

CHURCH MATTERS

September

2011



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Rev. Saunda Thomas

saunda.thomas@frontiernet.net

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Service 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am– 12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Clothes Basket 684-9970

Fax 684-7817

September Birthdays

1 John Galbreath	21 Richard Stevenson
1 Hazel Holborn	22 Darlene Virgil
2 Scott Holbert, Jr.	23 Vanessa Davis
4 Connor Bartlett	23 Brandon Episcopo
4 Nancy McPherson	24 Jeffrey Cring
11 Jessica Broedel	26 James McPherson
12 Erin Dutcher	28 Andrew Kent
14 Ronald Bush	28 Mark Tucci
15 Dru Bartlett	
15 Nancy Douglas	

There are no wedding anniversaries on the September calendar.

2011-12 Christian Ed Calendar:

9/11	Start Up/Balloon Launch (spruce up rooms in August)
10/9	World Communion Sunday
10/30	All Saints Day
11/27	No Church School
12/18	Children's Christmas Program
12/25	No Church School
1/1	No Church School
2/5	Souper Bowl of Caring
2/19	Prep for Ash Wednesday
2/26	Prep for Lent (1st Sunday of Lent)
3/4	World Day of Prayer/Celebrate Gifts of Women
4/1	Hand Out Palms
4/8	No Sunday School
4/22	Earth Day Activity
5/6	Senior Recognition
5/13	Mother's Day
5/27	No Sunday School
6/10	Closing

September Calendar of Events

- 1 Tae Kwon Do - 6-8 pm
- 4 Choir Begins - Practice - 9 am
- 5 C.E. Comm. - 6 pm
- 5 Deacon's Mtg. - 6:30 pm
- 6 O & E Comm. - 6:30 pm
- 8 Tae Kwon Do - 6-8 pm
- 11 Sunday School Starts - Balloon Launch
- 11 Fenner Voices leads worship service
- 12 Finance Comm. - 4 pm
- 12 Worship Comm. - 6 pm
- 12 Property Comm. - 7 pm
- 15 Tae Kwon Do - 6-8 pm
- 16,17 PW Retreat - Vanderkamp
- 19 Session Meets - 7 pm
- 20 Faith Circle Meets - Noon - K. Tucci's
- 21 Hope Circle Meets - 6:45 pm - B. Manley's
(Apt. Community Room)
- 22 Book Read 12:30-2:00 pm - "365 Thank You's"
- 22 PW Ministry Team Mtg, - 6:30 pm - Ch. Lib.
- 22 Tae Kwon Do - 6-8 pm
- 23 Amer. Red Cross Bloodmobile - 11:30am-7 pm
- 24 Food Sense 9:30-10:30 am
- 28 WIC - 8am - 3pm
- 29 Tae Kwon Do - 6-8 pm

**Save the Date! November 5th -
Country Crossroads Bazaar**

Pastor On Call: Pastor Donna Chapman will be the "Pastor on Call" while Rev. Thomas is away from September 1 through October 3. Her cell phone is (315) 447-9196 and her home phone is (315) 687-3853. If anyone has need of her and cannot reach her on her cell phone or home phone, please call Ann (684-3314) or Clerk of Session, Nancy Douglas, at 684-3845.

BAZAAR BUZZ

Country Crossroads 2011 will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Bazaar will feature the following booths:

Grandma's Attic: treasures from the past and present

St. Nicholas' Place: Christmas decorations and items

The Country Peddler: a variety of all season items and decorations.

The Stitchery: knitted, crocheted, and sewn items

The Twisted Vine: plants, decorative items from natural materials

The Bake Shop: a variety of homemade goodies

Mrs. Claus' Café: serving lunch during the bazaar

Time to get projects started and finished.

Need ideas or supplies? We have crafting materials and project patterns and directions in the "bazaar room" downstairs. Help yourself to any supplies that you can use. The door is always open to that room. Not sure if we have what craft supplies you need? Ask Sylvia,....she has been organizing all the supplies in that room and can tell you if we have what you are looking for.

HOW TO CARE AND FEED YOUR CHURCH

Tip #1: Make it a positive church

It's Christmas Day. The morning has passed. You and your family have enjoyed a meal, the tattered remains of wrappings and presents are scattered across the floor. You sit back and take a look around, and you don't feel good at all. The breakfast menu didn't include your favorite dish, and the coffee was cold. The kids couldn't stop cheering all morning. You didn't get that special tie that you'd asked to get for months, and now there's this big mess to clean up. It's certainly easy to get frustrated and angry, and so you start to speak and feel hurtful things just before the football game starts. The house takes on a somber feeling, the kids stop playing; the mess is left on the floor; the whole family watches the game with this foreboding sense that something is wrong but with no idea of what it is or how to fix it.

We can all feel that way after we've attend a play or a movie or a church service or event. It's hard to get everything we want out of mountaintop experiences. Meaningful moments matter so much to us that we can't help but want the best out of them all the time. We're

passionate, loving people who care about things that matter. Consequently, our desire is that we would always present our best. We're communicative and honest so we play with saying what we really think and feel.

And, there is still a vital choice that we each can make when we feel this way: **We can choose to focus on the positive.** We can choose to acknowledge the things we're unhappy about while reminding ourselves of the good things. We can search for solutions to right what we don't care for and then join together with our family and or friends to implement positive change. We can seek out a friendly smile, hug, or welcoming gaze from each other and remember that things may not be perfect, but they're still very, very good.

We can choose to communicate positive thoughts and ideas with many more people. Yes, we can still name the things that need work, plan for better times and invest ourselves in making things better in the moment. In time, these types of efforts on the part of every member of our church will make a warm and positive church that people will look forward to attending, even if the coffee is a little cold that morning.

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle is reinventing itself. After our introductory picnic we decided to meet the 3rd Wed. of the month at 6:45 pm. Our first meeting will be Sept. 21 in the community room of the Senior Apartments across from the church. Barb Manley will be hostess. We are going to spend four lessons on the book of James in the New Testament. Study material will be available in early Sept. If you are interested in participating and weren't at the picnic, please give your name to Nancy Douglas, 684-3845, or see her at church. All are welcome, snowbirds, included. Just join us for as long as you can.

FAITH CIRCLE

meets at Noon on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Their study for this year is entitled, "Confessing the Beatitudes". Their first meeting is Sept. 20th at noon at Karen Tucci's home. All are welcome.

PW RETREAT

The Annual Retreat for the women of our church will be from 4:00 pm Friday, September 16th until 3:00 pm Saturday, September 17th.

Wendy Simcoe will lead the study, "A Time to Mourn and a Time to Dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:4b). Wendy advises: "we will use the tragic story of Jephthah's daughter found in Judges II to explore our own womanhood and the losses that come about as a result of our merely being born female. Through scripture, guided meditation, and prayer, the retreat will bring us from mourning losses (death, divorce, relocating, moving, life's disappointments), to surrendering and rediscovering the joy that God wants for all his daughters. I hope you will join us for this twenty-four hours designed to reconnect us to our roots as sisters in Christ."

Scholarships are available if needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Bring snacks for Friday. Breakfast and lunch on Saturday are served in dining hall. We will carpool. It's a great opportunity for fellowship, fun, food and sharing of faith. Any questions, please see Marlene or Sylvia.

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The dates for sealing and striping the parking lots and drives is August 29-31. It is planned to do half of it one day and the other half the next. The church will not be accessible during this time. The calendar has been noted/no conflicts. The security lights will have new batteries installed as soon as possible. The State Troopers have been notified of minor vandalism on the property. Our grounds look very nice, thanks to the professional and volunteer work.

ADULT STUDY

This year we will offer Sunday morning Adult Study following the preaching Lectionary. "Feasting on the Word" for Adults will begin October 16th @ 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please let Ann know if you will attend so the study material may be prepared.

A CHANGE OF HEART

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:21

Stewardship season is more a season for personal discernment than a time to balance finances. If we limit stewardship only to the realm of accounting and balance sheets we miss or all together lose the richness and power of God's intention for us in stewardship.

Stewardship begins with each one of us celebrating our relationship with Almighty God. It begins with us looking at our relationship with God and realizing all the wonderful gifts God has bestowed upon us. It is a time when we rediscover the talents God has built into us. In the acknowledgement of all that God has done for us, we are strengthened and encouraged with a desire to give back to God in response to all that we have received.

In this whole process our hearts are turned from the treasures of this world to the treasures of God and God's people. It is on this precious relationship that we base our response to God both in stewardship and in life itself.

Have you seen or experienced your God given treasures lately? Have you shared your wealth with others? Will your heart permit you to give as well as receive? My prayer for you this stewardship season is that you will find your God given talents and gifts and in thanksgiving allow God to change your heart to where your treasure is.

For the Stewardship Committee

Reverend Saunda E. Thomas

Marcia Vair, Chairperson

Lois Thurston, Treasurer

Sam Tucci

Karen Jacobs

Jessica Jacobs-Broedel

Bottle/Can Drive: We are, at this point, still collecting bottles and cans. A total will be printed in the bulletin soon. We are halfway to our goal of \$116 for this month. We have been signed up for a Bottle/Can Drive on Oct. 15. A decision will be made based on the number of volunteers. Sign-up sheet will be at the table in the Narthex soon. Thank you for your donations and support of this project. Sincerely,
Tom Lemery

Thank You For Helping To Save Lives!
The American Red Cross reports that the July 29th Blood Drive here at this church brought in 46 donors (4 first time donors). 43 donations were collected which will help 129 patients!

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team News

The PW Ministry Team met on August 24th. A copy of the minutes from this meeting is posted on the PW bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

At this meeting, the Team approved a monetary donation to our local RSVP in the amount of \$100.00. We felt that RSVP does a lot for our community and they put on a nice luncheon every year for anyone 55 years or older.

We received a nice thank you note from the Thea Bowman House for our recent donation of diapers, play clothes, school supplies and birthday gifts. Thank you to everyone who made a donation and a special thank you to Hope and Faith Circles for coordinating this mission.

We are now receiving *Horizons*, the Magazine for Presbyterian Women. If you would like your name added to the "routing list" to have this magazine passed on to you, please let Naydene know.

September 16-17 is our Women's Retreat at Vanderkamp. Wendy Sincoe will be presenting "A Time to Mourn and A Time to Dance." (See article on this in this newsletter.)

Sunday, October 2nd, Maxine, Calla and Wendy will be doing a presentation to the congregation on the PWSNE Conference they attended in Albany in July.

The two PW Circles will be starting up again in September. We will continue to have one Circle meet during the day and one Circle meet in the evening, giving anyone interested in a women's bible study an opportunity to join a Circle. Faith Circle, meets during the day, and they will be using the *Horizons* bible study program. Hope Circle, meets in the evening, and they will start out studying the Book of James.

There was an article and questionnaire form in the August newsletter concerning the Hospitality Committee. We encourage anyone who can help us in any way to complete the questionnaire and place it in the envelope marked "questionnaire" on the PW Bulletin Board in the fellowship hall. Extra questionnaire forms can be found on the bulletin board.

A reminder to everyone that the PW Country Crossroads Bazaar is only two months away. If there is anyone who would like to help, but not sure what to do, please contact Maxine Hunter or Naydene Ames, Bazaar Chairpersons.

Start spreading the word now and save the date of Monday, January 16, 2012. The "Valentine Express" will take place in the fellowship hall on this date at 1:00 P.M. This will be a time of fellowship when we will be inviting ladies from our church, their friends, and our community,

to join us in making Valentines for local residents and residents at Crouse Community Center. More information will be posted as we get closer to the date.

Our next PW Ministry Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. All PW are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Naydene Ames,
PW Secretary

SNACKS FOR OUR TROOPS are still needed. These items can be placed in the Narthex or dropped off at Judy Parker's. Many thanks for the items that have already been contributed for the Ft. Drum platoon in Afghanistan. They are appreciated.

NEWS FROM VANDERKAMP Fall Retreats



Call today to set up a time for a retreat with your group or family. There are many choices and opportunities waiting for you at Vanderkamp Center.



We are willing to work with you to support your stay this fall. A variety of retreat facilities and activities await you today! Call the office at 315-675-3651 to discuss with James for activity support or Jeff to set up a reservation. Our website gives you up-to-date information on activities at vk.org. Hope to see you soon.

Middle School Programmed Retreat!

We are offering our very first programmed middle school faith retreat for youth in 6th-8th grade, September 30-October 2. This program, entitled "**Growing in Faith**," will center on helping your youth discover where they are in their faith and talk about it. We will have focused small group discussions and larger group activities, including worshipping with music, playing games, and enjoying fellowship with other Christian youth in the area. No group is too small to attend, since all groups will be intermingled. This is a great opportunity to bring your youth to Vanderkamp to interact with other Christian youth in the area. Please let the youth leader in your church know about this retreat and have him or her call us with any questions.

Call the Vanderkamp Office today to reserve space for your group...315-675-3651. Check www.vk.org.

Senior High Retreat:

Sunday-Monday of Columbus Day weekend, October 9-10, we will be offering a retreat for 9th-12th graders to discuss the big issues facing teenagers of faith in the modern world. We'll talk about what it means to be a Christian leader in a peer group that might not share our values, and how difficult that can be. We'll have a modern worship and some games - but we'll really be trying to focus on leaving with a plan of action to take with us as we return to the outside world as confident Christians. Come out and join the fun! The youth enjoyed this retreat last year and we are sure they will have a great time again this year! Call the Vanderkamp Office today to reserve space for your group...

315-675-3651. Check www.vk.org.

Have a Question?

Need to contact us for information?

...Check the website at www.vk.org, often. Join us on facebook too!

<http://www.facebook.com/vanderkampcenter>

...If you do not have computer, please feel free to call Vanderkamp Center directly at 315-675-3651 at any time for questions or reservations. We look forward with anticipation to growing in ministry together.

5th ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Mark November 5 on your calendar now for our fifth annual Silent Auction! Interesting that our 5th will be on the 5th? This event raises funds to support camperships and our Summer Camp program, which support youth unable to attend camp related to financial need to do so. This is one way we can fulfill our desire to help spread the word. With over 200 camper weeks of participation this summer, we noted a big need for financial support. With your help, more youth will be able to come to Vanderkamp to learn about God and live in a Christian community for a week.

New Year's Reunion!

Mark Your Calendars Now...

Campers, staff, alumni, and friends are invited to join us for our New Year's Reunion retreat! From December 30 through January 1, we'll be doing Vanderkamp in the snow! All you need to bring is some warm clothing, a sleeping bag, and yourself to enjoy catching up with all of your friends from summers past. Anyone ages 7 and up is welcome to attend. Call 675-3651 and reserve your space. Don't miss out on all the sledding, snowballs, and friendship!

Remodeled Confirmation Lodge:

Confirmation Lodge has received a bit of a makeover! The large room on the right has been divided into 2 rooms, by many willing hands over the past couple of months. Southern Comfort began the process in May with Rick, Dave, Richard and Bill successively throughout the summer. Thank you one and all! Confirmation Lodge is now not only handicap accessible from the outside, but inside as well. It is a great retreat lodge for a small group.

Fall Work Day...Reserve the day!

Everyone is invited to join us October 29, any time or all day, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to ready the camp for winter. Hardly seems possibly! Whether you desire to rake, paint, store picnic tables or use a hammer, we can find a project! Lunch provided. Reservations appreciated for our planning pleasures. Contact us at 315-675-3651 or e-mail us at ykcenter@vk.org. A desire to share in the tasks is all that is needed! All are welcome to share in a great day together! If you don't call us, join us anyway!!!

Summer Camp Update

We had a fantastic summer with just over 200 camper weeks a big part of this summer's fun and fellowship at Vanderkamp. Many thanks to pastors Zach Labagh and Gail Riina for being with us for a week and to SU student, Sam Mbaja who enjoyed his first week so much he stayed the rest of the summer. We wish him well as he begins at Princeton Theological Seminary. As we write this, Family Camp is in full swing. Amboy Belle Isle United Church is attending Family Camp and holding its VBS this week at Vanderkamp. We are grateful to have reached so many this summer.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

When you start a new life
As husband and wife,
God is always there.

When death does make you part,
Or someone leaves your heart,
God is always there.

When you're blessed with a bundle of joy --
A baby girl or a baby boy,
God is always there.

When the minutes pass you by
As you look into the sky,
God is always there.

When life has got the nerve
To throw you its nasty curve,
God is always there.

When life for you is great
And a motive to celebrate,
God is always there.

Whether you're young or "more mature,"
Whatever life that you endure,
God is always there.

From the day of your birth
To the day you leave the Earth,
God is always there.

When your life is full of joy
Or you need some tender care....
Or reminded of the beauty in everything....
God is always there.

-THOMAS LEMERY-

RECIPES

The following two delicious dishes were served at the August 14th Coffee Hour and many have asked for the recipes:

Recipe for Barley Salad -

Jeanette Michael

At Wegman's - box of Mother's Barley (it cooks in 10 minutes),
Also at Wegman's - white balsamic vinegar (*When you get home remove the cap and stopper from the bottle and put a large clove of garlic - cut in half. Return stopper & cap - keep in refrig.*)

1 cup of uncooked barley is enough for 2 (a full box is for a party or large family).

Cool the barley in cold water after cooking. Add vinegar, olive oil (I use Berio) and ground pepper to taste (I do not use any salt). Add Mrs. Dash - Onion and Herb - to taste (salt free).

You can add cooked or uncooked veggies. You can use extra herbs (I sometimes use fresh basil or parsley. You can also use oregano, dill or other herbs). I use pitted Kalamata olives - chopped up and add any of the items below:

cucumber peas corn tomato onion
carrots celery broccoli mushrooms
red or green peppers zucchini, beans (any)
capers green beans any olives etc,

If you want it to be a meal, add tuna or chicken or ham and/or chunks of cheese.

Recipe for Carrot Soup -

Audra Mockovak

1 qt. chicken broth
5 or 6 large carrots sliced or small chunks
1 large peeled potato cut up
1/2 large onion

Boil vegetables in broth until soft. Puree in blender or mixer and add 1 T ginger paste.

Soup can then wait, or store in refrigerator overnight. Before serving, bring to boil - stir so won't burn or stick. Add 1 pt. sour cream and heat. Do Not Boil or the cream will curdle.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

2011-2012 Book Club Selections (4th Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted)
12:30 - Lunch; 1 - 2 pm - Discussion in Church Library

- 9/22 "365 Thank Yous" by John Kralik
Edith Mabon, Leader
- 10/27 "Promise Me" by Nancy Brinker
Ethel Crane, Leader
- 11/17* **"Healing the Heart of Democracy"** by Parker J. Palmer **
Saunda Thomas, Leader
- 12/15* "The Christmas Sweater" by Glenn Beck
Karen Jacobs, Leader
- 1/26 "Minding Frankie" by Maeve Binchy
Midge Herrick, Leader
- 2/23 "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah
Harriet Stevens, Leader
- 3/22 "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen
Audrey Howard, Leader
- 4/26 "Sarah's Key" by Tatiana de Rosnay
Karen Tucci, Leader
- 5/24 "The Bucolic Plague" by Josh Kilmer-Purcell - Dot Mulcahey, Leader

6/22 "The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Wall

* **Third Thursday**

* **Please Note Change of Book from Original List**

Community Action Partnership for Madison County thanks you for your generous in kind donation to CAP. Gifts like yours make possible a number of programs and services that help our vulnerable neighbors in Madison County become more self-sufficient. Last year alone, about one in 16 Madison County residents were helped by CAP with rent and utility payments, reliable transportation to work, meeting nutritional needs, gaining skills needed to raise healthy children, become home owners, and so much more.