



**MORROW
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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"Reflecting Christ Together"

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www.morrowpresbyterian.org

Congratulations to Our College Graduates



Congratulations to Carol Campbell, who graduated in August 2014 from Clayton State University with a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing**. Carol is currently Nurse Manager Telemetry Unit at Dekalb Medical Hillandale. Carol recently had the opportunity to share her nursing skills when she went with a group on a mission trip to Haiti.



Congratulations to Kevin Moriles, who graduated on December 19, 2014 from The University of Georgia with a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Science**. Kevin plans on attending Mississippi College to work on his Masters in Medical Science.

Way to go, Kevin & Carol!

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**Morrow Presbyterian
Herald**

The Pastor's Pen



This is the month when all the health clubs are swarming with clients. The walls are bursting with people trying to shed extra pounds and improve their heartrates. The New Year does this to people. They look in their mirrors and don't like what they see, so they hit the weights and join the Zumba groups and labor until they are red in the face.

I exercise at least four times a week. I swim and lift weights, and on the odd days walk four miles while listening to podcasts. At the end of almost every session I am tired. I cannot say I am exhausted, but I am tired enough that I find myself yawning a lot just to keep myself alert. Needless to say, I sleep extremely well those particular nights. Some people say that they have a renewed energy immediately after exercising, but I have never been one of those people. I go from strength to weakness, so to speak, after leaving the gym, and the routine starts all over again the following day.

Charles Spurgeon seems to agree with me (or maybe I agree with him). In one of his devotionals he says, "If we are walking, we go from strength to weakness; we start fresh and in good order for our journey, but by-and-by the road is rough, and the sun is hot, we sit down by the wayside, and then again painfully pursue our weary way." We might associate with his words. We find ourselves in this new month and year dog-tired. We were worn out from Advent and Christmas festivities, and now we look forward to some downtime in which there are no holidays to prepare for. We are worn out from the miserable burdens of last year, and so we hope this New Year will be much less stressful and much more pleasant. We walk and sometimes sprint through our busy lives, and it seems like we go from strength to weakness to even more weakness. When does it all stop? When can we get off this ride?

Spurgeon finds a solution in Psalm 84:7 – "They go from strength to strength" (italics mine). Actually, we should go back to verse 5 and read this: "Blessed are they whose strength is in You (the Lord), whose heart is set on pilgrimage." That's a different way of looking at our busy lives. It isn't a tiresome slog but an invigorating adventure. It isn't painful exercise but joyful and welcomed ministry.

Psalm 84 speaks about a strong and living faith that longs for the living God. God is alive in us, and so we are alive, being renewed each day, given the vitality and encouragement to face whatever comes our way and moving through it without failure. Desert places hold springs of water for us to drink (see verse 6). The more difficult paths become opportunities to grow deeper in faith. Failure may try to zap our energy, but we find more in our living God. Stress and anxiety might try to make us stop, but we keep moving in the name of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Only in God may we go from strength to strength. More weights and the extra mile will not do it, not for those unwanted and unwelcomed situations we may go through each and every day. Only God gives strength and replenishes strength. Only God turns life into a blessing to experience. Spurgeon reminds us of these words of encouragement found in Isaiah 40:30 & 31 – "The youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Keith Maxey (Carol Campbell's brother), Allen Grant, Jennifer Barber, Ruth Batchelor, Carol Bevil, Jo Bevil, Esther Bland, Patty Bormolini, Allie Brandon, Mary Bridges, Allene Brown, Dr. Todd Bruno, Pauline Buchanan, Vanessa Buck, Wendall Byars, Marcia Cartledge, Cathy Chambers, Betty Colwell, Mary Dyche, Bob Eskew, Sherrie Esquivel, Will Felt, Connie Funk, Jessica Giddens, Meg Gore, David Hadler, Bob Hardy, Erin Harkens, Beth Harper, James Harvey, Steve Hayner, John Henrickson, Rev. Penny Hill, Laura Johnson, George Kempson, Vickie Loper, Noli Luna, Julia McLeod, Sammy Miller, Sue Mitchell, David & Faye Moss, Nan Norton, Nuss Family, Breanna Ordaniel, Shanti Paramanandam, Beverly Pruet, Allene Rowland, John Sandberg, Epetacio Sebilis, Joe & Betty Spier, Keith Stanley, Carolyn Sterns, Margaret Strelsky, Ann Thornton, Justin, Jennifer, Madison Thrailkill, Morse UpDegraff, Eddy Wheeler, Pat White, Barbara Whitfield, Terry & Margie Williams. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al **Tinio** & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth **Turk** - Madagascar. **OUR MILITARY:** Scott **Bland** - Navy, Virginia; Shaun **Bland** - Navy, Georgia; SPC Kevin & Jaime **Brown**—Army—Fort Riley, KS; Jeremy **Butler** - Marines; Sk2 Robert **Crain**, Tennessee; SPC Joseph **Eason**, Fort Bliss, TX; Jonathan **Johnson** - National Guard - GA; Kevin **Krebs**, AK; SSG Richard **Venzelos** - Air Force, CO.; SPC Justin **Warlick** - Army, TX. *A full prayer list is available in the narthex next to the library.*

Sanctuary Flowers



Sanctuary Flowers. The 2015 Flower Calendar is also now available. **Every date is currently 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.

Christmas Greetings



Christmas Card wishes from: Mason & Elizabeth Barfield, Ken & Janis Campbell, Bud & Judy Chapman, Margaret Cofie & Family, The Drake Family, Haywood & Anne Fordham, The Good Shepherd Clinic, The Johnson Family, Ruth McDonald, Libby McNair, The Moriles Family, Mark & Kim Patrus, The Scepaniaks, Dick & Kay Shaffer, Willie & Audrey Sharpe, Earl & Lucy Stewart, Eddy Wheeler, Bruce & Mary Nell Winkles, The Woodens (Wooden Service Co.)

Giving Envelopes

Your 2015 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.

January FNS—Jan 18, 12 noon



The January Family Night Supper will be on Sunday, January 18 at 12 noon, immediately following the worship service. Please bring your favorite soup/salad to share. The session will provide the drinks and desserts. This will be a time of sitting with and getting to know your elder care groups.

Elder Ordination / Installation



Our Elder Class of 2017 will be ordained / installed on January 4, 2015. Ugo Chukwura, Ruth Laster, and Ray West will be ordained and installed. David Turner and Dock Gammage will be installed. 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.

Presbyterian Women's Retreat



The Annual Ladies Retreat will be on **Saturday, January 24, 2015**, at Calvin Center from **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm.** The theme this year is **New Year, New You in Christ: Becoming a People of Joy.** It will be led by Rev. Nicole Lock. Rev. Lock is a Teaching Elder at-large in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, where she serves as Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Nicole began ministry as a youth worker in the Young Life movement. Her passion is spiritual formation of all ages—grounding people in their identity in Christ and helping them discern their missional calling. She and her husband James live in Grayson, GA. Come and be renewed and refreshed as we start a new year. **Cost is \$30.** Please pay by Sunday, January 18. Scholarships are available. Breakfast & lunch included.

Young at Heart—January 28



BAYBREEZE Seafood Restaurant **The Young at Heart Trip—January 28, 11 a.m.** will be to Bay Breeze Restaurant on Tara Boulevard in Hampton. Call Ken to coordinate a ride and make a reservation. Carpool from church if needed.

Presbyterian Women

PWCT—January 11, 12:30 p.m. The PWCT will meet in the Pacer's classroom. Anne Fordham has refreshments & devotion.

Virginia Dews Circle, January 12, 6:30 p.m. The Virginia Dews Circle will meet on Monday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pacers Classroom. They will continue the study with Lei Eason on the Women of the Bible. Maria Cruz will have the devotion and refreshments.

Dorcas Circle—January 13, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Suzanne Lukat will lead the Bible study. Hostesses are Tricia Koehler and Sara Gore. Mary Ann Moriles has the devotion.

Morning Glory Circle—January 25, 9:45 a.m. The Morning Glory Circle will continue in their new Bible study using the book, *"The Best Yes,"* by Lysa TerKeurst.

Thank You Notes...

From Romea "Grandma" Moriles... A big "thank you" to all who donated to Operation Christmas Blessing for the Uptown Church in the Philippines. Another donation day is January 1, for all who would like to still support this mission of Grandma's.

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.

From Dock & Andra... Dear Youth and Youth Family, Thank you so much for the inspirational prayer gifts. Every time that we see them, we are reminded of the special group of people that we have the privilege of serving alongside. You can also be sure that we will all enjoy the Moe's gift certificates!! We are so blessed:) Love, Dock and Andra

From Sonja, Rashawn, Raziya, & Shaniya Pitts... Myself, Rashawn, and our beautiful babies, Raziya & Shaniya, just want to thank everyone for the prayers and baby gift basket. We were very glad everyone was thinking of us. Thanks so much our family at MPC!!

From Marsha Kempson... To My MPC Family, Thank you for the phone calls, prayers, and cards during my time of surgery.

Winter Jam 2015

Georgia Dome

Saturday, February 7, 2015

6:00 p.m.— Doors open at 5 p.m.

\$10 at the door

- Skillet
- Jeremy Camp
- Francesca Battistelli
- Building 429
- For King and Country
- Newsong
- Family Force 5 and more

God delights in the prayers of His children—prayers that express our love for Him, prayers that share our deepest burdens with Him.
Billy Graham

Happy New Year!
from the MPC Church Staff
Office closed December 31, 2014 and January 1, 2015.

2015

