



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"Reflecting Christ Together"

We're on the Web! Visit us at

www.morrowpresbyterian.org

Congratulations to Mollie Buchanan



Congratulations to Molly Buchanan for recently receiving certified membership into Happy Tails Pet Therapy of Atlanta. Molly is a 2-year-old shih-tzu mix rescue dog and was adopted by Pauline in August 2011. Happy Tails is a volunteer organization that was founded in 1991 and has since grown to 100 members serving 91 facilities in the metro area. These volunteers share the unconditional love of their pets with people of all ages with physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs at healthcare facilities, social

agencies, and special-needs programs throughout the metropolitan Atlanta community. Molly has completed 18 weeks of training, receiving advanced obedience certification and AKC Good Citizenship. In December 2012 she completed the behavioral, temperament, and obedience testing requirements to become a certified therapy dog. Molly's visits will include Winwood Elementary School special needs classes, Waterford Assisted Living, and Scottish-Rite Children's Hospital. Way to go, Molly!

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone..." Galatians 6:10

MPC Food Pantry BBQ



The MPC Food Pantry will be holding their annual BBQ fundraiser on Sunday, Feb 17 immediately following the worship service. They will have BBQ and all the fixings. All proceeds will benefit our Food Pantry mission. The Food Pantry team would like to thank the entire congregation for your amazing support of this ministry in our local community. So mark your calendar for Feb 17 and bring a friend to enjoy a BBQ lunch with us.

Choices!

Winter Youth Retreat —February 22 & 23, 2013. The Youth will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 22 (please eat dinner before you arrive) to travel down to Camp Fortson. They will return back to church for the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 24. Cost: \$40 per youth—includes food and lodging. Please give your payment to Andra by February 17. Bring Bible, snacks to share, 2-liter drink, sleeping bag, pillow, towels, toiletries, warm clothes and shoes that can get muddy. NO electronic devices of any kind!

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Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



Well, he finally came out with it. The news has been abuzz with Lance Armstrong, the now-discredited seven-time champion of the Tour de France, confessing to Oprah Winfrey his use of performance-enhancing drugs as a cycling competitor. The fall-out and damage control has begun, already starting with trophies and cash prizes returned.

The news is also abuzz about the apology he offered. Was it earnest enough? Was it well rehearsed and thus fake? Some of us might think back to celebrities who apologized for their misconduct: Jimmy Swaggart and former President Bill Clinton for infidelity, Mark McGwire and Andy Pettitte for cheating in baseball. They and others also offered formal apologies before the public, some with large tears streaming down their cheeks. A number of people took the words at face value and forgave, and others believed they were just rehearsing something in order to save their pride and careers.

When a person says "Sorry," to whom does the apology need to be offered? Obviously to those who were offended. We usually think of friends close to that person who were harmed by their behavior. We think of family members – spouses, children, and even parents – who thought they were people of love and integrity, but now those have come into question. What about to the general public? Do fans of these celebrities need to hear the apology? Fans do not have the same close relationship with their heroes, as heroes have with their circles of friends. An apology may be given, but I don't think fans or the general public have a right, then, to watch over that hero like a hawk to make sure he (or she) stays on the straight and narrow.

What about to God? Other than Jimmy Swaggart, I have never heard one apology from one celebrity offered to their Lord and God. In 2 Samuel 12, the prophet Nathan reveals to King David the error of his ways. He tells the king how he will pay for his sin. David breaks down and offers a heartfelt apology. Sometime thereafter, he wrote a psalm that addressed the gravity of his sin. "I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me," Psalm 51:3-4 say. "Against you, and you alone [dear Lord] have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight." He apologized to God. He fasted and slept on the ground as his way to offer penance.

We do not question David's confession of guilt. We trust that it was honest and true. Although he stayed king of Israel and took Bathsheba as a wife, he was scarred by his selfish actions. We believe that the same forgiveness that God offered David may be the same we could receive, no matter what we have done.

Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. It is a time that we may consider how our sins are ever before us, and how we need to offer them to God as an apology. We may take the time to consider how we offended somebody, and what we should do to heal and smooth the path between us.

We may also consider how we view the apologies of others. Do we take them seriously, or are we cynical and tend to think there is a hidden agenda? Maybe we need to ask God to give us a wider understanding, one that is wide enough to allow people to offer their words at face value, wide enough to trust that God will heal and repair them.

As we come closer to Easter, we might get a better sense of what God's mercy and grace are like. We might see as God sees people: sometimes frustrating, yet lost and in need of direction. We always need direction because of our sin, and thank goodness God is there to pick us up, brush us off, and give us one more chance.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Family of Cotton Volman, Paul & Cathy Letalien & Family (friends of the Coughlins), Pat & Winkie Branson & family (requested by Jack Bell), Kris Hooten, Frank Archer, Wilma Bell, Jo Bevil, David Bradley, Allie Brandon, Mary Bridges, Brian & Angela Cartledge, Marcia Cartledge, Kathryn Cartledge-Eve, Jean Chase, Ralph Fadner, Will Felt, Sherri Frye, Earl & Connie Funk, Victor Garaffa, Ramon Gonsalves, Spencer Grant, Gene Hammond, Bob Hardy, Eddie Hooten, Adolpho Incerry, Sherry Johnson, Barbara Kelly, Jean Kester, David Laster, Barbara Lester, Julia McLeod, Grandma Moriles, David Moss, Cathy Purvis, Keith Rhoden, Luis Saavedra, Ellen Smith, Joe & Betty Spier, Keith Stanley, Vrina Stebbins, Margaret Strelsky, Forrest & Ann Thornton, James Tinsley, Ian Turner, Edith Walston, Eddy 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; Jaime **Brown** - Army - Fort Benning, GA; 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; SrA Richard **Venizelos** - Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS; SPC Justin **Warlick** - PRAISE! home from Afghanistan; Aaron **Wescott** - Navy Special Forces - Afghanistan

It's Amore!



It's Amore! Make plans now to attend the Valentines Dinner on **Saturday, February 9 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** The menu will feature lasagna and spaghetti along with salad, bread, and dessert. The cost will be \$12 per person. For your evening's entertainment, music and fun will be provided by DJ Don Lewis. A nursery will be provided for children five and younger. For older children (6+), "Tween" activities will be hosted by volunteers from the Youth Group. A pizza dinner will be available for \$3 per child. Please fill out a reservation form in the church's narthex by Wednesday,

February 6. Don't miss this opportunity for a fabulous evening with your MPC friends and family.

Soles for Souls



Do you have any gently-used shoes that you would like to get out of your closet?

Amanda Callahan and Alyssa Tuttle, on behalf of the Union Grove Middle School Junior Beta Club, are collecting all size shoes for those in need. If you have any you would like to donate, please rubber band each pair together and bring them to Amanda and Alyssa. There will be a container in the hallway in which to place them. Deadline is Sunday, February 24.

2012 Giving Statements

Your 2012 Giving Statements are available. They are on a table in the narthex. If you do not see your name, please check with Dianne Hooten.

Flower Calendar

Sanctuary Flowers. If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary, the calendar for 2013 is posted on the library window. February & March are available. 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.

Young at Heart News

Goin' Fishin'. The Young-at-Heart group will sponsor a brand-new "1940's Radio Drama." You will be privileged to enjoy the premiere showing of "Goin' Fishin'" written by our own Frank Warlick. Talented actors and actresses have been recruited to present this special feature for you. This drama may be seen and heard in the MPC fellowship hall on **Wednesday, February 6, at 11 a.m.** You do not have to be a member of the Young-at-Heart group to attend. There will be a charge of \$8.00 (Chick-fil-A lunch!). Don't let this golden opportunity pass you by. It is guaranteed that you will have a great time and enjoy both the drama and the lunch!! **Make reservations with Ken Campbell, 770-961-2272, no later than Sunday, February 3.**

Opportunity Needed



One of our college students, Alex Foss, is in need of flexible hour job opportunities. He can do small scale construction, light plumbing, landscaping, house cleaning—a jack of all trades. The job needs to be in the Morrow area unless transportation is provided. If you have any small jobs available, please contact Alex at 863-669-6396. Thank you.

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

Presbyterian Women Circles

Virginia Dews Circle - February 11, 6:30 p.m., at the church. They will continue the Horizons Bible Study, "Dispatches to God's Household, the General Epistles," Chapter 4.

Dorcas Circle - February 12, 10 a.m., at the church. They will continue the Horizons Bible Study, "Dispatches to God's Household, the General Epistles," Chapter 3.

Morning Glory Circle - February 24, 9:45 a.m. at the church. They are continuing in their book, "The Resolution for Women." They will be discussing the second section of Part 3 - This is What Matters to Me - Loving My Children."

Notes

From Mary Ann Moriles... Thank you to all who helped make our 2013 PW Retreat a success. Special mention to Pauline Buchanan for the name tags, Libby McNair, Brenda Garner, Carol Oswald, Sheila McKee for being an awesome Moderator, and to Dianne Hooten for the handouts.

Gail Hardy delivered God's message to us through heartfelt stories, funny impersonations (who could forget Julia Child?) and singing. Knowing that we are busy ladies, Gail has challenged us to 'Stop, Look and Listen.' We are chosen to seek God's will in our lives and to use our talents and abilities for His Glory.

From Al Tinio, Uptown Congregation... Last Sunday, January 20, 2013 we celebrated Uptown's 20th year Founding Anniversary, recalling and remembering the 12 years of our life and ministry at the garage of Nanay Roming and Tatay Maning at Ormoc Heights Subdivison, especially the generations of our families who were born (Dingdong Sevilla was born in our first Sunday worship on January 23, 1993), baptized (Dingdong Sevilla and the twins Alejandre), married and died (Mrs. Yap, Mr. Pepe Segovia and his wife, Nanay Gleceng, and Na Luning Sevilla), and the eight years at OCREP, Milagro, Ormoc City. Members who were now abroad (Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Moriles, Sr., the Sevilla's, the Parrilla's and two Tinio's - Alan and Alwin) who continually support; and of course our Church Family, the Morrow Presbyterian Church of Georgia, Atlanta.

Our theme focused on Jesus' parable of the Sower in Mark 4:20, "... people are like seeds sown in good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear fruit; some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred;" meaning, the success of the mission and ministry of any church is not found in a big, beautiful church building, neither having many membership - but on being faithful. The many blessings we did receive revealed God's faithfulness (through you who were used as his instruments), that after those long years without a church building we now have a decent church building and almost finished Community Center.

It was a happy and meaningful celebration; the first time that we used a projector (cost Php. 17,995.00 and an Aspire One 11" Laptop of Php. 18,500.00) purchased by Nanay's donation of Php. 30,000.00 and by Mayor Medina Php. 6,500.00. Also during the Thanksgiving prayer, we included Dr. Romeo Moriles' birthday and their wedding anniversary and Tia Dayang's love gift and . The offerings of the Moriles of Php. 2,000.00, Tia Dayang's love gift of Php. 5,000.00, and Alan's Php. 5,000.00 (received just yesterday) showed us how the "seed sown by Christ" grows abundantly. We had a lunch after the worship and fellowship of laughter and singing.

From Ken & Janis Campbell... To the Young at Heart Group: We thank you so very much for the generous monetary gift you gave us for Christmas. You are very special friends, and we look forward to working with you in the coming year and helping

Congratulations to Our Newlyweds



Congratulations to Mike & Georgene (Grant) Sneed, who were married on Saturday, January 26, 2013 when our sanctuary was turned into a beautiful winter wonderland. After a honeymoon in Costa Rica, the couple will reside at 35 Reagan Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281.

Their cell numbers are 404-226-8869 (G) and 706-818-0094 (M).

arrange many interesting activities. Please make your plans to join with us on every event possible. Schedules for the entire year are available in the church.

From Victor Garaffa... To Our Congregation of Saints—I am so very appreciative of your concerns and prayers. Your love is so great, and I wish those who have none could share it.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13

Prayer Vigil - 6:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.