



**MORROW  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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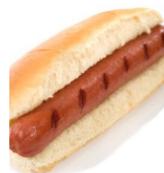
*"Reflecting Christ Together"*

**We're on the Web! Visit us at  
[www.morrowpresbyterian.org](http://www.morrowpresbyterian.org)**

**Kids' Club Kick-Off—Sept 7**

**Kid's Club Kick-Off  
Sunday, September 7  
5 – 7 p.m.**

All children ages 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to start coming on Sunday nights from 5-7 p.m. for singing, Bible study, recreation, and food. **On Sunday, September 7, we will have WET NIGHT!** Wear your bathing suit under your clothes and bring a towel.



**Youth—October Plans**

**Saturday, October 4, 2014  
3:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Michael Lee Concert  
6:00 p.m. - ???  
Youth Fellowship  
and Haunted House**

**Michael Lee**, a Christian Country artist, will be performing at the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 4. The Youth group will meet there to hear the concert and then have a time of fellowship from 6—7 p.m. At 7 p.m., those youth that want to go through *Fear the Woods* may.



**Volume 7, Issue 9  
September 2014**



**MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Morrow Presbyterian  
Herald**

**The Pastor's Pen**



It has been a long time since I read anything from Dorotheos of Gaza. Despite the name this person wasn't a female, but was one of those Desert Fathers who gave instructions to solitary monks and abbots during the 500s AD. Dorotheos himself was an abbot, and he understood well the issues of human weaknesses and foibles and the need for humility.

At one point Dorotheos says, "When [the soul] is humbled it begins to bear fruit, and the more fruit it bears the lowlier it becomes. So also the saints: the nearer they get to God, the more they see themselves as sinners." What an odd statement. Shouldn't it be that the nearer we get to God, the more we see God's light and want to walk in it? Shouldn't it also be the nearer we get to God, the more we see God's perfection in us, and we want more? Those may be true, but according to Dorotheos of Gaza, the nearer we get to God, the better we understand that we are sinners.

That doesn't sound fun. We don't want to view ourselves as sinners. We want to view ourselves as remade people of God. Reborn. Rejuvenated. Strong and victorious. Use all the catchwords we can, one of them is not *sinners*. That is not encouraging. It seems it would be better for us not to draw closer to God, and remain ignorant of our sin.

Apparently, one of those Desert Fathers back in the 500s heard Dorotheos make this comment, and thought it strange. "How is this possible?" he exclaimed. Dorotheos asked, "Master of the First Rank, tell me, how do you regard yourself in respect to the other citizens [monks and abbots] here?" He said, "I regard myself as great, and first among the citizens." Dorotheos asked, "If you went away to Caesarea, how would you regard yourself then?" He answered, "I would value myself somewhat less than the great folks there." Dorotheos asked, "If you went away to Antioch, what then?" He answered, "I would regard myself as one of the common people." Lastly Dorotheos asked, "And if you went from the city of Caesarea into the presence of the Emperor, what would you think of yourself then?" The Master of the First Rank said, "I should think of myself as just one of the poor." Then Dorotheos said, "There you are! In the same way, the saints, the nearer they approach to God, the more they see themselves as sinners!"

Humility has a way of knocking us down a few notches. We need to be knocked down, because we place ourselves on high arrogant pedestals, thinking we are smart enough, strong enough, good-looking enough, and therefore self-sufficient. We come into God's presence, however, and all of that melts away. We behold wisdom and strength and power in the presence of God, and we cannot match them. We are overwhelmed by them. We take a knee and bow our heads, and admit that we have been wrong. We are sinful. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. Only God is truly holy.

But as we bow humbly to God, we find God lifting us up. God puts a new mind and heart in our bodies. God clothes us with noble robes. God does this, not so we may leave his presence and climb those pedestals again. God does this to teach us that with God we are renewed sinners, who may be saved from our sin and be made to bear good fruit to bless others. As Dorotheos said, "[The believer] does not rely on his [or her] own abilities but attributes to God everything he [or she] does right and always gives thanks to God."

Rev. Dr. John

<sup>1</sup>All references and quotes can be found in *Dorotheos of Gaza: Discourses and Sayings*, 16, 98-99, and 101

## Prayer Requests

**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Family of Estelle Waters (Mary Ann Warlick's step-mother), Walter Krauth (friend & former member), Carrilton Marsh (Bill & Shirley Thrailkill's grandson), Shanti Paramanandam (requested by Lei Eason), Ruth Batchelor, Carol Bevil, Jo Bevil, Patty Bormolini, Allie Brandon, Mary Bridges, Wendall Byars, Carol Campbell, Lucie Cantrell, Marcia Cartledge, Betty Colwell, Brittany Conrad, Shannon Delgado, Sonja Delgado, Ilona Dorsey, Mary Dyche, Sherrie Esquivel, Will Felt, Carol Forbes, Connie Funk, Jessica Giddens, Meg Gore, Allen Grant, Spencer Grant, David Hadler, Bob Hardy, Erin Harkens, Beth Harper, Steve Hayner, Tom & Alice Headlee, John Henrickson, Ronnie Hooten, Lisa Hulbert, Laura Johnson, George Kempson, Marsha Ann Kempson, Noli Luna, Julia McLeod, Mary Mickles, Dahlia Minton, Bernard Mock, David & Faye Moss, Nan Norton, Nuss Family, Breanna Ordaniel, Sara Ruth Owens, Karen Poole, Christa Poynter, Donna Randolph, Al Ritter, Kay Shaffer, Georgene Sneed, Joe & Betty Spier, Keith Stanley, Pat Stapp, Carolyn Sterns, Margaret Strelsky, Ann Thornton, 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** - Afghanistan; SPC Justin **Warlick** - Army, TX.

## Pastor John's Video Series

**Pastor John has a new Bible study video series on the Internet.** Scan this on your phone or tablet to check it out. Or, visit [www.vimeo.com/AtOneBibleVideos](http://www.vimeo.com/AtOneBibleVideos).



## Young at Heart News

**Young at Heart - Trip to Asheville, NC, September 22-24.** The Young at Heart will be taking a 2-night trip to The Thornwell Home for Children and the Biltmore Estate. They will leave on September 22 at 8:30 a.m. from the church, traveling by carpool. They will be staying at the Comfort Suites in Asheville, NC. They will visit Thornwell Home for Children, the Biltmore Estate, and take the Asheville Trolley Tour. The cost for Drivers will be \$165 (fuel furnished). Passengers will pay \$200. Cost is based on double occupancy. Singles add \$100. Reserve your space with Ken Campbell (770-961-2272).

## Prayer Partners

**Morrow Presbyterian Church Prayer Partners.** Our Prayer Partner email and phone tree list is being updated. If you would like to receive emails and/or phone trees whenever we have a prayer request, please let the church office know or you may fill out a form found in the narthex near the library. Even if you have been receiving prayer requests, please fill out a form or contact the church office if you would like to continue.

You may contact Dianne at 770-961-5444 or [mpcsecretary@bellsouth.net](mailto:mpcsecretary@bellsouth.net).

## Online Giving



**We now have online giving!** You may tithe to the church from your couch. Along with placing your tithe in the offering plate, there is another way to donate to Morrow Church. Maybe you missed a Sunday worship service and don't like to overlook giving to the church. Our new online service may help you to keep up with your weekly giving. Or, maybe you like paying bills online. This is another easy way to

send monies to the church.

Just visit our website ([MorrowPresbyterian.Org](http://MorrowPresbyterian.Org)), and find the GIVE NOW button to the left. Click it and enter your information. It is preferred that you donate via direct transfer from your bank, although you may give via credit or debit card. The site is secure and your tithe is monitored by Morrow Church. You will receive an email verification of your tithe, which may be kept for tax purposes.

Now you have two options to choose from: placing your tithe in the offering plate during Sunday worship or through the Morrow Church website. Please ask Pastor John, if you have any question.

Continue to support the ministries that make our church a great church for the kingdom of God!

## Family Night Supper, September 21, 6 p.m.



**Men of Cornerstone Quartet, September 21, 6 p.m.** Dick Shaffer, former MPC member who sang in our choir, will be bringing his Men's group, *Men of Cornerstone Quartet*, to perform for us following our covered dish supper on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring a covered dish to share at 6 p.m. and stay for the concert at 7 p.m.

The Men of Cornerstone Quartet is a southern gospel group from Newnan, GA. The *Men of Cornerstone Quartet* is made up of Mike Ferrante, tenor, Robert Thompson, tenor, Dick Shaffer, baritone, and Paul Griffin, bass.

You can find out more about them by checking out their website at [www.menofcornerstonequartet.com](http://www.menofcornerstonequartet.com).

Make sure you include this date on your schedule.

## Thank You Notes...

**From Pastor John...** I want to thank the congregation for your generous donations toward a new computer system for our church offices. With your money, we were able to purchase computers and monitors, mice, keyboards and updated software for both the main office and pastor's office. Plus, we had a considerate donor purchase a computer, monitor, keyboard, and mouse for the middle office, which serves as the device that allows the other computers to share files. All told, we underspent the proposed budget and donations given, and received everything we needed. I also want to thank Dianne's brother David Barrett for installing each computer. I appreciate all the time (more than enough time) he spent on making sure everything worked. It wouldn't have happened without him. We wouldn't be functioning without your donations. Thank you so much, and peace in Christ.

**From Jonathan Johnson...** To my church family, Thank you very much for all of your prayers, cards, and support while I was going through my National Guard training. I have now returned to North Georgia College to complete my schooling. Thank you for being such a loving church family.

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

## The Front Porch Players

The Front Porch Players proudly present **Rodgers and Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!** Performances are at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, 1842 Lake Jodeco Road on **September 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8 p.m. and September 7, 14 at 2:30 p.m.** Reserved seating and General Admission tickets available. Get your tickets by visiting [www.thefrontporchplayers.com](http://www.thefrontporchplayers.com) or by calling 770-897-1404.

## Presbyterian Women

**Virginia Dews Circle, September 8, 6:30 p.m.** Virginia Dews will have their next regular meeting on September 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pacers Classroom. Lei will continue the study of Women of the Bible. Maria Cruz will give the devotion and refreshments will be served by Anne Fordham.

**Dorcas Circle—September 9, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall for brunch followed by their Bible study of the Book of James, Chapter 1 led by Suzanne Lukat. Their project will be donations for gift cards for the girls of Silliman Cottage at Thornwell. Marcia Cartledge has the devotion. Janis and Berniece are the hostesses.

**Morning Glory Circle—September 28, 9:45 a.m.** The Morning Glory Circle has begun a new Bible study using the book, *The Best Yes*, by Lysa TerKeurst. If you would like to join the group in this study, you may want to purchase your book from Amazon.com or LifeWay. See Andra Gammage for a study guide. The group is currently reading Chapters 1-3, and completing the study guide given out on August 24. The group meets in the McNair/Seekers classroom.

**Presbyterian Women's Project.** The project for the rest of the year is to buy a washer/dryer for the Costa Rica Mission. Save your change!

**Save the Dates!** Sunday, **October 12**, 12:30 p.m. PW General Meeting/Salad Luncheon and Saturday, **January 24**, 2015 for the Women's Retreat at Calvin Center.