



**MORROW  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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*"Reflecting Christ Together"*

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**In Memory of Forrest Thornton**



**Forrest M. Thornton** of Morrow, age 93, born August 28, 1920 passed away November 30, 2013. Forrest was a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force. He then worked for the Center for Disease Control where he installed and programmed the first computers for the center.

Forrest and his wife, Ann, joined Morrow Presbyterian Church on December 4, 1966. They were active members until their health kept them from regular attendance.

Forrest is survived by his wife of 72 years, Ann. Forrest & Ann were married on January 19, 1942. They were introduced by a friend. Forrest & Ann developed a strong friendship before falling in love and marrying.

Please keep Ann in your prayers as she goes through this difficult time. Her address is: Elmcroft of Mt. Zion, 7493 Mt. Zion Blvd, Jonesboro, GA 30236.

Forrest will be missed.



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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Morrow Presbyterian  
Herald**

**The Pastor's Pen**



I got this email from an "old" college friend years ago, and I still enjoy the message he sent. If you would, read the email carefully and several times. There isn't much more I have to say – the email says it all. Peace in Christ! Rev. Dr. John. *JD*

"Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obey him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days..." (Deuteronomy 30: 19).

One of the Christian authors I enjoy reading is Max Lucado. I have read several of his books, but the one that I like the best is called, *When God Whispers Your Name*. This particular book inspires me each time I read it. Within this book is a chapter entitled "The Choice," and the following paragraphs come from that chapter. May you choose to make choices that reflect your willingness to live for God.

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.

In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours, I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose.

I choose love... No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I choose joy... I will invite my God to be the God in circumstances. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I choose peace... I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I choose patience... I will overlook the inconvenience of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at a new assignment, I will face it with joy and courage.

I choose kindness... I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated them.

I choose goodness... I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

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## Prayer Requests

**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Erin Harkins (requested by Albert Coughlin), The Families in the Philippines, The Uptown Church, Frank Archer, David Barrett, Ruth Batchelor, Jo Bevil, Tina Bloodworth, Shirley Bradley, Allie Brandon, Mary Bridges, Charlie Brown, Bobbie Burke, Wendall Byars, Mandy Chapman, Danny Eason, Sherrie Esquivel, Will Felt, Spencer Frye, Connie Funk, Brenda Gossett, Spencer Grant, Bob Hardy, Eddy Hooten, Sherry Johnson, Carl Kirkley, Julia McLeod, Dahlia Minton, David Moss, Beth Newman, Ken Reichert, Keith Rhoden, Mery Saavedra, Joe & Betty Spier, Keith Stanley, Vrina Stebbins, Margaret Strelsky, Cielle Tewksbury, Ann Thornton, Jennyfer Zanders. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al **Tinio** & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth **Turk** - Madagascar. **OUR MILITARY:** Scott **Bland** - Navy, Virginia; Shaun **Bland** - Navy, Georgia; Jaime **Brown**—Army—Fort Riley, KS; Jeffrey & Maribel **Brown** - both in Army Reserves, Georgia; Kevin **Brown** - Army, Afghanistan; Stephen **Brown** - Army Reserves, Arizona; Jeremy **Butler** - Marines; Sk2 Robert **Crain**, Tennessee; SPC Joseph **Eason**, Fort Bliss, TX; Kevin **Krebs**, AK; SrA Richard **Venizelos** - Colorado Springs, CO; SPC Justin **Warlick** - Army, redeploying to Afghanistan in January.

A full prayer list is available in the narthex near the library.

## Presbyterian Women

**Dorcas Circle—January 14, 10 am.** The Dorcas Circle invites all ladies not currently involved in a Circle to join us for our first meeting in 2014 at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, in the fellowship hall, for brunch followed by our Bible study of the book of Ruth, and fellowship. Our project for January will be new dish towels for the kitchen. We look forward to seeing you at our January meeting.

## Christmas Greetings



### Christmas Card wishes from:

Donna, Ruth, & Rachel Boggs, The Bruce Campbell Family, Ken & Janis Campbell, Bill & Lucie Cantrell, Bud & Judy Chapman, Columbia Theological Seminary, Dot Coughlan & George Egbert, The Delgado-Pitts Family, The Drake Family, James & Lei Eason, Haywood & Anne Fordham, Ronnie, Dianne, & Matthew Hooten, The Gary Johnsons, Don & Carol McGhee, Libby McNair, Grandpa & Grandma Moriles, The Romy Moriles Family, Audrey & Willie Sharpe, Earl & Lucy Stewart, and Wooden Service Company.

## Giving Envelopes

Your 2014 Giving Envelopes are available. They are on a table in the hallway next to the library. If you do not see your name, please check with Dianne Hooten.

## Family Night Supper—Jan 19



The January Family Night Supper will be on Sunday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite covered dish to share. The session will give us an update on plans for the new year.

## Elder Ordination / Installation



**Our Elder Class of 2016** will be ordained / installed on January 5, 2014. Tanya Costa, Susie Grant, Tricia Koehler, Georgene Sneed, and Rebekah Venizelos will be ordained and installed. Dianne Hooten will be installed as Class of 2015 to fill a vacant term. We are grateful for these members who have agreed to serve on our session. A special thank-you to all of our session members who give of their time to serve Morrow Presbyterian Church in this capacity. Please remember to pray for all of our session members as they make decisions regarding MPC, and especially our newest class of elders as they begin their service.

## Volunteers Needed

If you would like to serve as an Usher, Pastor's Aide, or Greeter, or if you would like to prepare a Children's Sermon, please see Dianne Hooten to volunteer.

## Presbyterian Women



**The Annual Ladies Retreat** will be on **Saturday, January 25, 2014**, at Calvin Center from **8:30 a.m. to 2:00 pm**, and will be led by Cathy Parker, founder of Athletes to Champions. Cathy is Elizabeth Barfield's sister and helped lead our retreat in 2009. The theme this year is **Passion, Purpose, & Power**. Come and be renewed and refreshed as we start a new year. **Cost is \$30.** Breakfast & lunch included.

## Young at Heart—January 29



**The Young at Heart Trip—January 29.** The Young at Heart will be going to the **Sock Shoppe** in Griffin on Wednesday, January 29. A carpool will leave the church at **9 a.m.** Lunch will be at Southern Pit BBQ. Cost is \$5, plus lunch. Let Ken Campbell know if you would like to go.

## (Continued from The Pastor's Pen)

I choose faithfulness... Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I choose gentleness... Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it only be in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I choose self-control... I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day.

If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

## Thank You Notes...

**From Shirley Bradley...** A big "thank you" to Pastor John for my special prayer before my surgery and thanks to my church family for the phone calls and beautiful cards. Friends like you are a treasure and I thank you.

**From Ken & Janis Campbell...** Dear Young at Heart Group Members, We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the most generous Christmas gift. We do appreciate it very much. We love working with the group and look forward to continuing trying to plan fun and interesting things for us to do together. If you have any ideas for activities that you think we would enjoy, please let us hear from you. Thanks again, our dear friends, for your love and thoughtfulness.

**From Bob Hardy...** From my heart I am sending a special thank you to all that sent me cards of well wishes and for having me in their thoughts and prayers. I am a blessed little boy to have such a loving and caring home church. May God bless you in every way. I am also sending my love during this special season. Merry Christmas!

**From Ken & Janis Campbell...** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) We have been very much comforted by all the telephone calls, beautiful sympathy cards and visits from you dear friends. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to think of us and help us at the very sad occasion of the death of our niece, Teresa Campbell Cooper. Some of you may remember her presentation of music at our church. She was a very special person who was dedicated to God and did all she could to serve and please Him. We will miss her terribly, but know she is now with the Lord.

## Awning Dedication—January 12



### Inclement Weather Drop-Off Awning.

If you have come to church on a rainy day recently, you may have already enjoyed using our new drive-through awning. This structure was constructed with designated funds given to the church in memory of Sonny Oswalt. The awning will be dedicated on **Sunday, January 12, following the worship service.** In memory of Sonny, we will have a brownie reception. **Please bring your favorite type of brownie.** Please join us on this day as we remember a very special member of Morrow Presbyterian Church.

**From the Church Staff...** Each of the church staff wishes to thank the congregation for the very generous love offering Christmas Gift you gave us during the Joy Gift program. We all feel blessed to be a part of Morrow Presbyterian Church and to be able to use our gifts to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Sanctuary Flowers



**Sanctuary Flowers.** The 2014 Flower Calendar is also now available. If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary, the flower calendar is on the library window. 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.