

NEWSLETTER

September

2006

September Birthdays

- 1- John Galbreath
Marion Taylor
- 2- Scott Jr. Holbert
- 4- Connor Bartlett
Nancy McPherson
- 6- Walta Bush
Julianna Shepard
- 7- Tammilee Wike
- 11- Jessica Broedel
- 12- Erin Dutcher
- 13- Joyce Chandler
- 14- Ronald Bush
- 15- Cody Ammon
Dru Bartlett
Nancy Douglas
- 17- David Vair
- 21- James Marshall
Richard Stevenson
- 22- Steven Brody
- 23- Vanessa Davis
Brandon Episcopo
- 24- Jeffrey Cring
- 25- Will Griffin
Mary Miller
- 26- Michael Gay
James McPherson
- 27- Leland Cring
- 28- Andrew Kent
Mark Tucci
- 30- Olivia Hill

In Our Prayers

Dale Jones & Family
Grace Trush
Kelly Meigs
Will Griffin
Tom Davis
Everett Murray
Tiffany Lopp
Gratia Burleigh
Geri Choate
Ellen Williams



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

September Anniversaries

Charlyn & Leland Cring 9/25
Kenneth Jr & Mary Miller 9/25
Shannon & Deryck Hill 9/26



Newsletter deadline will be every Thursday following the session meeting. 9/22/06

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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FROM THE PASTOR

Tradition. We've all heard Tevia sing about it in "Fiddler on the Roof." Tevia's song touts the value of tradition as he struggles to adjust to the rapidly changing times in which he and his family are living.

There is no doubt that tradition is important. Tradition is rooted in the events of the past that have helped to shape who we are today. And we need to have that historical grounding to understand who we are, where we've come from, and where we are going. Tradition, while keeping us connected to our past so that we don't lose our identity, also helps to shape our future. As the old adage goes, "Those who are not willing to learn from the past are destined to repeat it."

While tradition is important in helping us understand who we are and how we've gotten to where we are today, sometimes its hold on us is more powerful than we care to admit. When we allow our reverence for our tradition to keep us from moving forward and following the new paths on which God is leading, tradition becomes a hindrance rather than an asset. Tradition is important in the life of the church, but traditionalism can be fatal. Traditionalism develops when we worship our past and desire to return to it more than we worship God and desire to follow where God leads.

A longstanding tradition in the life of the church is the hour of worship. Ever since the founding of the first churches in America, and possibly even before, the time

of worship was set at 11:00 AM on Sunday morning. While there has been some variation in this time over the years, the variation has not been significant. Most Christian churches today begin their Sunday morning worship somewhere between the hours of 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

This particular timeframe developed when the bulk of our nation was an agrarian society. That mid-morning hour was the most convenient time to allow the greatest number of people to attend worship. With an extremely large percentage of Americans living on and working on farms, this mid-morning hour for worship allowed farmers to tend to many of their early morning chores before heading off to church. And during the time in our history when the church enjoyed its "protected status," the hours between 10:00 AM and noon on Sunday were considered "sacred hours."

We are all very well aware that things have changed. Living in a post-Christian era, where the church no longer has the benefit of having a protected status, we find ourselves more and more in competition with a whole host of other activities and organizations. There is not the commitment to regular attendance at Sunday School and worship that there used to be. A wealth of other interests and commitments draw people away. It is for this reason that many congregations hold multiple worship services at a variety of different times to try to reach people who may not be able to attend during the traditional hours on Sunday morning.

Some of the recommendations from the Mission Study Team have to do with our Sunday School and worship programs. While we have not yet fully implemented many of the recommendations, Session is beginning to take a serious look at them and will be developing a plan for their implementation.

Recognizing that our Sunday School attendance has been on the decline, and our worship attendance, while currently stable, is lower than it used to be, Session and its various committees have been involved in discussion about ways we might be able to reverse this trend.

A suggestion made by the Christian Education Committee is currently under consideration by the Session. The C. E. Committee has suggested that the Session consider reversing the hours of Sunday School and Worship. Currently, our Sunday School begins at 9:00 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM, with a half-hour gap in between in which there is no scheduled activity. The C. E. Committee has asked the Session to consider the possibility of moving the worship service from 10:30 AM to 10:00 AM and scheduling Sunday School after worship from 11:00 AM to noon.

There are at several justifiable reasons for this change. First, our Sunday School teachers have noted that children who like to attend Sunday School but whose parents are not involved in church often do not attend simply because 9:00 AM is too early for those parents to get up and get their children ready. A later start time for Sunday School may make them more willing to get their children here, and quite possibly, they may decide to come

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to worship themselves and stay for Sunday School with their children. Secondly, there has been a continuing dilemma for adults who want to sing in the choir and attend the adult Sunday School class. Since choir rehearsal and Sunday School occur at the same time, it is not possible to do both. This change in the time and order of worship and Sunday School will allow those who want to sing in the choir to do so and still allow them to attend Sunday School. The effect could very well be an increase in participation in both groups. This change has the potential of allowing and encouraging more people to be involved in both worship and Sunday School and still leave the remainder of the day free for family activities.

As you will read later in this newsletter, the C. E. Committee and the Sunday School teachers are in the process of planning a spectacular kickoff event for Sunday School on Sunday, September 24. It would be great to be able to have a large number of children and adults attend this event and commit themselves to regular attendance at both. Perhaps the change of order that the C. E. Committee has suggested will make attendance more attractive to more people.

No decision has been made yet about making this change, but we will keep you informed as the discussion progresses. In the meantime, Session and I would appreciate your input. I have included below a **very brief** survey form. Please fill it out and either mail it back to me at the church, or drop it in the church offering plate.

We would really like to hear from you on this subject.

I encourage you all to continue to pray faithfully and earnestly for the ministry of our congregation as we seek to be faithful to the leading of God's Spirit.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Duncan

COMMITTEE NEWS

P. W. NEWS

Retreat for Women of the Congregation!

From Friday evening, September 15 to after supper on Saturday, September 16, all women are invited to attend a spiritual retreat at Vanderkamp. The cost for the overnight plus Sat. meals is \$50.00 per person. Please be aware that scholarships are available.

The theme is "Celtic Spirituality: A Rich Spiritual Experience", will be led by Jane MacDonald, past moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast.

During our time together we will explore: Seven characteristics of Celtic Spirituality, enjoy a hands on activity, pray as the Celts did/do, look at Celtic symbols and art, and listen to Celtic music.

The sign up sheet is in "Fellowship Hall". Reservations and payments may be given to Nancy Douglas.

The retreat is sponsored by Presbyterian Women of the Congregation. Hope to see there.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

The O & E committee met Mon, Aug 14th at Jackie Groves to discuss many important upcoming

events, after a delicious dinner!

Present were Jackie, Tom Lemery, Dorothy Mulcahey, Marlene Miner, Jean Puddington and guest Dave Puddington.

Main topics discussed were 1) a new visitors insert for the bulletin or in pews, (instead of the black attendance books used now); 2) "Lunch after church" the 1st Sunday of each month (was well attended during the summer months of July & August). Be sure to stay for this time of Fellowship, September 3rd. 3) Dinners for 8; 4) Newcomer's Ice Cream Social (Sponsored by M. A. I. N. Sept. 10th at Madison Hall.); 5) Updating an "Information Brochure" about our churches activities.

We are still looking for a couple of more members for our very active committee. As you can see, we could use more HELP! We always have a supper (FOOD!) at each monthly meeting too. Please speak to any of our members to volunteer!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education met on August 14th and is busy planning Sunday School for the fall. Plans for the "kickoff" are started. The first day of Sunday School will be on September 24th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend, there is a class for all ages. This year the youth Sunday School will have a different "station" format and the adult class is always looking for new members. The adult class will be using an on-line curriculum that focuses on current events. If you know of anyone youth or adults who we should send a postcard to

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inviting them to Sunday School, please let the church office know. We want to encourage the community to join us at our church. If you haven't attend Sunday School lately - why not try it this fall - YOU might like it!!

Also, a plan is being worked on to find a date to start youth group for the fall. The plan is to have a family picnic and discuss how we can energize the program at our church. So watch for the date and try to attend if your family has a young person who is youth group age. Also, think of children in the community who might want to join us. We could use those names as well.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In October we will be conducting our fall Stewardship campaign. Your financial commitment is important for us to maintain our staff and facilities.

FROM THE CHOIR

September is fast approaching, the choir will be singing during morning worship. We will be rehearsing at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings. If you like to sing and can read music, please join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DINNERS FOR EIGHT

Two "Dinner's for Eight" are currently being planned. The first will be at Jean and Dave Puddingtons, Sunday, October 1st at 6:00 PM. The second will be hosted by Calla and Nate Miller, Saturday, October 7th at 6:00 PM. These two families will open their homes for our informal dinner and a time of fellowship.

Those who wish to be "guests" may sign up on the list in Fellowship Hall on "The Table". The main dish will be provided by the hostess and each guest will be asked to bring a small part of the meal. If we don't have enough guests sign up, we may give you a call and a personal invitation.

POTLUCK DINNER PLANNED FOR KOREAN REPORT

The Puddington's will be giving a report on their Korean trip this past June at a potluck dinner at the church Sunday evening, October 8th at 6:00 PM. They are eager to share their experiences and pictures. They hope you will spread the word. The dinner is open to the community. You are asked to bring a dish to pass. Disposable place settings and beverages will be furnished.

THE NEWCOMER'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Newcomer's Ice Cream Social, sponsored by M. A. I. N. (Morrisville Area Improvement Network), will be held Sunday, September 10th from 1 - 3 PM at the Madison Hall. "Newcomers" to the area within the last 2 - 3 years are being invited, as well as "old comers," neighbors and leaders of local community group, to help

welcome them.

Our church will set up a display and pass out information about our various activities and worship opportunities. We also have been asked to provide COOKIES. If you would like to bake some, contact Marlene Miner 684-3481. She and Tom Lemery would also welcome 2 more volunteers to help at the booth!

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle study books, "Jesus' Life, Teachings and Ministry," are now available from Nancy Douglas. We will be studying the first chapter for our first meeting. The meeting will be September 21st at Jeanne Deamer's home on Moraine Lake for a picnic at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass.

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will have it's first meeting on September 19th at noon at Karen Tucci's home.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Ron Bush for the beautiful flowers in the car port area. Everyone loves the colors.

BURIAL SCHEDULED

Lauretta Blixt would like to let everyone know that the burial for Kirt Blixt will be held on September 10th @ 11:30 AM at the West Lyden Cemetery. It will be followed by a gathering at The Hulbert House in Booneville. This is a restaurant.

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ADDRESS NEEDED FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to send new college addresses and any new phone numbers to office so that Brenda can update files and newsletter information.

This month's member highlight

Do you know who this month's highlight is? Well, look at some of these clues we "hatched" up. This highlight is pretty crafty...somewhat of a "trail" blazer... Although "her store" is no longer in Hamilton anymore, she could still go out and make "Wise Buys."..... H-H-H-H....this is a clue too. Any guesses? Do you know who it is? Whether you had a guess or not, this month's highlight is....Naydene Ames.

Here are other things about Naydene you may or may not have known....

- She was born on January 17. She grew up in West Eaton.
- Like some of our members, Naydene is a graduate of Morrisville-Eaton Central School. She graduated in 1974.
- Naydene was a 4-H Leader for many years. She was also did Public Relations.
- She likes doing various crafts. Naydene uses her rubber stamping skills to make homemade cards for people.
- Naydene is a co-chairperson for the Bi-Annual Bazaar at the church.

- She was involved in the MCC Players' summer worship service last year. She played WGNS Radio Announcer Russell Sprouts' mother.
- Naydene and her husband, Murry, were married on October 6. They have been married for 26 years. They have two children. Their son, Travis, lives in Hamilton. Their daughter, Stephanie, is a senior at The College of Saint Rose in Albany.
- When Naydene is not busy doing things at the school or church, she likes to do outside work around her house (preferably with sunshine). Gardening, raking, and walking the dogs are some of her favorite things. She and Travis created a trail.
- And finally, here is a poem that describes Naydene well....

NAYDENE AMES —

A person who is
Young at heart...
Down to earth...

Energetic, enthusiastic...
Nice personality...
Embraces life.

A good friend that
Makes you laugh...
Enjoys your company...
Sees the best in everyone.

When it comes to someone who puts their heart in the community, and the church, Naydene is certainly on that list. The church is fortunate to have a person like her.

NEW MEMBER ADDRESSES

Darlene Dawson
26 E. Main St., #3
Morrisville, NY 13408

Robin Suarez
684-9722
3966 Williams Corners RD.
Morrisville, NY 13408

Darlene Virgil
684-9271
3003 Eaton RD.
Eaton, NY 13334

Cathy Warner
750-0778
5225 Fearon RD.
Morrisville, NY 13408

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

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Ester & Stanley Davis
425 Madison Lane
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Julie Vair
684-3424
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Mrs. Geri Choate
C/O Ruth Nell
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Lauretta Blixt
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Morrisville, NY 13408

Shannon Puddington
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Munnsville, NY 13409

Lana Kidd
31 College St.
Brockport, NY 14420

Bev & Will Griffin
684-7597

Amn. Nicholas Groves
PSC. 9 Box 2816

SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SURVEY FORM

I am in favor of moving our worship service to 10:00 AM and having Sunday School at 11:00 AM.

_____ Yes

_____ No

COMMENTS:

NAME: (optional)
