

NEWSLETTER

May 2006



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1- Peg Nodell 2- Jane Stevenson
4- Monte Deaner 5- Theresa
Lanterman, Maria Lanterman
6- Shawn Bartow 8- David
Bartlett 5- Dorothy Campbell
9- Conner Swanson 11- David
Burgess, Joseph Kidd 13-
Kevin Glouse 15- Sandy
Merkle, Donna O'Brian,
Kathy Sellers 17- Richard
Loomis 20- Darlene Ballard,
Charlyn Cring 21- Nan
Schurer, Wendy Vair 22-
William Carr, Ben Thomas
23- Suzanne Bartow Catherine
Holbert 25- Kurt Virkaitis 26-
Geri Choate 27- Steven Trush
30- Stephanie Braun 31-
Brenda Arnold

Hope everyone has a great
Birthday!!!

If we do not have your birthday on
our list and you would like it put
there please call the office and let
us know so it can be put on the list.

In Our Prayers

Bob Hooper, Louise Gill,
Ruth Matthias, Chris Cring,
Jim Gregory, Kelly Meigs,
Tom Davis, John
Salvetti, Christine Braun,
Gertrude Sindima, Barbara
Westcott, Grace Trush,
Edith Mabon

ANNIVERSARIES

Tracy & Chris Zöellick 5/5
Dirk & Clara DeJong 5/13
Kouk & Tom Davis 5/23
Jeffrey & Christine Cring 5/26
Kurt & Malinda Virkaitis 5/28
Gregg & Kim Weinschreider
5/28
Stanley & Esther Davis 5/29

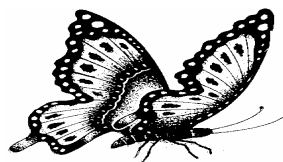


COMMUNION The
Sacrament of Holy Communion
is celebrated during worship on
the first Sunday of every month.

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.



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
3824 Swamp Road, P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, New York 13408 (315) 684-3314
Rev. Russell S. DuncanJulie

FROM THE PASTOR

"Thinking outside the box" has become a catch phrase of our culture. That is the mantra chanted by many folks in corporate America and the church. It indicates that in order to survive we need to change, and in order to change effectively we need to be creative. We need to find new and creative ways to promote our business, advertise our services, and sell our products. It may even mean branching out into uncharted waters to create new goods and services to meet the needs of a changing economy.

All of this sounds good, and it is to a certain extent. However, we must be careful not to change so much that we lose contact with our core values. Change simply for the sake of change is worthless. While "thinking outside the box" can be valuable, sometimes we need to "get back into the box." If we lose our sense of value and purpose, we are only hurting ourselves, so getting back into the box from time to time helps us to regain our focus.

Let me give you a couple of examples. For many years, Volkswagen produced efficient *Volks wagens*, "people's cars," with plain interiors and simple mechanics. We all know how wildly popular the Volkswagen Beetle was after World War II because of its low price, high quality and affordable running costs. But now, Volkswagen's cars include a luxury sedan and an SUV. Surprisingly, BMW has now stepped into the niche abandoned by Volkswagen with the Mini Cooper, which is simple, solid, and small.

The Hardee's fast-food chain stepped outside of the box when it hired a half-naked model who was famous for being famous to eat a burger while soaping up her car in a TV ad. Since their sales did not improve as a result of this ad, maybe they should have focused on making a better burger.

Dell Computers built its empire on good hardware and the promise of helpful customer service located in Round Rock, Texas. Now it out sources its tech support to the phone banks of India, and in the process has become like every other computer company.

The lesson is that it's OK to get outside the box, but not to lose the box. The box is what got you here, so it's important that we remember who we are. In order to be effective, groups need to identify the one thing they do best, and let that core ability guide their decision-making.

So what is the core value that guides what we do in the church? What is the "box" that got us to where we are? 1 John 4:7 defines that core value for us: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." Love for "one another" is the value that must be central in all that we do. Earlier in this letter, John says some other important things about love: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another." (3:16); "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (3:18)

Our world is in desperate need of a church that puts love into action and makes love real. Like customers looking for a good burger or a simple, solid, small car, there are people all around us who are searching desperately for a community that actually practices what it preaches.

Over 100 years ago, the Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard made the point that Jesus was looking for followers, not admirers, and he told this parable to make his point:

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
3824 Swamp Road, P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, New York 13408 (315) 684-3314
Rev. Russell S. DuncanJulie

A man was walking down a city street when he saw a big sign in a window that said, "Pants pressed here." Delighted to see the sign, he went home and gathered up all of his wrinkled laundry. He carried it into the shop and put it on the counter. "What are you doing?" the shopkeeper demanded. "I brought my clothes here to be pressed," said the man, "just like your sign said." "Oh, you've got it all wrong," the owner said. "We don't actually do that here. We're in the business of making signs." We don't do these things, he was saying. We just talk about them.

That is often the problem in the church. We advertise ourselves as a place that is showing Christ's love and doing Christ's work, but when people show up looking for real love and real Christian action, they don't see it. It's as if we say, "Oh, we don't really love people here. We just talk about loving people here."

If we are going to advertise God's love then we need to actually practice God's love. This is the core value that makes us the Church. This is the core value that ought to guide everything else we do. As we "think outside the box," it is better for us not simply to look for new and different things to do that will attract people to us. Instead, we ought to think about creative ways that we can express God's love for the world, and then put that love into action.

Grace& Peace, Rev. Duncan

—— **COMMITTEE NEWS** ——

**FROM THE PROPERTY
COMMITTEE**

Recently we have been able to accomplish needed maintenance because of the allotted \$24,000 assigned to us from the Thayer Trust. These items are:

Upgrading one of our boilers repairing the steeple, renovating the manse bathroom fixing the roof valleys of the portico due to ice damage, purchasing molding to finish off the cork in the fellowship hall

Among other items to be addressed in the future are: railings and light for the front walkway extending the overhangs of the lower entrances, replace classroom window seal front sidewalks and blacktop

Part of our maintenance is accomplished on our Spring and Fall Clean-Up days. Our Spring one is on Sat. May 13th. We hope you have put the date on your calendar. We start at 9 AM and go as long as we have help. Some chores are window washing, raking sweeping. We hope to have a good turn out.

It has come to our attention that a number of people had questioned why the acoustical tiles are being purchased as a fundraiser instead of using the Thayer Trust.

Almost two years ago we had our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall evaluated acoustically. Many people had commented on the sound quality of the Fellowship Hall. The Property Committee did not have resources at that time so

we agreed on a fundraiser. We felt it would be a positive step to have the congregation help to solve our acoustical problem. We are pleased to say that so far (4/22) we have received pledges for eleven tiles. This is almost half of the 24 tiles that are needed. When we place the order it will take 16 weeks before we can receive them. We hope to be able to place the order at the beginning of June. We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting this project. If you have any questions or wish to pledge, please speak to one of the Property Committee members.

NOTICE!! It has been decided at this time that the usage of the ice machine does not warrant the purchase of a new one (\$2,500.00). If you are planning an event at the church, please plan accordingly for

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Rev. Russell S. DuncanJulie

your need of ice and consider its purchase part of the supplies for your event. Thank you.

Property Committee

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The O & E Committee met at Jackie Grove's for supper at 5 PM, April 3rd before breaking for WORK, WORK, WORK! Members present were Chair, Jackie Groves, Connie Shepard, Tom Lemery, Jean Puddington, and Marlene Miner, plus guests for supper; Dave Puddington, Steve Groves, and Christine Covington.

Having new visitors cards in place by Easter (either in pew card holders or as a bulletin insert) was discussed, to be used instead of the black attendance books presently in the pews.

50 folks stayed for "Lunch after Church", April 2nd-a great turn out!! Next time will Sunday, May 7th. Please plan to stay for lunch!

The idea of small group "Dinners for 8" was so well received that we will begin with sign-up sheets immediately at the table in Fellowship Hall, with a possible date to begin in May or June! Be sure to sign-up to be a HOST/HOUSTESS or GUEST for this fellowship and informal dinner. You will be notified as soon as host homes are set and a date is chosen. You do not have to be a member of the church to join in this fellowship! Watch for

further announcements in the bulletins.

Remember, too, to support the Church Community Campout and annual picnic the weekend of July 21-23.

FROM THE PW

PW Spring Banquet, Friday, May 12th, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own place setting, a dish to pass and a friend.

Program to follow dinner-both dedication of Birthday offering and Mission Projects.

We will observing Wills Emphasis Sunday on May 7th.

CHURCH MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

May's Hi-Lite doesn't take "no" for an answer and she never uses the phrase-"it can't be done."

She was born in Coatesville, PA. Her father worked in a steel mill and her mother was a homemaker. She was raised with a brother (now deceased) and a sister. She also had a special uncle. She was Uncle George's "little girl."

She loved horses, cats and reading and wanted to have all of that on a farm.

Her love of reading and books got the best of her. She graduated from Kutztown State College in

Pennsylvania with a degree in Library Science.

While in Morrisville in May of 1973 for an interview for the librarian position at the elementary school she asked what the "white stuff" was on the far hills. When she was told it was snow she almost pulled out of the application process. Being from Southern PA., you don't see snow in May!

She got the job and this June is retiring.

By now you know our Hi-Lite is Jackie Groves.

Some trivia here from a close friend...rented her first apartment from Doc Butler on Cedar St., her first car was a Volkswagen "Bug"; she doesn't subscribe to any newspapers or listen to TV news. If something happens in the world, you have to tell her.

Jackie has always celebrated holidays, big time.

Christmas....Christmas day was an all day Open House and brunchfamily, friends, presents, house all decorated....The children always received an autographed book every year as part of their gifts.

Thanksgiving....Thanksgiving meant a big meal in the middle of the afternoon (between prime hunting times). There was an adult table and a children's table.

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
3824 Swamp Road, P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, New York 13408 (315) 684-3314
Rev. Russell S. DuncanJulie

Easter....Easter was an annual egg hunt out back. Many an Easter the kids were dressed in snowsuits and boots....either snow boots or knee high mud boots. The adults "froze".

Summer brought garage sales- which Jackie loved to go to. After packing up kids and going from sale to sale with friends from summer to summer they finally decided to have their own garage sale. Every summer about 15 families are involved in the sale at Jackies'.

Another "must do" is Bouckville Antique week. Spending all day, every day of the week, is usually how it goes.

Besides her library career other careers she embarked on included selling Tupperware, selling a knit clothing line, and now Stampin' Up. Her newest additional craft/hobby is making beaded jewelry which she sells at craft shows. She frequently goes to NYC to get beads for her creations.

Jackie has many collections, among them Barbie Dolls, depression glass in blue, silver jewelry and Wade (England) figures. Also The Night Before Christmas books.

In 1973 Jackie married Steve Groves. They raised 2 sons, Brett and Nicholas. She also has a stepson, Stephen.

Jackie has been a substitute Sunday School teacher and a member of Session. She is presently on the Outreach and Evangelism Committee and a Deacon.

She may be retiring in June, but you can bet she'll be as busy as ever. Remember...she doesn't believe "it can't be done"!

Attention: To all that have information for the newsletter. The **July newsletter** is now being combined with Junes. Any information that would be in July's newsletter will need to be turned in for the June/July deadline, May 25th.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WED & FRI 8:30-12:00

THURS 9:00-12:00

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

GREETERS

- 7- Sandy Merkle ,Karen Jacobs
- 14- George Fearon, Jackie Groves
- 21- Bev & Will Griffin
- 28- Janie Duncan, Norma Galbreath

MISSION OR WITNESS

READER

- 7- Puddington
- 14- George Fearon
- 21- Stevenson
- 28- Sandy Merkle

SERMON

- 7- Sam Tucci

SPECIAL MUSIC OR READING

USHERS/COMMUNION

- 7- The Millers
- 14- The Holberts', The Douglas'
- 21- The Gays
- 28- Bill Schurer, Harold Thurston