

# CHURCH MATTERS

December

2009



## 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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am– 12pm

Clothes Basket 684-9970

Office 684-3314

Fax 684-7817

Pastor's Office 684-9971

### November Birthdays

Kyle Graves 12/1     David Holbert 12/13  
Jeff Covington 12/2     Steven Broedel 12/14  
Nicole Shepard 12/3     Calixto Suarez 12/15  
Nicholas Weinschreider 12/7     Kim Weinschreider 12/15  
Bobby Berkey 12/9     Greg Dutcher 12/20  
Brian Berkey 12/9     Cory Olney 12/22  
Denis Jr. Mulcahy 12/10     Shawn Merkle 12/27  
Natalie Turner 12/12     Holly Page 12/28  
Chris Zöellick 12/12     Coleridge Hill 12/30

### Anniversaries

Jacalyn & Steve Groves 12/14  
Jeffrey & Karen Gay 12/20  
Jason & Laurie Zbock 12/20  
Calla & Nate Miller 12/21  
Audra & Paul Mockovak 12/21

### Calendar of Events

12/1 – Annual Congregation reports due  
12/2 – Lunch Bunch - 12:30pm  
          Stop DWI Program - 7 to 9pm  
12/3 – Rebeccas - 2 to 4pm  
12/6 – Communion and Soup Sunday  
12/7 – Christian Education – 6pm  
          Deacons – 7pm  
12/8 - Outreach & Evangelism – 5:30pm – Jackie Groves'  
12/9 – Lunch Bunch – 12:30pm  
12/13 – Children's Christmas Program during worship  
          Christmas Caroling – 4pm  
          Canastota Band – 7pm – in the Sanctuary  
12/14 – Finance – 4pm  
          Worship – 6:30pm  
          Property – 7pm  
12/15 – Faith Circle – 12pm – Marcia Vair's home  
12/17 – Rebeccas – 2 to 4 pm  
          Hope Circle – 7:30pm at Sylvia McKinnon's home  
12/19 – Food Sense – 8:30 – 10am  
12/23 – WIC – 8am to 3pm  
          Lunch Bunch – 12:30pm  
          Book Discussion – 1pm  
12/24 – Christmas Eve Service – 7pm  
12/25 – Christmas – Office Closed  
12/30 – Lunch Bunch – 12:30pm

## d In Our Prayerse

Ruth Matthias, Steve and Grace Trush, Carol Andrews, Alex Brown, Christine Braun, The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, Paul and Audra Mockovak, Andrew Sykes, Robert Loomis, Robert C. Morehouse, Carol Andrews, Hank Douglas, Shawn Ginney, Pat Spadifino

**Liturgists**

6-Sam Tucci  
 20- Peg Nodell  
 24- Nathan Miller  
 27- Tom Lemery

**Ushers for December**

6 - Barb Manly & Karen Jacobs  
 13 - Karen Jacobs & Priscilla Suits  
 20 – Brian Griffin & TBA  
 27 - TBA

**Coffee Hour for December**

6 – Calla Miller  
 13 – Bev Griffin  
 20 – Sylvia McKinnon (hunger)  
 27 – Lois Thurston and Shelia Bartlett

**Communion Servers – December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Henry Douglas, Bev Griffin, Barb Manley,  
 Claudia Loomis

**Soup Providers – December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Shelia Bartlett, Bev Griffin, TBA

**Christmas Project 2009** – the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Program will be held on December 12, 2009. As in the past we need your help in order to assist needy families in the area and the residents at Crouse Community Center. Please take this time to send a monetary contribution to Judy Parker, PO Box 266, Morrisville, NY 13408. Donations of new and appropriate items are also accepted. Call the Church Office for suggestions. Thank you for sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

**Deacon's Christmas Baskets** – we will be preparing more baskets this year than any other year. We will be accepting your food and monetary donations thru December 6<sup>th</sup>. Baskets are being prepared on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and will be distributed on the 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Offices, especially doctor's offices, have the most wonderful magazines. I enjoy going to see my chiropractor in Rome, N.Y. He is a gregarious and very caring soul. Just talking with him makes me feel better. That's the kind of man he is.

But those magazines in his office, they entertain me, fascinate me, and cause me to take reflective journeys into my past. I often look for magazines that provide pictures and details of life as I might remember it in the 1950's, if only I could remember that far back. "Reminisce" is one of those types of magazines. No, this is not a commercial. I found an article a week or

so ago that featured those ornamental lights that I remember as a child. You know the ones, those little tubes filled with colorful liquid that start to bubble as the liquid warms.

I used to sit by the Christmas tree for hours immersed in my own little world of lights. Mother always did say that I could entertain myself. So, when I happened upon some lights of this style in the "remastered" version of modernity, I found myself again longing for the days of my childhood and those hours spent happily in front of or underneath our Christmas tree.

It would be my guess that most of us find moments like these at Christmas time. Its fun to spend time savoring their pleasantries. Memories flooding into our awareness afford us a sentimentality that recreates valued treasures from our past. There is nothing wrong with our feelings or our memories. Enjoy them. I certainly do!

Thank God, Christmas is more than our memories or feelings about times gone by, good or bad!

We do not celebrate simply a birth accomplished long ago; a past event to memorialize and sentimentalize. We celebrate a "rebirth" of Christ in our awareness each year. This "rebirth" of Jesus is a faith builder. It brings with it an awareness that Jesus, in the present, awakens us. This present rebirth is one that deepens our awareness of God everywhere in everyone around us. It turns us onto life and into love. This rebirth gives us

our lives back again, anew! And that is quite a gift in a culture that makes us human doings rather than human beings.

This year, in so many ways, I am anticipating the birth of my savior again into my life, and into our world. Could any other gift satisfy what is so desperately needed?

My wish for each of you is that Jesus will come to you, awakening in you surprise, wonder, adventure, renewed creativity, joy and a capacity for life and loving that causes you to be amused with yourselves, yes, but even more so with God's wonderful gift.

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Saunda**

## **Property Committee**

We now have a working phone in our elevator (safety factor). We are researching for a speaker for the choir loft. Ron has turned up the temperature on the hot water flow pipe to give us more hot water in the kitchen. Our sign has been cleaned and waxed. We are pursuing the plan for the construction of an area for our two bells. Another eight foot table has been donated to the church in memory of Evaline Parker (mother of Ken and Pat Parker). We hope to be able to purchase five more tables with other contributions. We are organizing our new and old tables so that they will each have a specific place for storage. If you are using the tables for projects such as painting, gluing or using markers, please first cover them with plastic or paper to avoid possible staining. A revised church key list has been made. If you have any key(s) for use at the church and have not been contacted by Sylvia (684-3194), please contact her about you key(s). It is important that we keep our building organized. If you use something please put it back where you found it. If you don't know something, please ask.

**Attention All Church Members** – If you have not been contacted by Sylvia and have any key(s) to the church in your possession, please call Sylvia as soon as possible. We need to have our key list accurate. Thank you. Sylvia

**Please help us keep our church neat and clean.** Put things back where they came from. If you don't know or don't remember, please ask. We try to have a "special place" for each item. Thank you. The Property Committee

## **OFFICER TRAINING 2010**

Five churches will be joining together on Saturday, February 6, 2010 for our annual Officer's Training. Those of you who have been approached by the Nominating Committee and agreed to serve as either a Deacon or an Elder, if elected at the Annual Meeting, are required by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to attend this preparation for your work on these boards.

And what fun it will be! We will meet at the First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia at 9:30 a.m. February 6<sup>th</sup>. What a lovely location for a winter's day. Imagine! Five churches' officers, Deacons and Elders alike, meeting at one location to learn, trade ideas, share a meal and enjoy fellowship.

Pastors involved in this years training event are: The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Thomas (First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia), The Rev. Janet Newman (Columbian Presbyterian Church in LaFayette), The Rev. Dennis Doerr (First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango), The Rev. Earl Arnold (Whitelaw Presbyterian Church), and The Rev. Saunda E. Thomas (Morrisville Community Church).

An additional treat for all of us will be the presence of our new Transitional Presbyter, The Rev. Marianne Rhebergen, who will have begun her service with us in January 2010. She will be present with us to share wisdom and insights into the leadership process along with other ideas she may have that might help us.

Mark your calendars now and save the date of Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cazenovia Presbyterian Church!

P.S. If you are currently serving on either the Board of Deacons or the Session, you are invited as well. Please let Pastor Saunda know if you are coming so that we can plan for plenty of food and materials

**Hope Circle** – will meet Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sylvia McKinnon. We will be studying the lesson 4 in the study guide "Rich In the Things That Count Most". We welcome all women of the church.

## **News from Vanderkamp Center**

### **1. Book Winter Retreats Today**

Vanderkamp's retreat and conference season is well underway and we would love to serve your congregation, Bible Study, Women or Men's Group, youth, or other affiliated group. Pull out your calendars and choose a date for a getaway to your retreat center -- Vanderkamp!

Dates for early 2010 are still available with complete meal service, cozy fires, warm fellowship, and opportunities for significant spiritual experiences. Retreats strengthen congregations, support faith formation, and create real bonds between pew acquaintances. Come on out to Vanderkamp and let us help your church grow!

### **2. Vanderkamp Food Festival & Auction**

The third annual Vanderkamp Food Festival & Auction was a success! Thanks to Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church in Fayetteville for hosting the event and providing a wonderful venue for the evening. Look for a full report in the December issue of this newsletter.

Would you like to support the 2010 event? We are already looking for volunteers and donations of auction items for next fall. Contact Tink at 315.675.3651 or trhccrm@aol.com if you would like to make a donation.

### **3. Men's Retreat – December 4-6, 2009**

Join the conversation around how to have a civil conversation about controversial issues! Tom Henry of St. Mark's in Baldwinsville will lead this December weekend event which will enable men to address these challenging topics head on, with the power of Scripture at their fingertips. Lots of great food and plenty of time to enjoy outdoor pursuits as well! Register today by contacting Tom or Andy at vkcenter@localnet.com or 316.675.3651.

### **4. Vanderkamp Makes a Difference -- Summer Camp Reunion '09**

The Vanderkamp experience is making a difference in the lives of young people from the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, the Presbytery of Utica, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Upstate New York Synod, as well as children and teens from across the state and beyond.

Not sure you believe that statement? Here's what campers are saying about their Vanderkamp experiences –

“Vanderkamp is paradise!”

“I really enjoy the Bible discussions.”

“I learned how to stabilize my relationship with God.”

“I love it here at Vanderkamp. I would live here if I could.”

And here's what camper parents are saying –

“She came home from Vanderkamp and wanted to start a family Bible study. What do you say to that, but ‘Yes!’”

“What you have given my daughter is priceless. She has the confidence to speak about her faith, to take a stand for justice, to try to make a difference in the world. Vanderkamp has been a powerful force in nurturing her faith.”

“I think the only part she didn't enjoy was having to come home!”

“Our son loved archery, fishing, boating, swimming, the food, talking about God, praying, and all of the counselors. He is more interactive in Sunday School. He says camp was awesome!”

“I expected that my teen's faith would be reinforced and strengthened – and that happened. I really appreciate that Vanderkamp is about living in God's love every day and having good, clean fun!”

We will usher in the New Year with the Vanderkamp Reunion 2009. Former campers and friends (ages 6-18 years) can join the fun for either one or two nights – December 30 (4 PM) - January 1 (1 PM) or December 31 (4 PM) - January 1 (1 PM). Summer staff members, including one all the way from England, will be on hand to welcome campers back! If the snow cooperates, we will sled on Cherry Hill, build a family of snow people, and enjoy the winter weather. As always, we will worship together, sing, play wacky games, do crafts, catch up with camp friends, drink tons of hot chocolate, ring in the New Year, watch a Summer 2009 Mega-Slide Show, and just enjoy being together!

Does an alumni camper live at your house? If so, send them to the New Year's Reunion – they'll thank you for it long into 2010. If your family has not yet had the pleasure of Vanderkamp experience, why not give it a try? You'll find out what you are missing!

Information available at 315.675.3651, [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org), or [vkcenter@localnet.com](mailto:vkcenter@localnet.com).

### **5. Plan Your 2010 Camper Recruitment Event Today!**

It is never too early to begin planning for the upcoming summer. We have already begun that process here at Vanderkamp. We would like to visit as many congregations as possible to meet parents and youth who are interested in a camp experience. We like to attend family events, church services, church school, VBS reunion events, game nights – any event where parents and children/youth gather. Please contact Tom at 315.675.3651 or [vkcenter@localnet.com](mailto:vkcenter@localnet.com) as soon as possible to schedule a visit from a Vanderkamp representative.

We are starting our visits right now! This month we will visit Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fayetteville. Call us today to reserve your date.

## **6. Alumni? We Want You!**

Did you attend camp at Vanderkamp any time from 1965 through 2007? Do you know someone (like a son/daughter, niece/nephew, grandchild, or church friend) who did? Have you served on the ECA board at any time? Did you ever work on summer staff at Vanderkamp? If so, we are looking for you! In particular we are looking for folks who participated in camp programs at Vanderkamp from 1965 through 2001 – those records are sketchy or nonexistent!

We are putting together a Vanderkamp Alumni database, and would like to include all who attended summer camp or were on summer staff at Vanderkamp any time over the past forty-four years. We need names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-ddresses. If you (or someone you know) qualifies for this group, please contact Tink at trhccrm@aol.com.

Thank you to those who have responded thus far. We will be organizing Alumni groups to assist you in contacting others who were active at camp when you were.

## **7. Wish List**

Here are a few items from the Vanderkamp Wish List for individuals to consider. For a complete list of projects and needs, please see [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org). Contact Tom at [vkcenter@localnet.com](mailto:vkcenter@localnet.com) or 315-675-3651 if you would like to donate any of these items.

For a complete list of projects and needs, please see [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org). Contact Tom at [vkcenter@localnet.com](mailto:vkcenter@localnet.com) or 315.675.3651 if you would like to donate any of these items.

Digital Camcorder (\$300 to 500)  
Archery Program Upgrade (\$500)  
Storage Unit for Archery & Equipment (\$250)  
Disc Golf Assortment (\$140)  
GPS Units (4 - \$200/ea)  
Materials for Rock Hockey Tables (\$150)  
Lacrosse Training Set (\$175)  
Craft Supplies and Equipment (\$300)  
Nature Study Package (\$500)  
Tetherball Stands & Soft-touch balls (\$135/ea)  
Baggo Game (1 - \$90/ea)  
Wooden Tabletop Games Assortment (\$200)  
Tinikling Dance Package (\$150)  
Adirondack Chairs  
Porch Rocking Chairs  
Basketball Court Paving  
Restoration of the War Canoe  
AED Unit (\$2000)

## **8. Vanderkamp Prayer Warriors**

We covet your prayers at this time for the following –

- a. Year-round staff: Tom, Andy, Richard, Wendy, Wendy, and Mara
- b. Planning for the Summer 2010 program – staff, campers, and program, especially as we choose the staff for next summer
- c. End of the year fundraising efforts – Annual Support Campaign
- d. 2009 Summer staff members and campers who are back at school

Please pray for your ministry at Vanderkamp every day!

**HANDY LITTLE CHART - GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER:**

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say: 'It's impossible'	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: 'I'm too tired'	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: 'Nobody really loves me'	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34 )
You say: 'I can't go on'	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: 'I can't figure things out'	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: 'I can't do it'	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: 'I'm not able'	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: 'It's not worth it'	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28 )
You say: 'I can't forgive myself'	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: 'I can't manage'	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: 'I'm afraid'	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: 'I'm not smart enough'	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: 'I feel all alone'	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)