

NEWSLETTER

October
2006

October Birthdays

- 1- Agnes Carr
Christine Cring
- 3- Andrew Olney
- 5- Natalie Morris
- 6- Brian Bristow
Nathan Davis
- 8- Daniel Kent
- 9- Sarah Duncan
- 12- Wanda Gorton
Michelle Olney
- 13- Nicholas Groves
- 14- Thomas Lemery
- 15- Shelia Bartlett
- 16- John T. Warner
- 19- Norma Galbreath
- 20- Abigail Bristow
- 23- Alida Smith
- 24- Robert Berkey
- 26- Rick Widger
- 28- Stephen Groves
- 31- Keith Stevenson

October Anniversaries

- Ginger & Robert Berkey 10/2
- Janice & Duane Button 10/4
- Douglas & Brenda Arnold 10/5
- Naydene & Murry Ames 10/6
- Dawn & Richard Stevenson 10/26
- David & JoAnn Holbert 10/28
- Kathy & Shawn Merkle 10/28

In Our Prayers

- Christine Braun
- Gratia Burleigh
- David Crane
- Gerri Choate
- Robert Hooper
- Dale Jones & Family
- Kelly Meigs
- Everett Murray
- Grace Trush
- Ellen Williams

CHECK THIS OUT
OUR PASTOR'S
SERMONS
ARE ONLINE!!
morrisvillechurch.org

FAITH CIRCLE

October 17, 2006
12:00 PM
Edith Mabon's

HOPE CIRCLE

October 19, 2006
7:30 PM



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. **10/25/06**

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Rev. Russell S. Duncan

FROM THE PASTOR

“You will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8)

The words printed above are, perhaps, the scariest words in the Bible for many Christians. Not even the warnings about judgment for sin or the threat of eternal separation from God are as frightening as these words Jesus spoke to his disciples on the day of his ascension into heaven.

We are all very much aware that the Christian faith is a verbal faith, and one of the important responsibilities that Jesus has entrusted to his followers is sharing the story of Jesus with others. And this is not simply to be a history lesson; it also needs to be sharing the story of how we experience the presence and power of Jesus in our everyday lives and why Jesus is so important to us.

But the truth is we are scared to death to talk about our faith! Religion is a taboo subject when we gather together in social situations. We are convinced that the quickest way to lose friends is to batter them with our faith. And, certainly, a significant part of our fear about witnessing comes from the negative experiences we have had when we are the ones being “witnessed to.” So we are caught in a dilemma, knowing that Jesus has commissioned us to be witnesses (and we want to be faithful to Jesus!), yet feeling afraid to share our faith, and guilty when we pass by opportunities to do so.

I have been reading a book by Robert D. Pierson entitled *Needs-Based Evangelism: Becoming a Good Samaritan Church*. In this book, Rev. Pierson talks about this

dilemma and offers some valuable suggestions that will help make each of us more effective in this particular area of our personal ministry and the ministry of the church. He offers a brief description of what he calls the “seven basic styles of witnessing” as a means of helping to alleviate the fear and guilt that so many Christians feel in relationship to this very important task of the church. By understanding the various styles of witnessing, perhaps we can find our place and learn to become more comfortable sharing our faith with others in ways that are non-threatening.

The seven styles of witnessing are:

1. Telling your story—Each of us has a story to tell, and we like to tell stories of things that have happened to us, especially the stories of the good things we have experienced. In this style of witnessing, we simply need to keep ourselves open and receptive to opportunities to share our story with someone else. The opportunity for storytelling may avail itself through simple daily activities like offering a smile to someone who is grumpy, or it may come through our association with a neighbor or friend who is experiencing a crisis similar to one we’ve experienced. However the opportunity presents itself, we ought to be ready and willing to share a part of ourselves by telling a simple story of faith

2. Helping—Helping is one of the most basic ways of witnessing. Helping others in need gives us the opportunity to build relationships, and relationship is a key factor in the Christian faith.

Christian faith is about developing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and maintaining that relationship through meaningful relationships with other Christians. A genuine act of kindness shared in love at a time of need is one way to open the door so that we may tell our story of faith to another.

3. Explaining—Although we live in a world that is so secular, there still is a certain level of “spirituality” that exists. While most people claim not to be religious, they do claim to be “spiritual.” So, despite the taboo about talking religion, spiritual issues do often come up in conversations between family, friends and coworkers, often in the form of questions. “Why don’t Christians all baptize the same way?” “Why are there so many denominations?” “What’s the difference between Muslims and Christians?” “What do Christians believe about alcohol, politics, and abortion?” While many of us may feel ill-equipped to deal with such questions, a well thought out answer, given in a compassionate, non-judgmental way will open the door to further conversation, and provide greater opportunities for leading a person to believe in Jesus Christ

4. Being and Doing—Simply put, this style of ministry is simply “ministry by example.” Even the most bashful person can be a good example and provide a positive role model to others. Pierson says, “This means that we take Jesus’ words seriously and love one another as Christ loves us by building people up with our words and deeds, by being patient and kind, and by

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being the first to admit wrongdoing.”

5. Inviting to Attend—Invitation is one of the most powerful and effective forms of evangelism, illustrated in the gospels by the words of Jesus and others to “Come and see.” It takes very little effort to invite family members, friends and neighbors to worship services, church dinners, or special programs. Oftentimes, people outside the church do not come simply because they’re not sure they will be welcome. A personal invitation goes a long way to help people know that they are.

6. Inviting to Commit—This is, perhaps, the most difficult form of evangelism, but ultimately this is the goal of the church’s evangelistic effort—to introduce people to Jesus Christ so that they may make a personal commitment to faith. The opportunity for extending an invitation to commit comes after the effort is put forth to establish a genuine trusting relationship. When we take the time to get to know a person, share our story of faith, offer them help when it is needed, set a positive example, and welcome them into the fellowship of the church, the time will naturally come when inviting them to commit will be appropriate. As you develop those relationships and really get to know the person, inviting to commit will be a natural outgrowth of your relationship

7. Discipling—We certainly understand that becoming a mature Christian is a process. And we have also come to understand and value the need we

all have for mentors. Discipling a person into the Christian faith is the process of being a mentor, of setting a positive example, of providing helpful guidance and counsel, and demonstrating to another the love of Jesus. Many people make a decision for Christ after being a part of a Christian community over a period of time. That decision often comes after meaningful relationships are established. One of the most valuable services we can provide to others is to “shepherd” them in the faith.

As I read this chapter in Pierson’s book, I found it to be very enlightening and helpful. I hope you have found this brief summary to be helpful as well. For each of us, there is a place in the church where we can serve most effectively, and to each of us there are given opportunities to be witnesses for Jesus. I pray that you will discover the style of witnessing that is right for you, and that you will take every opportunity possible to share your faith in Jesus with someone in whatever way you can.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Duncan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Festival

A Fall Festival will be held at Vanderkamp Center from 1:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 29th. Activities will include wagon rides, pumpkin painting, site tours, hiking, boating and canoeing, group games, and a campfire. In addition, there will be food

available for purchase, door prizes, and a yard sale. Join us for a fabulous afternoon of fun for the entire family. Admission and most activities are free. Pre-registration is preferred. For more information, contact Vanderkamp Center at 315-675-3651 or vkcenter@localnet.com.

ANNUAL DRIVE THRU CHICKEN BBQ

October 14th, Saturday, Prices have not changed. They are Dinners \$7.00

Halves \$4.00. 4:00 – ? Sold out.

Dave and Jean Puddington will be presenting their pictures and telling their stories of their recent trip to Korea as part of our Presbytery’s ongoing partnership with Pyongyang Presbytery at a potluck supper to be held on Sunday, October 8 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, and bring a friend. Please bring a dish to pass, beverage and disposable dinnerware will be provided.

REMINDER CARD UPDATE

E-mail reminders will be used for Usher, Greeter, Reader, Nursery, Coffee Hour and Servers. If you do not have e-mail, you will be notified via snail mail. If you do not wish to receive reminders via e-mail please let Brenda know. Also if you have a new or old e-mail address that you would like added to her list please give her a call.

We would like to **Welcome** our new members. There will be a

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reception following worship on October 1. So let's welcome Darlene Virgil, Dorothy Campbell, Cathy Warner, Robin Saurez, and Darlene Dawson to our church family.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

O & E

The O & E Committee met Tues., 9/12 at the home of Jackie Groves. Present were Jackie, Jean Puddington, Marlene Miner, Connie Shepard, Tom Lemery and guest, Dave Puddington.

Plans for the "Dinner for 8" Oct. 1st at the Puddington's and Oct. 7th at the Miller's were discussed. The new visitors card is now in use and the black books for attendance will be removed.

The Newcomer's Ice Cream Social was a great success and everyone taking part was thanked!

We have revised the church information brochure and a few corrections will be made.

Plans were finalized for the Korean Potluck dinner coming up for Oct. 8th at 6:00 PM. Just bring yourselves and a dish to pass for the dinner. A short program by Dave & Jean Puddington will be presented about their trip to South Korea with the Korean Veterans.

The annual community Harvest Dinner will be held November 18th. Many helping hands will be needed! Sign-up sheets to help will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, Oct. 29th. The program will be a "White Elephant Auction", led by Tom Lemery. We will be looking for donations of your "White Elephants". More on this later.

A second indoor garage sale is being considered for March, 2007.

Our meeting time has changed to the 1st Tuesday of each month. Next meeting will be held October 3rd at 5:00 PM at Jackie Groves'! We are hoping to see some new faces!

DEACONS

The Deacons welcomed Naydene Ames -- our newest member to the Board.

We have made 13 visits and sent out 46 cards.

We are currently starting to organize our fund raising and our community service projects. We discussed a Pie Sale. Watch your bulletins for more details. Speaking of "being thankful," the Deacons have some cookbooks available for purchase if you need to get a birthday gift, a Christmas gift for a person you may know, or a great Secret Santa gift for one of your co-workers. There are a variety of recipes to choose from. No one could be dissatisfied or hungry. Let us know if you would like one.

Our Christmas project for the Harding Nursing Home was tabled for this month. More information will be coming about this.

We will continue to have more discussion about the Christmas baskets, adopting a family at Christmas, and continue with the "Day old Bake Goods and Bread" Giveaway.

The Deacons will be providing Christmas baskets again this year for those in need in our community. We will be working with St. Joan's who provide Thanksgiving baskets. If you know of anyone who would

need a basket at Thanksgiving or Christmas, please contact Karen Jacobs, 684-9119. We will gladly accept food and cash donations for this project. Food items may be placed in the box in the fellowship hall through mid-December. Checks may be placed in the offering plate, made out to the church and marked for Christmas baskets. We thank you for your help.

YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

October 1st, 12:30 PM, there will be a picnic with hot dogs and beverages for youths and families. Each family should bring covered dish to share. This is to help with the planning of which way the group will go this year. Be There! Here at the church.

BE THERE!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!!

FINANCE

Stewardship Campaign will be starting in October. A letter with pledge card will sent to you. Be praying about what your support will be for 2007, your generosity supports the ongoing life and ministry of our congregation.

On October 1st, World Wide Communion Sunday, we will be taking up a special offering for peacemaking. 25% of this stays in our church for special projects.

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PROPERTY

The property committee has gotten quotes for sealing the blacktop. Brothertowne was chosen because it does the job by hand, which gives a better coverage and lasts longer. It is planned for the immediate future – weather permitting. We will need to have two days when one side or the other will not be accessible to the church. Scheduled events have been taken into consideration, so that they can have their already planned activities. During October we will need to be flexible.

We hope to have tiles up shortly in the Fellowship Hall. We have accepted a studio piano from Lou Olney. We are checking further into railings for the front walk and carpeting in the sanctuary.

MEMBER HI-LITE

Do you know who this month's highlight is? No? Then let's look at some clues. Have you heard the old joke, "They can sing solo....so low that no one can hear them."? Our highlight can sing so low, you'd hear him in the "bass"-ment. Our highlight can not only sing, but cook as well....known for barbecuing and being a "Friar."....and little children that have met our highlight over the years might have had call him "Mr. Only."

If your guess was **Louis Olney**, then you are absolutely right...and because you guessed correctly (and if you didn't, you can read on too.), here are some things you may or may not know about our determined and well-spoken highlight.

- Lou was born on February 13.
- He was a farmer and a bus driver.
- Lou taught Science at West Genessee High School.
- Lou met his wife, Elsie, at Syracuse University. They were married in 1950. They were married for 54 years.
- Before coming to Morrisville, Lou and his family lived in Weedsport. When they came to Morrisville, they lived in the "Big M sec-tion" by the McKees....then moved to Rocks Road, and built a house there in 1969. He and Elsie moved to Florida. They lived there many years before moving back to Morrisville.
- Lou taught at Morrisville State College. He started the natural Resource Conservation program. Years later, he started the Aquatics program. He's been retired for 17 years.
- Bee-keeping was also a part of Lou's life. He raised them and taught a course in it as well.

- He participated in the Friars plays at Morrisville State College. One production he was in, 1776, he portrayed Ben Franklin.
- Lou organized the Pancake Breakfast for our Community Campout.
- He was involved with the Youth Group in our church. He has taken them camping and directed their plays.
- He has led worship services at the church.
- Lou was a caroler in the Morrisville Community Church Players' production, Christmas In The Heart. He also was a leader in the group's summer worship service last year.
- Lou participated with a barbershop quartet group in New Hartford.
- He has two sons, David and Andy, and six grandchildren, Stewart, Michelle, Phillip, Aaron, Leanne, and Corey.
- He is known for barbecues and making donuts. He succeeded another great donut maker, Red Laraway.
- Deer hunting and ceramics were two of his hobbies.

Determined and well-spoken are only two words that describe Lou. There are many more. We are really blessed to have a person like Lou Olney. He has contributed his time and talents for many years. Wherever he is, Morrisville or Michigan, he has a place in the heart of our church.