

Volume 18 Issue 7

July 2025



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



"That's somebody else's mail." This is what Brent A. Strewn was told on his way to work (*Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament*, 3).¹ He and his friend would commute to the seminary at which they both worked, and one day his friend just flat out told him that the Old Testament is "somebody else's mail," and so we shouldn't have to bother with it as Christians.

The comment caught Strewn off-guard because he is an Old Testament professor, but also because he believes the New Testament stands on equal footing as the Old. Both should be read. We cannot ignore the Old and think that our entire Bible only includes the New. To dismiss the one would not give us the full picture of who God or who we are. Strewn remembers how he responded to his friend: "So, you live in Corinth, Tom?" (page 4). He suggested that Paul's letters to the Corinthians couldn't possibly be written to him, because he did not live in Corinth at the time of their writings, and so Tom should just ignore those two letters of the New Testament.

The point Strewn is trying to make is that all the writings of the Old and New Testaments cannot be seen as somebody else's mail. It is our mail, "addressed to us, eminently useful to us" (page 8). He highlights 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as the passage to support his argument, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." For the Jews at that time it would have meant only the books of the Old Testament, but for us it now includes the Gospels and the Letters of the New Testament. All of those words (around 783,000 of them) become God's letter to us. Each story could be used to teach us much about God's love for us. Each lesson could be used to train us in understanding God's will for us.

Not every story and instruction in the Old Testament might apply to us, especially when it comes to offering sacrifices on the altar of God, but even they can tell us something about how we should carry ourselves as God's children. Even those so-called irrelevant stories are God's word to us. We can look at the unfaithfulness of Israel walking through the wilderness, for example, and receive a lesson of how we need to be faithful to God. We can listen to the prophets implore the people to turn from false gods, and we can look at the false images and ideas we have fashioned for ourselves that have nothing to do with God. They may even work against God and God's word. We grow in faith and equip ourselves for ministry from all the stories and commands and wisdom that come from both Old and New Testaments. "Whatever was written in the past," Paul says, "was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures" (Romans 15:4).

Maybe you tend to ignore the Old Testament and maybe you don't. Regardless, it is God's mail to us. God breathed it all for us to read and ingest. God intimately offers us his word, so that we may know our God better and we may also know each other better. Don't forget to open that mail and get some needed guidance.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

¹It was fun listening to him speak at this year's preaching conference in Atlanta.

PRAYER Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS: Family of Ronald Goza (Wayne Goza's brother), Family of Mark Patrus, Family of Savannah Schivers (Bob & Gail Hardy's granddaughter-in-law), Austin John (Grady Hospital), Jo Calhoun, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Xander Bradley, Ugo and Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Keith Danser, David Dawson, Terry & Mary Dyche, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Peter Farwell, Anne & Haywood Fordham, Jessica Giddens, Wayne Goza, Olen Grubbs, Julie Haney, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Abbey Hooten, Jessica & Patrick Johnson, George Kempson, Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Lavender Lampl, Jim & Marty LeDuke, Berniece Lillegard, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Keith Maxey, Jim McNaull, Mary Ann Moriles, Florette Njonu, Sunny Onuoha, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Roxie Romine, Dick Shaffer, Glenn Sharpe, Carolyn Solsten, Gail Starkweather, Butch Stavelly, David Swafford, Arrah Thomas, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Debbie Valentine, Devon Valentine, Clay Verdell, Barry Weems, David Weems, Debbie Westover, Mark Williams, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our nation, Israel, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons. *A full prayer list is in the narthex.*

PW Man of the Year 2025— Norman Lillie



Congratulations to our 2025 Man of the Year— Norman Lillie

Norman Lillie was honored at the worship service on Father's Day. He and his wife of 55 years, Linda, became faithful members of Morrow Presbyterian Church in 1985.

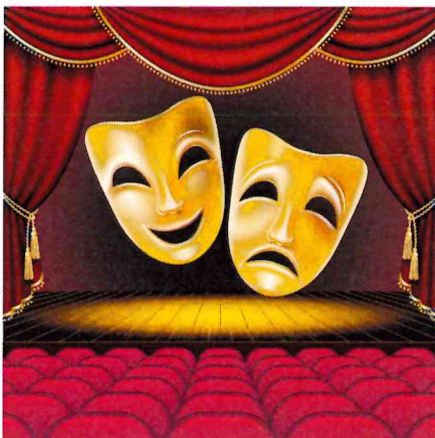
Norman has served in many capacities since joining. He joined the choir in 2000. He has performed in our Praise Band. He participates in the Young at Heart, the Cancer Basket Auction (quite known for his strawberry jam), Family Night Suppers, church work days, and the Food Pantry. At the pantry, Norman is known as Captain Cardboard for breaking down and recycling cardboard boxes. One year he taught at a Life Skills Day at MPC—teaching golf and how to fly a drone. He played and coached on our MPC championship men's softball team. There he earned the nickname "Cone" for a victorious catch in the outfield.

Some of the qualities mentioned in the votes cast for Norman were God-fearing, integrity, giving, family-oriented, loving husband, kind, respectful, friendly, helpful, hard working, never gives up, uses God's gifts wisely, is a steadfast servant, and is faithful.

Norman was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout growing up. In high school he was in chorus, played football on a state championship team, earned 5 medals on the track and field team, and was on the ski team. He sang lead as "Curly" in his high school musical, "Oklahoma."

Norman was drafted into the Army in 1967. He became a warrant officer and helicopter pilot. He flew over 2000 combat hours in Huey helicopters in the delta of Vietnam in 1968. He also entertained the colonel at the officer's club, singing and playing guitar.

Congratulations, Norman! A well-deserved honor!



Annual Women's Retreat
Morrow Presbyterian Church
September 27, 2025 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Cost— Free! Lunch included.
"Who Is Behind the Mask?"

Marie Tuttle will be leading our retreat. Wear something you feel most comfortable in, even if it's your pajamas! There will be a "ticket" in your bulletin soon to sign up and choose your lunch option.

Presbyterian Women

Dorcas Circle, July 8, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, July 8 at 11:15 a.m. at O'Charley's in Stock-bridge. Please let Anne or Jo know if you will be attending.

Virginia Dews Circle - will not meet in July. *Please join the group in August.*

Morning Glory Circle - will not meet in July. *Please join the group in August.*

Heifer International. There are chicks, heifers, goats, sheep, pigs, water buffalo, and so much more waiting to go to good homes. For \$120 you can gift a Dream Basket that includes a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits and a flock of chicks, along with training and education in their care. Check out the board in the hallway near Noah's Ark and see what you can find. You may also give money to the PW. Checks to MPC Women, earmarked Heifer International.

Bridal Shower— August 10, 2 p.m.



All women of the church are invited to a Bridal Shower for **Amanda Callahan and James Jones** on Sunday, August 10 at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The shower will be hosted by the Morning Glory Circle.

Amanda & James are registered at Amazon and Target.



The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 3 for Independence Day.

Young at Heart Lunch, July 2



The Young at Heart will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, July 2, at 11:30 a.m. at Three Dollar Cafe** for their monthly gathering.

Please let Libby or Bruce Campbell know if you will be attending so they can plan seating.

Hope to see you there!

New Church Directory

The new **JULY 2025 DIRECTORY** is available in the narthex.

Please feel free to take a copy.

Please let the church office know of any corrections—we know there are some!

School Supplies Needed



School Supplies Needed. We have begun collecting school supplies for Morrow Elementary - our Partner in Education school. Things like #2 pencils, permanent markers, colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks, composition books, and notebook paper. For specific needs, please see the school list on the office window. You may want to take a

picture of it to have on your phone when you go shopping.

Items may be placed in the shopping cart in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105

Prayers for Schools, July 27, 11 a.m.



Praying for Our Students & Teachers – July 27, 11 a.m. We will pray for all of the children and youth in our congregation and the schools they represent (Pre-K – College) during the morning's worship service. **If your child is new to our congregation, please let Dianne Hooten know their grade and school. If your child has changed schools, please let the church office know.** Please keep our students and teachers in your prayers during the new school year.

Father's Day Breakfast 2025

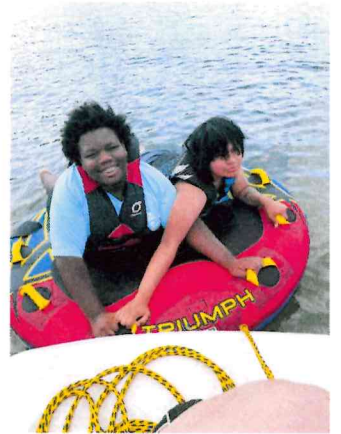


Hunter and Libby Weems Shower



Congratulations!

Youth Lake Day 2025



AWESOME!



JULY 2025

July Birthdays

- 7/2 - Tamara Callahan
- 7/4 - Kara Folds
- Abbey Hooten
- AMERICA
- 7/5 - Grayson Gammage
- 7/11 - Christopher Campbell
- 7/13 - Virginia Cagle
- Albert G. "Tico" Coughlin
- Hayden Robinson
- 7/15 - Blesson Tenson
- Roxie Thomas
- 7/19 - McKenzzie Robinson
- 7/20 - Bruce Campbell
- Sonny Sneed
- 7/21 - Dock Gammage
- 7/24 - Roxie Romine
- 7/28 - Thomas Chukwura
- 7/31 - Matthew Hooten

Happy Birthday



July Anniversaries

- 7/1 - Matthew & Abbey Hooten (2)
- Grayson & Morganne Gammage (2)



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Allen Grant
Secondary: Albert Coughlin

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Morning Glory Circle

USHERS

Donna Boggs, Captain; Ngozi Bivins,
Ugo Chukwura, Tricia Koehler, Deborah Venizelos,
Moses Ayodele

CHILDREN'S SERMON

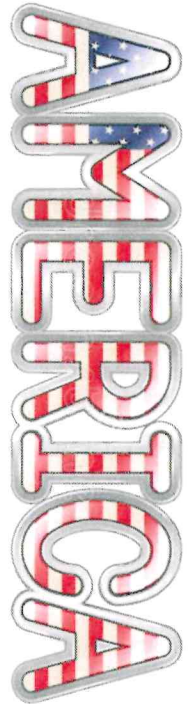
- 6 - Pastor John
- 13 - Dock Gammage
- 20 - Deborah Venizelos
- 27 - Allen Grant

LITURGIST

- 6 - Mary Dyche
- 13 - Mary Ann Moriles
- 20 - James Eason
- 27 - Deborah Venizelos

COUNTING TEAM

Jo Calhoun and James Eason



SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

June 1	-	19
June 8	-	24
June 15	-	35
June 22	-	11
June 29	-	21

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

June 1	-	67
June 8	-	55
June 15	-	55
June 22	-	47
June 29	-	62

Financial Health—June 2025

June 1	-	\$ 7,790.89
June 8	-	\$ 2,543.00
June 15	-	\$ 3,911.00
June 22	-	\$ 3,181.00
June 29	-	\$ 3,453.00
Online	-	\$ 4,191.10

Needed:
\$ 30,583.35

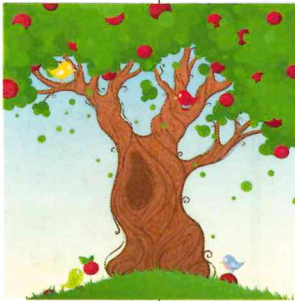



Received:
\$ 25,069.99

Ways to give to Morrow Presbyterian Church:

- 1) Mail your check to the church at MPC, P. O. Box 316, Morrow, GA 30260
- 2) Set up an account online with your bank's bill pay option. When it asks for the account number, use your envelope number. Your bank will send the church a check for the amount and on the date you designate.
- 3) Scan this QR code with your camera:



July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11:30 a.m. YAH to \$3 Cafe NO Choir Practice	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	4   Office closed	5
6 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live NO PWCT NO Youth NO Kids Club	7 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	8 11:15 a.m. Dorcas Circle @ O'Charley's NO Session	9 NO Choir Practice	10 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	11 Office closed	12
13 NO Morning Glory 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live - Communion 5 p.m. Youth	14 NO Virginia Dews	15 6:30 p.m. Scouts	16 10:00 a.m. Living Branch Life Group NO Choir	17 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	18 Office closed	19
20 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 5 p.m. Youth NO Kids Club	21 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	22 6:30 p.m. Scouts	23 NO Choir Practice	24 3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	25 Office closed	26
27 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship in person & Facebook Live—Prayers for Schools 5:00 p.m. Youth NO Kids Club	28	29 6:30 p.m. Scouts	30 NO Choir Practice	31  3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	