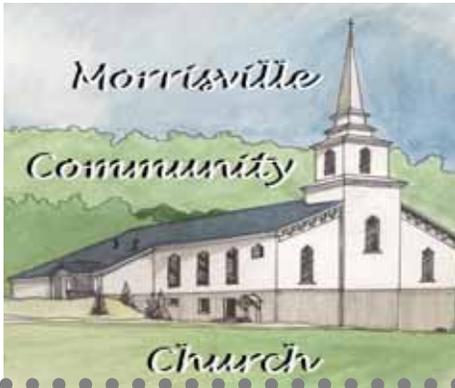


CHURCH MATTERS

DECEMBER

2014



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

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

December 2014 Calendar of Events

- 1 Cerebral Palsy 10 - 11 am
- 1 CE Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm SS Room
- 1 Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 pm Library
- 1-5 Clothes Basket Christmas Project 6-9 pm (all week)**
- 2 Ethel's Needler's 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 2 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 3 American Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6 Fellowship Hall**
- 4 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 7 Sunday School Presents "A Birthday Party for Jesus"**
- 8 Cerebral Palsy 10 - 11 am
- 8 Worship Committee Mtg. 6 pm Library
- 8 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm SS Room
- 8 Property Committee Mtg. 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 9 Ethel's Needler's 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 9 Rebekah's 2 pm Fellowship Hall
- 10 New Hope Circle 6:30 pm Library
- 10 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 11 Book Read 12:30 to 2 pm Library
"Act Like a Lady, Think Like A Man"
- 11 Community Christmas set-up 3 pm Fellowship Hall
- 11 Finance Committee Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 11 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 12 Community Christmas set-up 8 am Fellowship Hall
- 13 Community Christmas Distribution 7a -1p Fellowship Hall
- 14 Sunday School Pageant (during service)**
- 14 Christmas Caroling at Crouse Community Center 1:30 pm**
- 14 Christmas Caroling at Harding Nursing Home 2:30 pm**

- 15 Cerebral Palsy 10 - 11 am
- 15 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 16 Ethel's Needler's 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 16 Faith Circle 12 noon Marcia Vair
- 17 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 18 Deacon's Food Basket set-up in a.m.
Fellowship Hall
- 18 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 19 Deacon's Food Basket fill boxes
Fellowship Hall
- 20 Deacon's Food Basket Distribution 9a - 1p
Fellowship Hall
- 21 First Day of Winter**
- 22 Cerebral Palsy 10 - 11 am
- 23 Ethel's Needler's 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 24 WIC 9:30 - 3:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm**
- 25 Christmas Day - Office Closed**
- 26 Day After Christmas - Office Closed**
- 29 Cerebral Palsy 10 - 11 am
- 30 Ethel's Needler's 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 31 New Year's Eve**

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kyle Graves | 15 Calixto Suarez |
| 10 Delaney Graves | 20 Greg Dutcher |
| 12 Natalie Turner | 22 Cory Olney |
| 13 David Holbert, Jr. | 28 Holly Page |
| 14 Catharine Andrews | 31 Bob Mitchell |
| 14 Steven Broedel | |

Annual Report *REMINDER*

Attention Committee Chairmen!

If you haven't done so already,
please have your **Annual Report** to the Church Office
no later than December 31, 2014.

December Anniversaries

- 14 Stephen & Jacalyn Groves
- 19 Ken & Pat Parker
- 20 Jeffrey & Karen Gay
- 20 Jason & Laurie Zbock
- 21 Nathan & Calla Miller
- 21 Paul & Audra Mockovak

From the Session

On November 9, 2014, the members and friends of the Morrisville Community Church met together for worship and discussion.

The first topic of discussion was communication. We reminded those present that we have a web page and an email address. Our Facebook page can be found at **Morrisville Community Church**. It was noted that all may submit articles for the monthly newsletter to be submitted to the office by the due date noted in the weekly bulletin. Everyone was invited to attend the monthly Session meetings. Those wishing to speak were asked to call the office so they could be put on the agenda. All of the above are efforts to open the chain of communication among members, friends and community.

The Christian Education Committee shared with us that their average attendance has risen to 16 and they are working on Old Testament topics the first half of the year. There is always a need for teachers and substitutes. The Sunday School will be presenting a program on December 14 during the regular Sunday service.

The Outreach Committee is active and working to involve members, friends and community in activities. The committee has hosted game nights and a movie night. There are several other activities in the planning stages. These efforts encourage Christian fellowship and an opportunity for us to get to know each other better. It is hoped that as time goes by active participation will continue to increase. Please check the bulletin and newsletter for information.

Giving and growing was the topic handled by the Finance Committee. We have refinanced our mortgage through a secured loan at the Oneida Savings Bank by using part of our investment portfolio as collateral. The building fund commitment is still necessary to meet monthly payments. A large expenditure to refurbish our sprinkler system was offset by permitting the logging of our property behind the church. A stewardship campaign is currently underway. In order to plan and produce a budget for the coming year, it is vital to have a commitment from members and friends so Session will have a dollar number to work with. Please pray and return your cards soon.

The Session will be starting to search for an interim pastor. This process is handled by a committee with an advisor from Presbytery. We need volunteers who are willing to devote some time to this process. If you are interested, please contact the church office or a Session member.

The next meeting and discussion service will be on January 18, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. Please put this date on your calendar.

From the Worship Committee

It is December. It is Christmas time. Let us remember.

December is Christmas time. And Christmas time is a time of remembering. We remember friends and family with gifts and with a host of various media messages, from the traditional Christmas card and telephone call to texting, tweeting and face booking. There is also the need to remember to prepare. Have we completed our shopping? When will we decorate the tree? But beyond the rush of all these communications and preparations, thoughts of past Christmases dwell lovingly---at least I hope lovingly--- in the backs of our minds. Perhaps with a sigh, we see the faces of family and friends that are no longer with us. Perhaps we remember a Christmas when we received an unappreciated gift like a toaster or leaf rake when what we really wanted was a fur hat (or a fly-rod). Or was there a Christmas we felt left out? Like the Christmas where we were the only cousin not to receive a gift because the cousin who drew our name forgot to bring the gift to the family gathering! Perhaps we think about the Christmas when we lost something special like our kitty. Later, after many worrisome tears, the lost kitty was discovered sleeping peacefully at the top of the Christmas tree. And, perhaps in a quiet moment--- if we allow ourselves a quiet moment--- visions of past Sunday School Christmas pageants “dance in our heads”: We see ourselves dressed in an old flannel robe joyfully portraying a shepherd, because we only had to sit in the straw and look afraid. Or we see a taller self, dressed

in our dad's black and gold striped robe, wearing a paper jeweled crown and carrying a gold box (no way would we carry the frankincense or myrrh), marching down the aisle toward the manger as the congregation sang, "We Three Kings." Or, perhaps, we see a vision of white sporting a tinsel halo and tinsel adorned gauzy wings. Ah, we were an angel. And yes, we had a speaking line: "Hark, for unto you a child is born." There was a bit of pressure having that speaking part, but we didn't complain because the tinsel halo and gauzy wings were worth having to say, "Hark!" (Who speaks like that anyway?)

Yes, December is Christmas time, and Christmas time is remembering. Christmas remembering is special. These memories are all part of our faith. Without our faith the events of December would be empty. So it is nice to remember, and may the remembering help restore our connection to each other, to the past, and to the future. But most of all may our recollections refresh our day to day lives.

Enjoy your memories! Share your memories! Make new memories! And have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

On behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine Hunter

From the Property Committee

December is a busy month in our building. Following is the list of usage of the building.

- Cerebral Palsy - every Monday 10:00 - 10:45 am
- Ethel's Needler's - every Tuesday 10- 11:30 am
- Zumba - every Wednesday 5:30 pm
- Tae Kwon Do - every Thursday 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Hope Circle
- Book Read
- Rebekah's
- WIC
- Karen Jacob's Family Christmas Gifts – Dec 1-5
- Judy Parker's Christmas - December 11-13
- Deacon's Christmas Food Baskets - Dec 18-20

As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter we will have a Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 preceding our yearly Hanging of the Greens at 10:00 on Saturday, November 29.

If you are planning on using the building, please check with Kaaren (secretary) to arrange for usage.

After New Years, the Property Committee will be asking for helpers in maintenance of the building. Please be thinking about ways in which you could help. Times could be at your convenience (examples: wash windows, walls and floors, paint walls, clean-organize parts of the kitchen not previously done, replace moldings, etc.)

As previously mentioned in the Property Committee section of the Newsletter, we will be asking for help in February when Ron and Charlene will be on vacation. Helpers for cleaning, snow shoveling, etc. will be needed.

Respectfully Submitted, Sylvia McKinnon

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team News

The monthly meeting of the PW Ministry team was held on November 13.

Our PW Fashion Show was well attended on November 2. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our fourth Fashion Show an enjoyable event. A special thank you to Ellen Davis for her willingness to chair this program again this year.

The **Deacons** and the **PW Ministry Team** are sponsoring ***Christmas Caroling***, on Sunday, December 14. We will be singing at Crouse Community Center at 1:30 pm and Harding Nursing Home in Waterville at 2:30 pm. We will plan any necessary carpooling after church on the 14th. We will leave church at 1:20 to begin singing at Crouse at 1:30. We will leave Crouse at 2:00 to begin singing at Harding at 2:30. ***Come one and all, and add your voice to this holiday event!***

Ladies, mark your calendar for the Valentine

Express on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall on this date at 1:00 p.m. to make valentines for the patients at Crouse Community Center, Morrisville.

We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the church Library. All ladies of our church are welcome to attend.

Respectfully,
Naydene Ames, Secretary

From the Outreach Committee

Let's celebrate the real reason for the season....Jesus!! On December 7 at 12:00 pm following Sunday Service the Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a "Birthday Party for Jesus". Come celebrate and enjoy soup Sunday, cupcakes and games for all ages. Please bring an unwrapped gift to be donated to the Morrisville Community Christmas project (items needed include socks, underwear, under shirts, and toys).

The committee is also in need of a donation of cupcakes and an extra soup provider. Please sign up with Alisa Graves if you can help out.

The Sunday School Program will be December 14, during worship service, please start thinking about what role you would like to play, the more participation, the better!! We will need Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, and Shepherds (don't worry, we can have multiple people in each role). There are no lines to memorize, and fun to be had, if you have a part in mind let Chris Cring know.

The events of the Outreach Committee have not recently been well attended. For 2015, please think about how you would like outreach to work. There will be a survey in January where you can share your ideas.

Have a wonderful Holiday season,

The Outreach Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You from the **Deacons** for those who have contributed a monetary or food contribution for the Christmas Meal boxes that we prepare each year for needy families. We will continue to take donations until December 17. Suggested canned food contributions would be cranberry sauce, fruit and vegetables. Please place your donations in the big cardboard box marked Deacon's Christmas Food Collection in the Narthex. On December 20 we will be distributing our Christmas Meal box to local families.

New Address - For those who would like to have Amanda Miller's new address it is:

420 S. Coeur d' Alene St. Apt. 3, Spokane, WA 99201

Thank You from American Red Cross on a recent blood drive at Morrisville Community Church. As a dedicated blood drive sponsor, our leadership in the coming months will help prevent blood shortages.

UNITY ACRES

Background information of Morrisville Community Church's involvement. Unity Acres is a home for homeless men, located in Orwell, NY near Pulaski in Oswego County.

We first heard of Unity Acres at a Cayuga-Syracuse Presbyterian Women's meeting. We were telling some women about our *Clothes Basket* and what to do with the clothing after our change of seasons. It was suggested we could take them to Unity Acres. That is what we did.

At the spring changeover we loaded a vehicle with men's winter clothing, and in the fall we took a load of spring clothing. The clothes were put in a "store" where the men would shop for needed clothing for themselves. We also took some women's clothing with us. The men had their own mission where this clothing was needed. We began this in 1996.

Unity Acres was started by a Catholic priest, Father McVay. The buildings used to be a Tuberculosis Sanatorium. There are two buildings for the men to reside which include a library, and another building which has a kitchen and dining hall.

There are two rules - No Fighting, and No Alcohol or Drugs. The men keep the buildings up, tend a garden, and raise a few animals. They also have their own cemetery. At one time, there were as many as 140 men residing at Unity Acres. It is supported by donations, volunteers and faith.

We were told the men are very seldom in touch with any family members. They even enjoy receiving junk mail. We decided Christmas Cards would be gratefully received. We don't address the cards, We simply write "*to a friend*" on the envelope and sign the card "*from a friend*". The cards will be sent in a package to the director of Unity Acres. We have been told the men receive them at the dinner table on Christmas, and it helps make their holiday a little brighter.