



**MORROW  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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*"Reflecting Christ Together"*

**We're on the Web! Visit us at  
[www.morrowpresbyterian.org](http://www.morrowpresbyterian.org)**

**Welcome New Members**

**Nelson Avodele**

Nelson joined on November 19, 2017 by *Profession of Faith*. His address is 6252 North Lee Street, Apt. 78, Morrow, GA 30260. He has been attending since June of this year. Nelson enjoys sports, using the internet, writing, watching television and exercising. Nelson helps with the food pantry each week.

**Jacob Petroziello**

Jacob joined on November 19, 2017 by *Reaffirmation of Faith*. Jacob has been attending for some time with his new wife, Jasmin (formerly Cos) who is already a member of MPC. Their address is 5918 Malibu Drive, Morrow, GA 30260. Jacob helps with Kids Club on Sunday nights. He is a materials handler/picker. Jacob enjoys reading, helping others, sports, repairing things, and teaching kids.

**Agnes Noel**

Agnes joined on November 19, 2017 by *Reaffirmation of Faith*. Her address is 6252 North Lee Street, Apt. 30, Morrow, GA 30260. Agnes has been attending since September of this year. Agnes enjoys teaching Pre-Kindergarten, reading, information technology, and helping young children.



**Welcome Nelson, Jacob, and Agnes!**

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**MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Morrow Presbyterian  
Herald**

**The Pastor's Pen**



When I hear or read about something bad happening in the news, I get frustrated. I let out a big gasp of exasperation and wonder how another terrible act could happen in the world.

This is my personal belief: there are 7.5 billion people on the planet. About 1.3 billion live in China and about 1.3 billion live in India. The USA can boast about 326 million. So there are all these people in the world, which means there are 7.5 billion different possibilities for sin. Some of those misdeeds are all the same, but some are horribly inventive and unequivocally destructive. This is what I think when I hear or read another story about another terrible thing done to innocent people. There are so many ways to refuse God and work against God's love and grace that we are unable to count or even imagine them all. We would rather not.

Sounds overwhelming, when I put it that way. 7,500,000,000 ways to sin? Ugh! Well, when I think this way after receiving bad news, I do not lose hope. I instantly think the following: There are also 7,500,000,000 ways for God to reveal his salvation. Sin may be prolific but God's grace is even more prolific.

Paul says to the Romans, "[Where] sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord' (5:20-21). Where there is sin, there is God to remove it. When sin wants to make an appearance, Christ is there to wash it away with his righteousness. "The new world is the Kingdom of God," Karl Barth says, "and the sphere of His sovereignty and power. As new [people], we stand at its threshold. God Himself, and God alone, wills and elects, creates and redeems." 7.5 billion people may do whatever they want, yet God will enter each situation and reveal his grace and love. God speaks to all 7.5 billion at the same time with words of hope and life.

Since Advent is here, consider this; Jesus came into the world for all 7.5 billion. The 1.3 billion who live in China may generally worship Taoism, and the 1.3 billion from India may gravitate toward Hinduism and Buddhism, yet Jesus came into the world for them. Jesus was born to all people from every corner of the world, even those corners of which we have never heard. Jesus came so that all people from every nation may approach him and receive his blessings. Jesus came so that all might know God and live in an everlasting relationship with God. Some of the 7.5 billion in the world might not know it, but Jesus is their Savior. Jesus is their Life. They may put away their sin and believe.

Bad things still happen, and we may or may not hear or read about them. When we do, consider how broken and lost this world is. Consider also how this world has one Savior to restore and redeem it all. Jesus came to make sure all things end up with God. It can be said that Christmas Day is a threshold through which people walk. Jesus is there to keep the threshold open. It is our hope that all will walk through.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>. This is a fun website – spend some time with it when you can.

<sup>2</sup> *The Epistle to the Romans*, 187.



## Prayer Requests

**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Family of Franklin Warlick, Albert Coughlin, Chuck Depoy, Thomas Chukwura, Pauline Buchanan, Maria Cruz, Susie Grant, Willie Sharpe, Margaret Strelsky, Shirley Barnett, Carol Bevil, Jo Bevil, Mary Bridges, Allene Brown, Susan Brown, Mary Butler, Rey Cabayan, Joyce Cagle, Virginia Cagle, Bill & Lucie Cantrell, Marcia Cartledge, Betty Colwell, Laura Dempsey, Ilona Dorsey, Doug Duvall, Terry Dyche, Pilar Fabella, Jessica Giddens, Gary & Janice Grant, Judi Greene & Puddles, Eddie Greer, Lila Haney, Robb Haney, Mary Ann Hathaway, Charles Hoquist, Carson Knoll, Tricia Koehler, Leah Lipps, Stephanie Lozel, Nancy Matthews, Grandma & Grandpa Moriles, Jimmy Mullinax, Nan Norton, Enyidia Onuoha, Virginia Oswalt, Rick Peel, John Popovich, Beverly Pruett, Pat Randolph, Wendy Ray, Linda Souza, Keith Stanley, Emily Starr, Ann Thornton, Laurel Underwood, Stuart Updike, The Uptown Church and the Philippines, Sharon Veldsma, Venezuela, Lori Warlick, Eddy Wheeler, Steve White, Gene Williams, Terry & Margie Williams, Bruce Winkles, Jesse Woods. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al **Tinio** & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth **Turk** – Madagascar. **OUR MILITARY:** SGT Kevin **Brown**, Army—Kansas; SGT Jaime **Brown**, Army, Kansas; Jeremy **Butler** – Marines; Joseph **Eason** – Army - Texas, PFC Najee **Hall**, Army, CA; Kevin **Krebs**, AK; TSG Richard **Venizelos** – deployed to Iraq. **Our College Students.** *A full prayer list is available in the narthex.*

## Santa Claus Express



**Santa Claus Express 2017.** The Santa Claus Express will be heading out to the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Donations for December are **puzzles, books, and word search magazines.**

**The drop-off deadline is the end of the year.**

## 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.

**Family Tree—Fellowship Hall.** Several years ago we started a Family Tree which is placed in our fellowship hall. YOU are invited and encouraged to bring an ornament that has your name on it to represent your family. If you already have an ornament from previous years, please feel free to bring another. Hooks will be available in the fellowship hall to use to hang your ornament.

## Family Night Supper—Dec 10

**Please come support our kids & staff!** The Kids Club will present their Christmas program, *“Shepherds, Stars and a Savior”* on Sunday, December 10. Covered Dish at 6 p.m. (please bring extra food)—Program at 7 p.m. The MPC Staff will be recognized as part of our Joy Gift Program.

## Christmas Eve Service—7 p.m.



**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion service** will be on Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 7 p.m. **Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through vignettes and song.** Please bring your family and join with your friends!

## Youth Christmas Party



**Youth—December 3, 5—7 p.m.** The Youth will have their annual Christmas party at the Hooten home during the regular youth fellowship time of 5 - 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 3. Dinner provided. Youth with last names beginning with A-L, please bring a dessert. Youth with last names beginning with M-Z, please bring a 2-liter soda. **Please bring a wrapped ornament for the exchange.**

## Children’s Christmas Party

**Children’s Christmas Party, December 9, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m.** Come enjoy spending time with your child(ren) while they do crafts, hear the Christmas story, eat a light lunch, decorate their own cookie, and have their picture made with Santa!

## Special Music Programs



**Canterbury Choir’s Christmas Cantata**

**December 10, 11 a.m.**  
*“Breath of Heaven”*

“The songs and narration give a fresh perspective of Christmas by taking a closer look at the compassionate heart of Mary.”

## Kids’ Club Christmas Program

December 10, 6 p.m. FNS and 7 p.m. Program  
*“Shepherds, Stars, and a Savior”*

## Contemporary Worship Christmas Service

December 17, 6:16 p.m.

*Christ is the Lord  
O praise His Name  
forever*



## Church Office Closed

**December 25 & 26, 2017**

*The MPC Church Staff wishes everyone  
a Merry Christmas!*



## Thank You Notes

**From Albert Coughlin...** My sincere gratitude for all the support during my surgery and recovery. I have been around a lot of church families in my 51 years, and MPC is definitely the best!

**From Virginia Cagle...** I want to thank my Church family for all the phone calls, cards, and prayers while I am still getting over the bad bruising I received when I had a wreck. Please continue praying for me. Love in Christ to all.

**From Grandma Moriles...** Please pray for our Christmas Operation Blessing. Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” You are the answer. Thank you! Whatever amount you can give to the Lord. The government will take the earthquake refugees to a good place. God willing.

**From the Worship Ministry Team...** Many thanks to those who helped “hang the greens:” Jo Calhoun, Tamara Callahan, The Campbells, Bud & Judy Chapman, Albert, Tico, and Luis Coughlin, Marcus Davis, Anne Fordham, The Gammages, Ronnie & Dianne Hooten, Michael & Lisa Johnson, Linda & Norman Lillie, Stephanie Lozel, Libby McNair, and Deborah Venizelos.

**From Lucie Cantrell...** Thank you for all you are doing—for your cards and prayers.

## Oper Christmas Blessing - Dec 17

**Operation Christmas Blessing** was started in 2007 as a ministry of the Uptown Congregation Church in the Philippines. As an Uptown Church representative, Grandma Moriles is asking your help once again in supporting this ministry through your prayers and financial help. Checks to MPC, earmarked *Operation Christmas Blessing* may be placed in the offering plate along with your regular contributions on December 17.

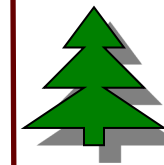
## Young at Heart Activities



**Young at Heart, A Christmas Carol, December 6, 9:30 a.m.** The YAH will be going to Clayton State University on Wednesday, December 6, to see *“A Christmas Carol.”* They will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$5 plus meal.

**YAH, Christmas Luncheon, December 13, 11 a.m.** The YAH will have their Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 13, at 11 a.m. at Bay Breeze in Hampton. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## Presbyterian Women



**PWCT—December 3, 1:00 p.m.** The PWCT December Meeting / Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Ann Moriles, 382 Emerald Trace, Jonesboro, GA 30236. All 2017 and 2018 members are invited to attend. Please bring a \$ 5 gift to exchange.



**The Virginia Dews Circle—December 11, 6:30 p.m.** The next meeting of the Virginia Dews Circle will be on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas meal. Meat (baked ham) is being provided so please bring the side dish you indicated at our November meeting. There will be a short program after the meal followed by our gift exchange.



**The Dorcas Circle— December 12, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle invites all ladies to join them for their annual Christmas meeting at 10:00 a.m., December 12, in the Fellowship Hall. Soup’s on! Bring a can of vegetables that begin with your name to add to the pot for our annual soup lunch. Suzanne Lukat will lead the Bible study on Ephesians. Sharon Goza has the devotion.

**The Morning Glory Circle—NO December meeting** The Morning Glory Circle will not have a regular meeting in December.



**The Annual Ladies Retreat** will be on **Saturday, January 20, 2018**, at Calvin Center from **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm.** Stay tuned for more details. Be sure to save the date!

## Downing of the Browns, Dec 31

**Downing of the Browns – December 31, 12:15 p.m.** Many volunteers are needed to help take down the church decorations. Please plan on staying after church. Your help would be greatly appreciated!