



**MORROW
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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"Reflecting Christ Together"

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VBS 2012 Operation Overboard

Vacation Bible School 2012

June 24 - 28

All ages - including adults



Dive in and discover God's underwater universe! Explore the depths of God's Word at VBS 2012 with Cokesbury's Operation Overboard – Dare To Go Deep With God!

In this action-packed adventure, your kids will swim with humpback whales and seahorses, scuba through a vibrant coral reef, and take a personal submarine to the ocean floor, where eels and octopi play. Through interactive lessons that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, they will "go deep" into God's Word, exploring Bible stories of people who revealed deep faith by knowing how to:

- **Depend** on God
- **Dare** to care
- **Claim** Jesus
- **Choose** to follow

Help Needed

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Actors (Crowd, Friends, King, Naaman, Servants, Captain, Roman Guard), Dive Guides (Young Elementary, Middle Elem., Upper Elem. Leaders), and Decorators.

Please see VBS Directors Maria Cruz and Angela Turner to volunteer or for more information.

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**Morrow Presbyterian
Herald**

The Pastor's Pen



Our Men's Sunday School Group is studying a book called *Resolution for Men*, and I came across these interesting little lines on page 64. They say, "[Christ] was completely plugged into the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the word of God. That's why he was able to be more like a thermostat, affecting his circumstance, rather than like a thermometer, merely reacting to his surroundings." I found the last sentence very profound, especially as the weather changes these next months.

A thermometer just sits on the wall and reacts to the temperature of the room. If the room is an ice box, the thermometer reads something like 0 or 10 degrees. If it is a greenhouse, it may read 80, 90, or 100 degrees. *It may never dictate to the room what its temp will be.* The thermostat, however, tells the room if it will be hot or cold. If the sun is blazing through a window, the thermostat can turn on the AC and cool things down. If it is too cold outside, the thermostat turns on the heater, and everybody is comfortable inside.

Too many people are thermometers, reacting to what others want them to do. If the Thermometer and his/her friends go out one night (for example), and all those friends decide to drink and drive, the Thermometer goes with the flow, getting into as much dangerous trouble as the friends. The Thermostat, however, changes the temperature of the situation. The Thermostat says to the friends, "No, we aren't doing this. It is too dangerous, and I will not get killed, or have any of you get killed, as long as I have something to say about it."

The Thermometer says yes to the advances of a boyfriend, but the Thermostat changes the situation: "This is not going to happen – you and I are not ruining our lives." The Thermometer believes what the commercials say, and desires every gadget and gizmo out there. The Thermostat doesn't allow materialism to dictate what his/her attitude or happiness will be. The Thermometer is jealous of what others have, while the Thermostat praises those who succeed and cries with those who fail. The Thermometer just hangs there, becoming a victim or a doormat for others. The Thermostat sees what is wrong and harmful and changes it, not just for the Thermostat but for everybody else in "the room."

There is a word of warning, though: Being the Thermostat is not always easy. You see, on the one hand nobody notices the Thermometer, because he/she does all the common and mundane things that everybody else is doing. It is like a drop of water falling into a pool. On the other hand, people notice the Thermostat, like a drop of red dye falling into a pool. They feel the change in the room. They have to respond to the Thermostat. And they might not like it. They will try to change the temperature back to what is comfortable by trying to change the Thermostat. They will beg and cajole. They will become angry and even try to force the Thermostat to change for their own comfort.

The Thermostat needs to be rock solid. The Thermostat is connected to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and only allows them to touch the Thermostat in such ways as to affect godly change. As the Thermostat remains steady, always measuring how God wants the room to respond, the Thermometers present might soon understand that they don't have to be Thermometers anymore. They too may become Thermostats, positive influences who react to the fine adjustments of God. Former Thermometers-turned-Thermostats may affect godly change, and then the temperature of the room is comfortable for all.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Nerys Saavedra (Rita Coughlin's mother), Bill Allison, Elizabeth Barfield, Bobby Bays, Wilma Bell, Jo Bevil, Martha Bowman, Allie Brandon, Jackie Bridges, Charlie Brown, Jean Chase, Jesus Delgado, Paula Echols, Earl Funk, Spencer Grant, Susie Grant, Howard Harden, Kelley Harden, Eddie Hooten, Barbara Kelly, Scott Lunsford, Mary McBath, Julia McLeod, Dahlia Minton, Joseph Mitchell, Bernard Mock, Linda Morgan, Amador Moriles, David Moss, Sonny Oswalt, Jim Pierrot, Keith Rhoden, Henry Richardson, Luis Saavedra, Joe & Betty Spier, Margaret Strelsky, Rick Tarleton, Forrest & Ann Thornton, Josephine Tinio, Shirley Tinio, Virginia Wheeler, and Jeff Yarbrough. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al Tinio & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth Turk & children at Mission Haven in Decatur. Bryant Harden, Peace Corps, Mongolia. **OUR MILITARY:** Scott Bland - Navy, Virginia; Shaun Bland - Navy, Georgia; Stephen Brown - Army Reserves, Arizona; Kevin Brown - Army-Fort Benning, GA; Jeffrey & Maribel Brown - both in Army Reserves, Georgia; Jeremy Butler -Japan; 1st Sgt Chris Chastain, Kosovo; PFC Daniel Costa - Fort Huachuca, AZ; Robert Crain, Tennessee; PVT Joseph Eason, Germany; Najee Hall- San Diego, CA; Kevin Krebs, Tennessee; Capt. Walter D. Lillgard; Adam Martin; SGT Edward "Buddy" McKenzie, III, - Milledgeville; Brent Paul - Military College of GA; Cole Springer - Army; AIC Richard Venizelos - Scott AFB, Illinois; PFC Justin Warlick - Ft. Lewis.

Christian love and sympathy to... The Family of Cleon Dennis (a former member) upon his death 3/31. Martha Dennis, 1519 Teakwood Drive, Griffin, GA 30223. Please be in prayer for the family during this difficult time.

Graduation Sunday—May 27



We will recognize all of our high school graduates on Sunday, May 27. If you have not yet turned in your information, please submit a form, plus a picture, to the church office. All graduates are asked to bring their cap & gown for the worship service. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall. Our known graduates are Cecelia Buck, Sonja Delgado, and Kimberly Moriles.

Family Night Supper—May 6



Family Night Supper / Choir Program – May 6, 6 p.m. Following our May family night supper, the MPC Canterbury Choir will present a special musical program. We will have singing by the choir, a number from the brass ensemble, piano selections from our many gifted pianists, and unique talents to be revealed on that evening. Make your plans now to attend.

Mother's Day Brunch—May 12



Mother's Day Luncheon – Saturday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. – Inviting all ladies to "Come to the Garden" for our annual Mother's Day Brunch at 11a.m., on Saturday, May 12, in the Fellowship Hall, in which we'll explore the Garden as it relates to our journey with Christ. Please plan to attend with all the significant ladies in your life - mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, aunt, sister, daughter or that special lady in your life. A delicious meal is being planned by Deborah Venizelos and the guys will be serving us. Mark your calendars now and **sign up by Sunday, May 6**, so we'll know how many meals to prepare. **The cost remains the same as last year at \$10.** Please plan to attend this special event - Our honorary 2012 Lifetime Member, selected by our congregation, will be announced.

The Good Shepherd Clinic

The Good Shepherd Clinic is no longer accepting medicine bottles. Thanks to all who have contributed in the past. They do accept medical items such as disinfectants, hand soap, wrist braces, etc. The church office sells Kroger gift cards in denominations of \$20 and \$100 to support The Good Shepherd Clinic.

Stop Hunger Now—May 19



Stop Hunger Now – Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. Our Community services project, supported by MPC, Morrow First UMC, and First Baptist Church of Morrow, will be to assemble boxes of food for hunger relief.

We will meet at the Baptist Church from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. A group of 40-50 volunteers can package 10,000 meals in just two hours.

Chorus Concert—May 1



Morrow High School Chorus Concert at MPC – May 1, 7 p.m. The Morrow High School Chorus, directed by Ray West, and accompanied by Tamara Callahan, will perform at our church on Tuesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like to help usher at this event, please call the church office.

Shine & Dine—May 20



Needed: Dirty Cars

Following the Worship Service

Bring your dirty vehicles to church on Sunday, May 20, for the youth to wash while you dine on baked potatoes with all the fixings, salad, and dessert.

All monies received during this fundraiser go to help our youth attend The Great Escape and Fun in the Sun—two wonderful, spiritual retreats. Our youth have been attending these summer retreats for many years.

The Great Escape (June 11-16) is held at Lee College in Cleveland, TN. It is for middle school students. This year we have 21 attending The Great Escape.

Fun in the Sun (July 15-20) will be held at Jekyll Island, GA. It is for high school students.

Youth from all over the United States attend each of these camps to enjoy fun, fellowship, special speakers and bands, and most of all, to draw closer to God. Many lives are changed because your contributions make this experience possible for more of our MPC youth. Gifts may be given at any time for the *Youth Scholarship Fund* to help more youth attend.

If you would like more information on either of these fine camps, or if you have not yet signed up, but would like to attend, please see Andra Gammage.



Mother's Day Offering

On Sunday, May 13, our congregation will join with more than 200 Presbyterian churches in Georgia in support of the Caring Hands Fund for Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Our gifts help to provide exceptional care and services for more than 400 elderly residents who have outlived their financial resources. In 60 years of ministry, Presbyterian Homes has never asked a resident to leave due to their depleted funds. Last year, the Caring Hands Fund provided more than \$4 million in benevolent care at its four communities. Remember to bring your Mother's Day Offering and please give generously.

Work Day—May 26



Work Day – Saturday, May 26, 8 a.m. – 12 noon. Volunteers needed inside and out.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Gail Hardy who was installed as Moderator of Presbyterian Women for East Tennessee. That's our Gail!



Relay for Life—Update



Over \$2200 Raised! Wow! What a great "Baskets & More" fundraiser we had. We raised over \$2200! Thanks to all who, by their creativity, skills, and generosity, made it such a success. The Cross-Walkers thank you very much.

Also, please plan on coming **Friday, May 4** to the Relay for Life walk at Tara Stadium. The opening "Survivors Walk" is at 7 p.m. Bring a picnic and some folding chairs. There will be games, concerts, and fun activities. Support our team as we walk the track.

Thank You Cards & Messages

From Earl & Laura Bland... To Our MPC Family, The outpouring of care, love, compassion, and support through your e-mails and cards have truly made us feel grateful. Our many thanks for keeping us lifted in prayer as we struggle with our loss of Earl's dad, Aubrey. Our love for you is always there. You are in our prayers. Much love.

From Florence & Dick McCray... Thank you so much for all the love and care you have given my children. (*Ruth Laster and family*) I want to thank all the praying people in your church who prayed for my husband and I. That was so wonderful of you all. My husband has gone from a wheelchair to a walker and now to a walking cane. That is a real answer to your prayers. Thank you so much. I pray God will continue using each member to spread His word, love, and deeds. The word in action.

From J. D. & Betsy Hilliard (*Pastor John's parents*) ... Dear Congregation of Morrow Presbyterian Church, My husband and I want to thank you so much for your prayers and cards during our healings. We feel so blessed by all of you and look forward to seeing you again. God richly bless you all.

From Susie Grant...MPC: I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for all the prayers, cards, calls, well wishes, flowers, and food. I feel so grateful and blessed to be part of such a generous and loving church. Your prayers work, and I can feel the grace of God in my recovery.