



**MORROW  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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*"Reflecting Christ Together"*

**We're on the Web! Visit us at**

**www.morrowpresbyterian.org**

**SAVE THE DATES!!**



**March 13, 2016**

**Food Pantry BBQ Fundraiser**

Save the date for the world's best barbecue made by the world's best people for the world's best people! This is your opportunity to help those in need in our community.

**March 23, 2016**

**Young at Heart to Silver Bay Seafood**

The Young at Heart will be going to Silver Bay Seafood Restaurant on North Henry Blvd. in Stockbridge on Wednesday, March 23. They will meet at the restaurant at 11 a.m.

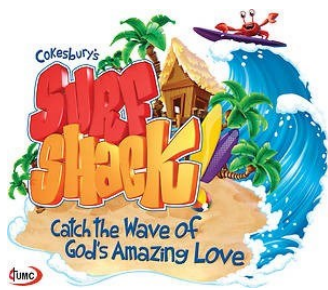


**June 26 - 30, 2016**

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

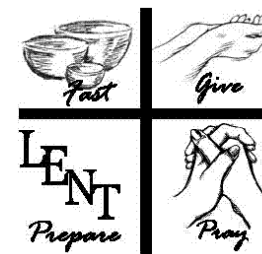
**God Creates - God Loves - God Calms - God Helps - God Sends**

See Maria Cruz to volunteer.



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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Morrow Presbyterian  
Herald**

**THE PASTOR'S PEN**



**FEBRUARY 2016**

There is a certain blogger who has a vivid memory of an argument she had while in 4th grade. She asked her best friend at school, "What are you giving up for Lent?" to which the BF replied, "I'm not giving anything up. My mom says that if you give something up for God, you should do it all year round."

The friend and her mom had a point. Why do something only for a month or two and not for the rest of the year? If we are to give up chocolate and snacks for Lent, then we probably should give them up all year. That might be near to impossible for me during Advent with all the Christmas snacks that people bake for my family.

Lent is still one of those seasons during the church year, in which we give up something and/or take on something. Why do we do this? Do we really have to do this?

Think of it from the perspective of the Israelites in the Old Testament. They had (and still have) many festivals to observe during the year, those that God had given them. Let us take Passover for an example, the religious festival commemorating God's deliverance of the Jews from bondage in Egypt. God told the people to put on this festival every year without fail (see Exodus 12). They were not allowed to forget what God did for them while they cried out for mercy and rescue. Now, should the Jews always remember what God did for them? Yes. The Passover might be celebrated during the months of March or April, but even in October or December they should not forget who their Redeemer is. This is a task that should be carried out year round.

However, the Jews needed a season in which they purposefully remembered God. They needed and still need a time to take a step back and do something they normally don't do in order to thank God for his deliverance from bondage. Hopefully what they do in March or April will carry their memories into the other months, and they will still celebrate who their Redeemer and King is.

Whatever we do during Lent is something we should do throughout the year. Yet, we do need a time to step back and evaluate. We need a season that will force us to examine ourselves and look to God for healing. Should we do this every day of every year? Of course. Lent marks a time, however, in which God calls us to take on an attitude and posture we might not normally take on. Lent slows things down and causes us to be more mindful of God and others. As we go through the practice of Lent, then we may take that practice into the other months. We may hear God's voice more vividly, telling us to slow down, to be mindful of others, to be open to God.

Toward the end of the article, the blogger points out that Lent isn't necessary. I disagree. Although it is a human invention, it is quite necessary for us to practice. We need Lent every year for our spiritual well-being. Don't practice it, and we miss an opportunity to become more so the disciples and children God wants us to be. Observe the season and watch us grow.

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John




## Prayer Requests

**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Natalie Sledge, Family of Shafta Milan, George Kempson, Daris Mullinax (friend of Shirley Bradley), John Popovich (Kathy Prince's brother), Maria Baker, Jennifer Barber, Ruth Batchelor, Jo Bevil, Jeff Blanton, Rosalyn Boggs, Frank Bradley, Doris Brady, Allie Brandon, Mary Bridges, Terry Broom, Alene Brown, Dr. Todd Bruno, Mary Butler, Rey Cabayan, Betty Colwell, Craig Coleman, Janis Cone, Lei Eason, Bob Eskew, Sherrie Esquivel, Will Felt, Foss Family, Connie Funk, Jessica Giddens, Ruth Ginsberg, Sharon Goza, Allen Grant, Felix Haney, Beth Harper, Rev. Penny Hill, Charles Hoequist, Leah Lipps, Vickie Loper, Ron Lukat, Noli Luna, Carrilton Marsh, Julia McLeod, Marian Meyer, Grandma Moriles, David & Faye Moss, Nuss Family, Kingsley Offer, Sara Ruth Owens, Janice Palmer, Arolue Prater, Beverly Pruett, Rey Ramos, Wendy Ray, Georgene Sneed, Joe Spier, Carolyn Sterns, Kim Stonecash, Margaret Strelsky, Angel Thomas, Ann Thornton, Brian Thrailkill, Eddy Wheeler, Terry & Margie Williams, Susan Wolpin. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al **Tinio** & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth **Turk** – Mission Haven. **OUR MILITARY:** Scott **Bland** - Navy, Virginia; SPC Kevin **Brown**, Army—Fort Riley, KS; CPL Jaime **Brown**, Army, Kuwait; Jeremy **Butler** – Marines; Joshua Easter—Navy, IL; PFC Najee **Hall**, Army, CA; Kevin **Krebs**, AK; SSG Richard **Venizelos** – Air Force, CO.

A full prayer list is available in the narthex next to the library.

### Sneed Baby Basket



**Sneed Baby Basket.** A basket will be in the fellowship hall for Mike & Georgene's little girl, who is due to be born April 1. Please fill it with all the things she might need, and help us get ready to welcome her to our church family.

### Souper Bowl, February 7

**Souper Bowl of Caring – February 7.** Following the worship service on February 7, the youth will stand at the doors with pots/pans to collect dollars for the Souper Bowl of Caring. These funds collected around the country support local charities. Ours will support our MPC Food Pantry.


### Ash Wednesday, February 10

**Lenten Prayer Vigil, February 10, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.** We will begin the Lenten season with a 12-hour prayer vigil. The sanctuary will be open for prayer. The congregation is invited to sign up for 30- minute or 1-hour time periods. Devotion materials and a prayer list will be available. You are asked to remain in the sanctuary until the next person enters for his/her time slot. **Ash Wednesday Service, February 10 at 7:00 p.m.** This communion service will be held in the sanctuary.

### 2015 Giving Statements

**Your 2015 Giving Statements** are available. They are on a table in the narthex. If you do not see your name, please check with Dianne Hooten.

### February Sweets—Feb. 14 Noon




**Valentine's Cupcake & Cookie Reception, February 14, 12 noon.** The Fellowship & Congregational Care Ministry Team would like to enjoy cupcakes & cookies with the congregation on Valentine's Day. If you would like to help, bring your favorite "sweet treat" to share with your church family "sweeties".

### Elder Ordination / Installation



Our newest elders for Classes of 2016 & 2017, were ordained / installed on January 10, 2016. (l-r James Eason, Allen Grant, Jeannie Hodges, Bruce Campbell, and returning elder, Dianne Hooten.)

### Crosswalkers Fundraiser




**MPC Crosswalkers Lunch Sale, February 21, 12:15 p.m.** The Crosswalkers, our Relay for Life team, will be offering lunch following the worship service on Sunday, February 21. Menu items will include hot dogs, hamburgers, and BLT sandwiches, chips and drinks. Suggested donations: \$5-\$10 per person. See Albert Coughlin for questions. Proceeds go to support Relay for Life, American Cancer Society.

### Scout Sunday—February 7

**Scout Sunday – February 7.** Scout Sunday will be on Sunday, February 7. All Scouts in our church family are invited to be part of the service. If you would like to participate, please contact Twarna Johnson or David Turner. A reception will follow the worship service.

### Young at Heart— February 26



The Young at Heart will be going to Buckner's Restaurant on Friday, February 26 for lunch. Leaving church at 11 a.m. Sign up sheet in narthex.

## Presbyterian Women

**PWCT— February 7, 12:30 p.m.** The PWCT will meet in the Pacer's classroom.

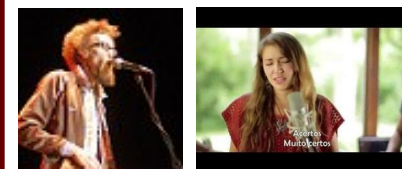
**NO Virginia Dews Circle in February.** The Virginia Dews Circle will not be meeting in February as previously discussed. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2016. Please do not forget to bring men's white tube socks for the food pantry in February. Children's socks (for ages 5-12) will be appreciated, but at this time the need is for men's socks. Thank you for all that you do to help others.

**Dorcas Circle—February 9, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Suzanne Lukat will lead the Bible study—Women of the Bible, Mary. Hostesses are Libby McNair and Betty Spier. Suzanne Lukat has the devotion.

**Morning Glory Circle— February 28, 9:45 a.m.** The Morning Glory Circle will finish their Bible study of *The Best Yes*. They will be discussing Chapters 16-19. The group is taking suggestions for the next study, so please bring your suggestions.

**The 2016 project for Presbyterian Women is Clean Water.** We'll be donating to Charity: Water, a non-profit organization that provides clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations. The organization was founded in 2006 and has helped fund 13,641 projects in 22 countries, benefiting over 4.6 million people. We'd love the congregation to help us in this cause. Please start saving your extra change now--we'll have a collection box soon in the narthex.

### Winter Jam 2016



**Georgia Dome**  
**Saturday, February 6, 2016**

Show begins 5:45 p.m.

Doors open at 5 p.m.

\$10 at the door

- Crowder
- Lauren Daigle
- For King and Country
- Red and more
- Matthew West
- Sidewalk Prophets
- Newsong

### Thank You Notes

**From Brenda & Don Garner...**Special thanks to each of you for your phone calls, cards, notes and words of encouragement, and most of all prayers during the illness and deaths of my two remaining older sisters—Ruby H. Avery on October 19 and Jewel H. Pate on December 13. We, as well as their families, appreciate all your prayers and those of the Session with notes to each of them. You truly realize the blessings of a caring church as you go through these sad times.

**From Ken & Janis Campbell...**To the Members of the Young-at-Heart Group of Morrow Presbyterian Church, Our sincere thanks for your most generous gift at Christmas. We have been blessed to be able to serve as your leaders for the past 20 years. We pray God's continued blessings with your new Team of leaders: Mary Nell Winkles, Libby McNair, Tom & Betty Janes, and Roxie Romine.

**From the Canterbury Choir...**A Big Thank You from the Canterbury Choir to the anonymous donor of nice new anthem folders for use in our worship services. The old ones have been in use for many years and are pretty well worn out. We thank the nice person who realized new ones were needed and all members of the choir will certainly enjoy using them.

**From Rebekah Venizelos...**I'd like to say thank you to all of the Elders who came to the first family night supper/lunch and helped set up and clean up and got to know their elder care groups. It was a great turn-out, and I received positive feedback about the lunch. I hope we can keep this going as we head into February. Thank you again!

**From Uptown Congregation, Rev. Al M. Tinio, Jr...**Dear Church Family, Greetings! Last Christmas was a meaningful celebration of Christ indwelling in our lives in Uptown Congregation. Were able to distribute rice and gift giving to children that was made possible because of your continuous support in our Operation Church Blessing.

On Sunday, January 24, 2016 the Uptown Congregation celebrated our 23rd year Founding Anniversary. Recalling and remembering that the 12 years of our life and ministry was in the garage of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Moriles, Sr. at Ormoc Heights Subdivison, Ormoc City; but through our Family Church, the Morrow Presbyterian Church and others who were used as God's instruments a house of prayer and worship was built. A mark that God's faithful service in ordinary and impossible things be made extra ordinary and possible.

We plan to finish the wallings to enclose the Community Center building this year. We were thankful that the super typhoon Haiyan did not destroy it.

Again, our heartfelt thanks for all the blessings we received from our Family Church in our 23 years of mission and ministry; paraphrasing what St. Paul said in Philippians 4:12, "... know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot... in any and all circumstances we have learned the secret of being content--whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need."