



**MORROW
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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"Reflecting Christ Together"

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News for Kids



Children's Christmas Party

December 8, 2012

11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Lunch Provided

Bring your children (ages Toddler to 5th grade) and enjoy spending time with them while they do crafts, hear Christmas stories, sing songs, eat lunch, and have their picture made with Santa!

Kids' Club Christmas Program



December 9, 2012

Dinner at 6 p.m. Program at 7 p.m.

Our MPC Kids' Club, along with helpers from the Youth, will present their annual Christmas program at 7 p.m. following the family night supper on Sunday, December 9. Our covered dish supper begins at 6 p.m. Joy Gift Offering at this time.

Christmas Joy is a musical for kids from Pam Andrews that focuses on the joy that came to earth when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Youth Party—December 16

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16, 5 -7 p.m.

at the Hooten home

The Youth will have their annual Christmas party at the home of Ronnie, Dianne, & Matthew Hooten during the regular youth fellowship time of 5 - 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. They will have pizza and subs for dinner. Youth with last names beginning with A-L, please bring a dessert or snacks. Youth with last names beginning with M-Z, please bring a 2-liter drink. Please bring a wrapped ornament for the exchange.

Christmas Trees

Narthex Tree. If you would like to send a Christmas card to everyone in the congregation to share your Christmas message, a good way to do that is to send one to the church to be placed on the narthex Christmas tree. The money you may wish to include in your card this year will go toward one of our church expenses.

Fellowship Hall Tree. We will continue our new tradition of having a family tree in the fellowship hall. Please bring an ornament with your name on it to represent your family, and place it on the tree in the fellowship hall.

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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Morrow Presbyterian
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The Pastor's Pen



I read a wonderful article from *ChristianityToday.com*, and I felt the need to share it with you. Mighty Christmas to you and yours (*merry* in old English means *mighty*)!

The Humble Gift, by LaTonya Taylor

I sat near the back of the sanctuary as the soloist made his way to the stage. He looked to be around 16 with a preoccupied expression on his face. He sat down behind a music stand, adjusted his papers, and gently placed his bass guitar on his lap.

He then sang the familiar song *The Little Drummer Boy*. It's about a little boy who visits the newborn Jesus, and realizing that he has no gift to honor this baby king, the boy offers what he does have: the gift of his ability. He asks if he can play a drum solo.

My heart was moved as the soloist sang the final lines of the song, where the baby Jesus responds to the drummer boy's gift: *I played my best for him ... then he smiled at me.*

In many ways, this singer demonstrated the beautiful truth of this story. He was humbly dressed in a baggy sweater and khakis. His voice was soft and a little tentative. He looked down at his music the whole time. When the song was over, he simply gathered his music and walked to the back of the stage so the choir could file in. I was moved by his humility, by his gentle, quiet spirit. This simple, tentative rendition of the song was his gift to God. It was beautiful. And it was enough.

The Bible doesn't mention the story of the little drummer boy and, as far as we know, it isn't true in the literal sense. But the writer of this beautiful song knew a deeper truth: that God is pleased when we give him our best.

Think of what the songwriter was trying to convey. A simple boy, like any one of us, played a loud, clattering, startling, ear-assaulting drum solo as a gift to a baby? It came from a pure heart. The smiling Christ-child sensed the purity of the young man's heart and responded with his own gift—the beaming face of God, the approval and gratitude of the tightly swaddled Almighty. *Thank you. That was beautiful. What you brought Me was enough.*

In many ways, Jesus was kind of like the drummer boy, and like the soloist I saw at church. Isaiah 53:2 says that Jesus wasn't beautiful or stunning or especially majestic—that he had “no beauty of majesty in his appearance to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” In fact, a lot of people missed the chance to get to know Jesus, because he seemed so ordinary.

But he was God's extraordinary gift, someone who came to wear a body like we do, to have a heart that knew abandonment, loneliness, betrayal and pain. He came to be bruised and misunderstood, to take a punishment beyond what our human hearts and bodies could withstand. He came to bring forgiveness and joy and peace and healing and hope and the promise of a perfect eternity.

My hope is that sometime during the rush and excitement of this season you'll have an experience like the one I had during that song. I hope that you'll see or hear something that makes your heart quiet and overflow the way mine did. That you'll have a humble moment when you can offer a silent prayer to God: *Thank you. You are beautiful. What You gave us is more than enough.*

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Mary Bridges, Grandma Moriles, Vrina Stebbins (friend of Audrey Sharpe), Frank Archer, Wilma Bell, Jo Bevil, Cindy Bond, Allie Brandon, Charlie Brown, Brian & Angela Cartledge, Marcia Cartledge, Kathryn Cartledge-Eve, Jean Chase, Jean Costa, Maria Cruz, Rose Dills, Chrissie Edwards, Ralph Fadner, Haywood Fordham, Will Felt, Earl & Connie Funk, Brenda Garner, Heather Gerald, Georgene Grant, Spencer Grant, Delores & Jack Hall, Gene Hammond, Howard Harden, Bob Hardy, Eddie Hooten, Adolpho Incerry, Sherry Johnson, Barbara Kelly, Jean Kester, Mike Martin, Julia McLeod, David Moss, Josiah Moss, Gladys Parkerson, Jane Pate, Cathy Purvis, Donna Randolph, Keith Rhoden, Luis Saavedra, Michael Scott, Ellen Smith, Joe & Betty Spier, Keith Stanley, Margaret Strelsky, Forrest & Ann Thornton, Ian Turner, Edith Walston, Franklin Warlick, Carolyn Weems, Beth Wheeler, Eddy Wheeler, Virginia Wheeler, Jeff Yarbrough. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al **Tinio** & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth **Turk** - Madagascar. Bryant **Harden**, Peace Corps, Mongolia. **OUR MILITARY:** SPC Jonathan **Amason**, - National Guard, Afghanistan; Scott **Bland** - Navy, Virginia; Shaun **Bland** - Navy, Georgia; Stephen **Brown** - Army Reserves, Arizona; Kevin **Brown** - Army - Fort Riley, KS; Jeffrey & Maribel **Brown** - both in Army Reserves, Georgia; Jeremy **Butler** - Japan; 1st Sgt Chris **Chastain**, Kosovo; PFC Daniel **Costa** - Afghanistan; Robert **Crain**, Tennessee; PVT Joseph **Eason**, Germany; Najee **Hall** - San Diego, CA; SR Drew **Hayes** - Navy; Great Lakes, IL; Kevin **Krebs**, Tennessee; Capt. Adam **Martin**; SGT Edward "Buddy" **McKenzie**, III, - Milledgeville; Brent **Paul** - Military College of GA; Cole **Springer** - Army; SrA Richard **Venizelos** - Scott AFB, Illinois; SPC Justin **Warlick** - Afghanistan; Aaron **Wescott** - Navy Special Forces - Afghanistan

Christmas Get-Togethers

The PWCT will meet on **December 1** at **10 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall for a light brunch, followed by a short meeting, fellowship and gift exchange - \$10 max.

The Church Staff will meet at the home of Pastor John on **December 6** at **6:30 p.m.** Please bring a beverage and an ornament to exchange.

The Virginia Dews Circle will meet at the *church* on **December 10** at **6:30 p.m.** Remember to bring your favorite finger food. We will also be exchanging gifts (\$5.00 limit please).

The Dorcas Circle will meet at the church on **December 11** at **10 a.m.** The group will have their annual alphabet soup, so please bring a can of vegetables beginning with the first letter of your name. In lieu of exchanging gifts, the circle will bring diapers for the food pantry.

The Morning Glory Circle will meet at Tamara Callahan's home on **December 15** at **11 a.m.** Please bring an ornament to exchange.

The Young-at-Heart Christmas get-together will be at Golden Corral on Jonesboro Road in McDonough. The group will meet there at **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19.** If you need a ride, there will be a carpool from the church at 12:30. Look forward to a large group getting together and enjoying a Christmas feast!!! See you there!



Flower Calendar



Sanctuary Flowers. If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary, there are a few openings left for the remainder of this year. Days available are: December 2, 23, 30. You may put the flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. You will be billed directly by Morrow Florist. The 2013 Flower Calendar is also now available.

Church Office Closed

December 25 and 26, 2012

and

December 31, 2012 and January 1, 2013

The MPC Church Staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

New Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m.— 3:45 p.m.

As one step in becoming better stewards of our finances, beginning in January 2013, the church office will be closed on Fridays to utilize less energy. The office will remain open forty-five minutes extra each day Monday—Thursday.

Operation Christmas Blessing



What good is a blessing if you cannot share it? Grandma Moriles is inviting you to share your blessings with the children of the Uptown Church in the Philippines this Christmas. For \$2, a child will not go hungry on Christmas day. They will be given rice and canned goods. Grandma continues this holiday tradition of "feeding the soul and the body" with excitement and joy. She appreciates all your prayers and continued support for the Uptown Church.

"God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Thank You Notes

From Mason & Elizabeth Barfield ... Dear MPC Family, How wonderful that after being gone a year, we are still family! How you guys blessed us the other night with your support, love, and music will never be forgotten. Seeing each of you was sweet and reminded us of how much we miss our life at MPC. Mason remarked when we pulled off the exit that it felt as if we were going home—and I think it will give us that feeling for a long time due to the love we share with you. Thank you so much! God bless MPC.

From the Moriles Family... To Our Wonderful Youth Family, Our family would like to thank all of you who have helped us during Kathlyn's car accident. We are grateful for your support, love, and prayers. We praise and thank God that Kathlyn came out without serious consequences. Shout out to Dock & Andra, Marie & HR, Dianne and Matthew, Bruce, David & Angela, Kesia, Donna, Tanya, Sheila and all the wonderful young people in our church. We love you!

From Bob Hardy... Dear friends, It's a wonderful blessing to have a church home in Morrow. Over 38 years ago Gail and I found a loving, caring, teaching, sharing, and praying church at Morrow Presbyterian. You are all in our hearts and prayers. We are so thankful for your prayers, especially recently. Thank you for all the cards sent from the Session and Peacemakers Life Group. May God's richest blessings be with you, The Session, John, and Morrow Presbyterian. Gail & I hope to see you soon.

From Marcia Cartledge... A big thank you to the Dorcas Circle for donating 18 Christmas shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child Project. This is more than last year and we hope to beat that number next year. Also, a BIG thanks to Mary Ann Moriles' Sunday School class for their 4 boxes, included in this count. You all are wonderful!!

From Brenda Garner, 2012 PW Moderator... It has been my privilege to serve as your Moderator of the Presbyterian Women this year and I have been truly blessed to have been supported by an outstanding, hardworking team whom have been totally committed and have worked so hard - a true team effort! Many projects were completed with all the help of the women.

Our year began with our annual retreat at Camp Calvin in January attended by 51 ladies in which we explored "The Garden of Our Hearts" as it relates to our spiritual life. In May, we honored Deborah Venizelos as our Honorary Life Membership at our annual Mother's Day Lunch "Come to the Garden" at which we explored the garden as it relates to our journey with Christ. In June we honored our Morrow Presbyterian Man of the Year - a very surprised Allen Grant, Sr. While our Circles worked on many projects in support of our church, community, new parents, college students and our military, we continued our support to Thornwell Home and School for Children. Our major project was the new blinds for the Fellowship Hall and the Pacers Sunday School Room along with new skirted white tablecloths for receptions. Special thanks to each member of our team and all Morrow Presbyterian women for all you've done to complete so many projects.

Thank you for honoring me on November 11 with the corsage, card, donation to the Fellowship Hall project on my behalf, as well as the beautiful, fall-colored scarf. May God continue to bless each of you and our 2013 team.

From Brenda Garner... My appreciation and thanks to each of you for your prayers, visits, cards, meals and support you've provided Don and me following my fall and resulting surgery and recuperation. We are truly blessed and fortunate to be a part of such a caring Church.

Save the Date, Ladies



The Annual Ladies Retreat will be on **Saturday, January 26, 2013**, at Calvin Center from **8:30 a.m. to 2:30 pm**, and will be led by our beloved Gail Hardy. Come and be renewed and refreshed as we start a new year.

Free to a Good Home

LEGO Bionicles. Parker Callahan is giving away 45 sets of his LEGO Bionicles to the first person interested. Each set has instructions. If you are interested, you may call Parker at 678-628-2059.