is a predominantly African-American congregation. Following the service, as I was engaged in conversation with some of the members, I came to find out that that church is the home church of our Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. Her grandfather was the founding pastor there. Following the service, my friend and I had lunch together, and then spent the rest of the afternoon touring the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. BCRI is a museum that chronicles the struggle for civil rights during the 50's and 60's, highlighting the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. It was a fascinating and humbling experience to walk the path of adversity that so many of our African-American sisters and brothers experienced.

As to the business that we conducted at the assembly, there are a couple of items that stand out in my mind. The first one was a surprise announcement at our first plenary session on Thursday evening. A Denver

businessman and life-long Presbyterian announced that he and his business partner were making a \$150,000,000 donation to the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be used for evangelism. The “Loaves and Fishes Fund” will be available for distribution to presbyteries and churches in November 2006. The purpose of this money is to provide grants to presbyteries to start new churches, especially racial/ethnic congregations, and to help existing congregations who are working to redirect their ministry efforts. In an era of declining dollars for church mission, this was wonderful news and an extremely generous gift!

There were two critical items of business that came before this meeting of the General Assembly. One was the report of the Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. This task force was created in 2000 to try to determine a way for the church to deal with the continuing conflict that has existed in our denomination over such issues as the supremacy of Christ, the authority of Scripture, and human sexuality. The report proposed some methods of discerning the leading of God's Spirit as we struggle over issues that divide. It also affirmed the church's current stand regarding issues of sexuality and ordination, but allowed presbyteries to make the final decision about whether a candidate is appropriate for ordination. After a time of very civil debate and a few amendments, the report was approved.

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The other critical item centered on a decision made at the 216th General Assembly (2004) regarding a plan for gradual, phased divestment from companies that provide equipment used to support the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. After much debate, the decision was made at this General Assembly meeting to use divestment as a “last ditch effort” to influence companies that support warfare and terror in Israel/Palestine only after peaceful negotiations have failed. Instead, the General Assembly will begin using a policy of “selective investing” in companies that promote peace in this region of the world.

If you are interested in finding out more of what happened at the 217th General Assembly, there is a wealth of information available on the Presbyterian Church (USA) website, www.pcusa.org. I encourage you to check it out.

Thank you for allowing me to have the time away from the church to serve the greater church in this capacity. It was certainly a privilege. I strongly encourage each of you to continue to support, not only our local congregation, but all of the work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in your prayers, and with your time, talents and gifts. Only as we work together as one body, the Body of Jesus Christ on earth, will Jesus’ mission in the world be accomplished.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Duncan

COMMITTEE NEWS

P.W. NEWS

Retreat for Women of the Congregation!

From Friday evening, September 15 to after supper on Saturday, September 16, all women are invited to attend a spiritual retreat at Vanderkamp. The cost for the overnight plus Sat. meals is \$50.00 per person. Please be aware that scholarships are available.

The theme is “Celtic Spirituality: A Rich Spiritual Experience”, will be led by Jane MacDonald, past moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast. During our time together we will explore: Seven characteristics of Celtic Spirituality, enjoy a hands on activity, pray as the Celts did/do, look at Celtic symbols and art, and listen to Celtic music. The sign up sheet is in “Fellowship Hall”. Reservations and payments may be given to Nancy Douglas.

The retreat is sponsored by Presbyterian Women of the Congregation. Hope to see there.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In October we will be conducting our fall Stewardship campaign. Your financial commitment is important for us to maintain our staff and facilities.

FROM THE CHOIR

September is fast approaching, the choir will be singing during morning worship. We will be rehearsing at 9:00 AM on

Sunday mornings. If you like to sing and can read music, please join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATCHING GRANTS FUND

The church now offers a Matching Grants Fund for those of you who participate in such things as the Walk for Life, the Alzheimer’s Walk, bowl-a-thons or read-a-thons, etc. This fund will provide matching funds to support you as you participate in these kinds of missions. You will need to raise a minimum of \$50.00 in order to apply for this grant, and grants may be approved for an amount up to \$250.00. Copies of the Matching Grants Fund Policy and applications are available in the church office. All grant applications must be approved by Session, and checks will be made payable to the charitable organization.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Blood donors are needed for the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Tuesday, August 1 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is currently a critical shortage of blood this summer, and every pint donated will help three critically ill patients. Our goal is to collect 35 units of blood during this drive. Whether

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you have donated blood in the past or you are a first time donor, please come and give the gift of life. Appointments can be made by calling the Red Cross office in Syracuse, but walk-ins are also welcome.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

A New Members Class for adults who wish to join the fellowship of our congregation will begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 7:00 PM in the church library. This is a five-week class with sessions every Wednesday evening, each session lasting between 1 to 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in participating in this class, please call the church office to register.

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

Elders, please note that there will be a special session meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 PM in the church library. This special meeting is for the purpose of working on an Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the Mission Study Team as approved by the congregation. Rev. Logan Potts, pastor of the Collamer United Church, will be working as a consultant from the presbytery to help us with the implementation process. This meeting will be limited to two hours, so please make every effort to be present. We need your input

and your cooperation. This meeting is in addition to our regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 21.

ADDRESS NEEDED FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to send new college addresses and any new phone numbers to office so that Brenda can update files and newsletter information.

This month's member highlight

could have been the highlight for June and July, but this couple easily fills August to the top. Here are some clues.....They were both teachers at a college. He taught for 30.5 years to be exact. Imagine how many mechanical drawings that was!! We can't say how many years she taught, but it was for many years in Physics.

They met in Missouri. She was originally from Arkansas. He was born and raised in Rome, New York. After 44 years, I'm sure they know who this month's highlight is. Do you?

If not read on....

His birthday is coming up if you receive the newsletter early. Her birthday is September 15. If you still don't know, it's Henry and Nancy Douglas. Here are some information about them.

- Before Henry taught at Morrisville State College, he worked at Revere Copper and Brass in Rome.
- Henry is a 4-time mayor of

Morrisville (1995-2003). He was on the Village Board of Trustees.

- Henry was the Chairman of the Building Committee. He had spent many hours with the construction of the church. He received an honorary membership award with PW for his work.
- Nancy has been a PW retreat leader at Vanderkamp. She also has been an accompanist for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and soloists in the church.
- Nancy has led services in the church when Reverend Duncan is away. Henry usually reads the scriptures.
- Nancy is a member of the "Lemon Sisters."
- Henry was in the Army Reserves for 26 years. He retired as a "full Colonel."
- Nancy wrote columns in the Mid-York Weekly for the Morrisville Public Library.
- Henry is a member of the Rotary Club and the American Legion.
- Henry is on Session. Nancy is the Clerk of Session.
- Henry likes playing golf. Nancy likes playing music in the Canastota Community Band. She also played in the pit orchestra for the Friars' production, "HMS Pinafore."
- They have 2 daughters, Sue and Carol, and two grandchildren, Abby and Matthew.
- They have endowed a scholarship fund in their name at Morrisville State College.

They have made contributions to the college, community, and our church. We are blessed to have this couple as members.