

NEWSLETTER

May

2007

April Birthdays

- 1- Peg Nodell
- 2- Jane Stevenson
- 5- Dorothy Campbell
Theresa Lanterman
Maria Lanterman
- 6- Shawn Bartow
- 8- David Bartlett
- 9- Conner Swanson
- 11- Joseph Kidd
- 15- Sandy Merkle
- 17- Richard Loomis
- 20- Darlene Ballard
Charlyn Cring
- 21- Nan Schurer
Wendy Vair
- 22- William Carr
- 23- Suzanne Bartow
Catherine Holbert
- 25- Kurt Virkaitis
- 26- Geri Choate
- 27- Steven Trush
- 30- Stephanie Braun

Anniversaries

- Tracy & Chris Zöellick 5/5
- Steve & Cathy Warner 5/10
- 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

In Our Prayers

- Grace Trush
- Christine Braun
- Joyce Goetz
- David Crane
- Geri Choate
- Stanley Warner
- Harold Thurston
- Elsie Loveless
- Dann Chandler
- Richard Lawler
- Kelly Meigs
- LaVia Wedge
- Andy Sikes
- Dorothy Campbell
- Sally Covington
- John Salvetti
- Darlene Ballard and family

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## FAITH CIRCLE

April 17th @ 12 noon  
At Marcia Vair's

## HOPE CIRCLE

April 19th @ 7:30p  
At Sally Covington's

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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.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Web site:

morrisvillechurch.or

Newsletter deadline will **Wed 4/18/07**

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Rev. Russell S. Duncan

FROM THE PASTOR

There is a song that I first learned in my youth that has significant meaning to me. It was considered a "contemporary" Christian song back then, one which was sung by children and youth, but not one that was regularly used by our congregation in worship. Written in 1966, that song is one that we use regularly in our worship here, and every time we sing it as a congregation, it is sung with great enthusiasm. That song is "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love."

Over the years, that song has transitioned from a "contemporary" song for children and youth to one of the favorite hymns of the church. Many of us can probably sing it from memory. "We are one in the Spirit/we are one in the Lord/ we are one in the Spirit, /we are one in the Lord/and we pray that all unity may one day be restored/and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love/Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

That song is based upon the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Now, we all know that love is the heart of the gospel that Jesus

came to proclaim. He talked about love between family members, love for strangers, love for people in need, even love for our enemies. More than simply talking about it, Jesus lived it. He even said "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," (John 14:13) then he demonstrated the full extent of that love by giving up his own life on the cross.

In the context of his discussion about loving our enemies, Jesus makes the statement, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even the pagans do that?" (Matthew 5:46-47) The point Jesus is making is that everyone is capable of some kind of love, even those who do not call themselves Christian. So if even unbelievers are able to show love, what is it that makes Christian love different from the love expressed by others?

There are a couple of points that I think help make the distinction. First, the love expressed by many in this world (including Christians) is selfish love. We give in order to get, and the primary motivation in many of our relationships is what we can gain from it and not what we can give to it. Pure Christian love, however, is *selfless* instead of

selfish. As Jesus alluded to in the words quoted above, selfless love is a love that remains strong, no matter what the cost. Even if it could cost us our life, love for another will not be abandoned. While many of us believe that we can and will love to that extent, until we are pushed to those extreme limits, we will never know for certain, and it is unlikely we will ever be put in a situation where we will need to choose to die for someone we love.

A second point that distinguishes pure Christian love from other forms of love is the way we relate to others *within* the church. While it is easier for us to imagine ourselves laying our life on the line for our spouse, our children, or another family member, it is much more difficult for us to imagine us doing that for one with whom we are not related by blood. Again, notice Jesus' words in John 14:13. He uses the word "friends," not "family members." How far are we willing to go for those whose only relationship with us is that we share a common faith in Jesus Christ? It is this kind of love relationship that Jesus was talking about when Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." It is this kind of love for one another in the faith that will witness to those outside the faith.

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To put this in a way that we can understand today, what Jesus is saying to us is that how we live together in community as a church will influence our witness to those outside of the church. How often have people gotten angry with someone in the church and left the church because of something someone said or did? We can all probably identify people we know who no longer participate in church either because they had their feelings hurt by someone else's insensitive comments or actions, or because they didn't get their own way on something. Sadly, Christians within the church can be very unforgiving when it comes to the wrongs committed by others in the church. And how often do we argue and fight over petty things within the church, even to the point of causing a church to become divided? I know of a church that almost ended up splitting into two separate congregations simply because there was significant disagreement over whether to paint the church doors red or blue!

Those kind of petty differences have a significant impact upon the witness of a congregation. If people perceive that Christians cannot get along with each other within the church, they will have absolutely no interest in becoming involved. We often joyfully sing "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord," but we also often allow petty differences to destroy our oneness. We joyfully sing "They'll know we are Christians by our love," but we forget the opposite is also true – they will doubt the sincerity of our faith if we cannot get along with one another.

As Presbyterians, we ought to know the truth of this by now. For the past couple of decades, we have been arguing among ourselves about issues that have divided us. Those arguments have become so heated that many have left the church, and as a denomination, we have been unable to attract new adherents into the church. Between those who have left because of

disagreements and those who pass away, our numbers have been declining, and because of our disagreements with one another, we have failed to attract new people into the faith. Lessons we all need to learn are that we are a diverse people who share a common faith in the same Jesus Christ; because we are diverse, we will not always agree with one another; sometimes we need to agree to disagree, and to do it in such a way that we are not disagreeable.

"They'll know we are Christians by our love" speaks to the quality of relationship we have with one another. If we cannot truly love one another within the church, neither can we truly love those who are outside of it. If we cannot truly love one another within the church, those outside the church will have no interest in becoming part of us.

Grace & Peace
Rev. Duncan

COMMITTEE NEWS

Finance and Session – As most of you are aware, we did not have enough pledges to cover the proposed anticipated expense for 2007. A way you can help us fill this gap is by giving an extra \$1.00 per week. In real life this is a cup of coffee from On the Run, a slice of pizza from the Pizzeria, 2 cigarettes, a large soda – its not much, but if everyone makes this effort it will help out.

The Property Committee would like to invite everyone to join them for the annual Spring Clean Up on 5/12 at 9am. Please join us for this time of work and fellowship.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clothes Basket Bunch – including Sally Covington, Pat Dougherty, Jackie Groves, Karen Jacobs and Claudia Loomis – would like to thank all those who have helped with the Clothes Basket this year. Come and join us any Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:30a. We work hard and have lots of fun. Contact Claudia Loomis if you are able to help Wednesday or Saturday from 10a-12p or 12p-2p.

Senior Citizen's Day – Please mark your calendar for Sunday, May 6, 2007 – Sunday, May 6 is the day that we will be honoring our Senior Citizens (age 55 or older). Each of our senior members and friends will be presented a carnation in honor of their faithful service to our church and community. In addition, a corsage will be given to recognize those in attendance who, with the Lord's blessing, have turned 90 by this date. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following the service for a special reception to say thank you to our Senior Citizens for all that they have done and continue to do to support the ministry of this church. May 6 is also "Sunday Lunch" and everyone is invited to stay for the luncheon and fellowship.

PW Spring Banquet - (formally the Mother and Daughter Banquet). Our Annual Spring Banquet will be Friday May 11th at 6p in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are members of the PWC. Please come and bring your children, grandchildren, sister, mothers, aunts and friends. It will be a covered dish supper so bring a dish to pass and your table service. Beverages will be provided. The program will be fun and enjoyable for all ages. So come for food, fun and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call Christine at the church office. We don't need to know exactly how many are coming but its helpful to have an idea of how many to set up for. Just remember that we always have room for more. Hope to see you there!

The Auxiliary of Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton thanked us for the use of our shopping baskets at their sale in December. Thanks to Nancy McPherson who delivered them.

A note of thanks – Thank you for your cards, calls, thoughts and prayers during Ken's fall, surgery and recovery. Knowing people care helps the healing process. We appreciate our church family. From Ken and Peg Nodell.

Presbyterian Women - Presbyterian Spring Gathering – Saturday May 5th in Marcellus from 9:30a – 2p. Please see Marcia Vair if you would like to attend.

Worship Time Change – After reviewing the effectiveness of the time change we made in November, moving our worship service to 10:00 AM and Sunday School to 11:00 AM, Session determined that the desired results did not materialize. At its meeting on Monday, April 23, Session voted to continue the 10:00 AM worship hour through the summer. When Sunday School begins again on Sunday, September 9, our worship service will move back to 10:30 AM. Sunday School will once again begin at 9:00 AM. Please note these changes on your calendar.

Lamplighters Concert – *The Lamplighters*, the touring choir of Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, PA, will be returning to central New York in May. We were pleased to host them for a concert in 2004 during their last tour of our area. We have scheduled a repeat performance for this wonderful choir for Tuesday, May 8. Please put this date on the calendar and plan now to be present for this evening of music. The concert will begin at 7:30 PM and it will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6:00 PM. The potluck and the concert are open to the community. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be received to help the choir defray their travel expenses. For the potluck supper, you are asked to bring your own table service along with a meat dish, vegetable or salad to share with others. The deacons will be providing beverages, rolls and dessert. We will need to provide overnight housing

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for the members of this group on Tuesday evening. If you have an extra room or rooms and would be willing to host some members of the choir for one night, please contact Jackie Groves or you may call the church office. Please spread the word among your family members, friends and neighbors. This will be an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

Vanderkamp News

1. Hold the date -- Saturday, June 2 from 2:00 - 7:00 PM -- for Vanderkamp Center's Annual Benefit Barbecue to support the Campership Fund. It will be a great afternoon for the whole family, featuring food, music, swimming & boating, wagon rides, games, and lots more. Please call Vanderkamp Center at 675-3651 for complete details or to make your reservation.

2. You're invited! Vanderkamp's Annual Open House will be held Sunday, June 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Get a taste of summer camp - meet the staff, take a tour, and enjoy camp activities like crafts, hikes, canoeing, games and more! Call or write for more information: 315-675-3651 or vkcenter@localnet.com.

3. Help Wanted! Vanderkamp is now recruiting energetic, enthusiastic, creative college-aged men and women to work with children in a resident camp setting. If you are looking for a summer job that offers an opportunity to be in Christian service, we would love to hear from you. For more information, please call 315-675-3651 or write to vkcenter@localnet.com. Thanks!

Clothes Basket

Open Wednesday and Saturday 10a – 2p
All are welcome to come
browse and shop
Volunteers are always needed

The Clothes Basket will Reopen Saturday
May 5th with Spring and Summer clothing

Bazaar Buzz

Country Crossroads 2007 will be held Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The following have agreed to being the chairmen/contact people for the booths. We thank you very much for taking on this responsibility:

Grandma's Attic: Marlene Miner and Sally Covington
treasures from the past and present

St. Nicholas' Place: Sandy Merkle and Ann Batchelor
Christmas decorations and items

The Country Peddler: Naydene Ames and Bev Griffin
a variety of all season items and decorations

The Stitchery: Nancy McPherson and Sally Larchar
knitted, crocheted, and sewn items

The Twisted Vine: Maxine Hunter, Joyce Chandler, Natalie Turner
plants, decorative items from natural materials

The Bake Shop: Karen Jacobs and Jackie Groves
a variety of homemade goodies

Mrs. Claus' Cafe: Norma Galbreath, PW Hospitality Group
serving lunch during the bazaar

Need ideas for projects? Check with one of the above. It's not too early to get started crafting! information as it becomes available.

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MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY
MARCH, 2007

RECEIPTS	FEBRUARY	2007 YTD	2007 BUDGET
PLEDGES	\$7,717.00	\$22,620.00	\$87,520.00
LOOSE PLATE	\$108.00	\$288.00	\$2,000.00
PER CAPITA	\$324.00	\$1,467.00	\$1,000.00
INITIAL OFFERING	\$ 0.00	\$ 93.00	\$100.00
BUILDING USE	\$ 0.00	\$ 75.00	\$500.00
EQUIPMENT USE	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$0.00
FUNDRAISERS	\$ 9.00	\$ 7.00	\$2,500.00
EXPENSE/REIMBURSE	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$125.00
STUDY BOOKS	\$10.00	\$ 80.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,168.00	\$24,639.00	\$ 93,770.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,476.43	\$30,747.44	\$136,932.00
BANK BALANCE (MINUS DESIGNATED AND BUILDING FUNDS)			\$16,806.91

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than factors, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people say or do. It is more important than appearances, giftedness, or skill: it will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude that we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.

- Charles Swindell

Smile!

Smiling is infectious: you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin, when he smiled I realized that I'd passed it on to him. I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth, a single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth. So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected, let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

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