

Volume 15 Issue 12

December 2022



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



I read a wonderful devotional from *ChristianityToday.com*, and I felt the need to share it with you. It is called *The Humble Gift*, by LaTonya Taylor. Enjoy and have a Mighty Christmas (*merry* in old English means *mighty*)!

I sat near the back of the sanctuary as the soloist made his way to the stage. He looked to be around 16 with a preoccupied expression on his face. He sat down behind a music stand, adjusted his papers, and gently placed his bass guitar on his lap.

He then sang the familiar song *The Little Drummer Boy*. It's about a little boy who visits the newborn Jesus, and realizing that he has no gift to honor this baby king, the boy offers what he does have: the gift of his ability. He asks if he can play a drum solo.

My heart was moved as the soloist sang the final lines of the song, where the baby Jesus responds to the drummer boy's gift: *I played my best for him ... then he smiled at me.*

In many ways, this singer demonstrated the beautiful truth of this story. He was humbly dressed in a baggy sweater and khakis. His voice was soft and a little tentative. He looked down at his music the whole time. When the song was over, he simply gathered his music and walked to the back of the stage so the choir could file in. I was moved by his humility, by his gentle, quiet spirit. This simple, tentative rendition of the song was his gift to God. It was beautiful. And it was enough.

The Bible doesn't mention the story of the little drummer boy and, as far as we know, it isn't true in the literal sense. But the writer of this beautiful song knew a deeper truth: that God is pleased when we give him our best.

Think of what the songwriter was trying to convey. A simple boy, like any one of us, played a loud, clattering, startling, ear-assaulting drum solo as a gift to a baby? It came from a pure heart. The smiling Christ-child sensed the purity of the young man's heart and responded with his own gift—the beaming face of God, the approval and gratitude of the tightly swaddled Almighty. *Thank you. That was beautiful. What you brought Me was enough.*

In many ways, Jesus was kind of like the drummer boy, and like the soloist I saw at church. Isaiah 53:2 says that Jesus wasn't beautiful or stunning or especially majestic—that he had “no beauty of majesty in his appearance to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” In fact, a lot of people missed the chance to get to know Jesus, because he seemed so ordinary.

But he was God's extraordinary gift, someone who came to wear a body like we do, to have a heart that knew abandonment, loneliness, betrayal and pain. He came to be bruised and misunderstood, to take a punishment beyond what our human hearts and bodies could withstand. He came to bring forgiveness and joy and peace and healing and hope and the promise of a perfect eternity.

My hope is that sometime during the rush and excitement of this season you'll have an experience like the one I had during that song. I hope that you'll see or hear something that makes your heart quiet and overflow the way mine did. That you'll have a humble moment when you can offer a silent prayer to God: *Thank you. You are beautiful. What You gave us is more than enough.*

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Jeanette Adams (MPC friend), Family of Scott Bradley (friend of the Grants), Janet Bradley (Frank Bradley's niece), Daniel Bradley (Frank Bradley's brother), Rick Keyser (Andra Gammage's father), Family of Cleofe Moscaya, Family of Leo Dominquez, Family of Juanita Wilson (requested by Kempsons and Hootens), Marian Meyer, Jeff Ragan (Sharon Goza's brother), Libby McNair, Susan Apostolero, Marion Beach, Ferrell Boggs, Mary Bridges, Chris Brogan, Susan Brown, Jo Calhoun, Ken & Janis Campbell, Lucie Cantrell, Marcia Cartledge, Teresa Carpenter, Mandy Chapman, Thomas Chukwura, Dr. Maria Coleman, Betty Colwell, Cheryl Crider, Felix Cruz, James Eason, Jonathan Emerson, Austin & Hannah Freeman, Christian Funderburk, Angela Funk, Betty Gammage, Jessica Giddens, Kay Goodman, Marie Goza, Raymond Goza, Russell Goza, Susie Grant, Bob Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Tom & Betty Janes, Kenny Kingsbury, Millicent Levy, Berniece Lillegard, Bruce Lillegard, Doug Lozel, Carol McGhee, Don McGhee, Grandpa & Grandma Moriles, Florette Njonu, Rick Peel, Doris Ragan, Guillermo Rara, Roxie Romine, Susan Ross, Neris Saavedra, Rita Smith, Jameison Smith, James & Floryne Spence, Steven Sterzik, Carol Trustorf, Sharon Veldsma, Sharon Walton, Frank & Mary Ann Warlick, Janine Washington, Carolyn Weems, Terry Williams, and Ellyn Winkles. Our nation, Our Military, Our Missionaries; Our College Students.

A full prayer list is available in the narthex.

Christmas Cards



Christmas Cards. If you would like to send a Christmas card to everyone in the congregation to share your Christmas message, a good way to do that is to send one to the church to be placed in the narthex. The money you may wish to include in your card this year will go toward WalMart gift cards for the needy. A huge "thank you" to the Grant family for our Christmas trees that are in the sanctuary and narthex.

Youth Christmas Party

Youth Christmas Party, Sunday, December 4, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Hooten home. The Youth will have their annual Christmas party at the home of Ronnie & Dianne Hooten during the regular youth fellowship time of 5 - 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. The Hootens will provide dinner. Youth are asked to bring a wrapped item for the exchange.



Christmas Cantata December 11, 11 a.m.

The Canterbury Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, "Shout the Good News!" on Sunday, December 11 at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Thank You Note

From the Worship Ministry Team... A big "Thank You" to all who helped decorate our church for this Christmas season including Nelson Ayodele, Ngozi Bivins, Donna & Ruth Boggs, Donald Bryant, Tamara & Amanda Callahan, Bruce, Carol, & Corey Campbell, Ugo Chukwura, Anne Fordham, James Jones, Stephanie Lozel, Libby McNair, Dianne & Ronnie Hooten, Deborah and Rebekah Venizelos, and any other elves we may have missed. A special thanks to Allen & Susie Grant for the flocked trees in our sanctuary and narthex.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.



OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be in the sanctuary this December 24 at 7 p.m. It will include scripture read by members of the congregation. Our service will also include music by various people and a message from Pastor John.

The service will conclude with communion and candle lighting.

FNS/Kids' Club Program and Joy Gift, December 11, 6 p.m.

Waiting for Christmas! Covered Dish Family Night Supper & Kids' Club Program, December 11, 6 p.m. Please join us on Sunday, December 11 at 6 p.m. for our covered dish Family Night Supper. Kids' Club will present their special program, "Waiting for Christmas" following dinner. The Joy Gift offering and Staff Recognition will follow.



Church Office Closed

December 22-26 and December 29—January 2, 2023

*The MPC Church Staff wishes everyone
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



PW Officers 2023

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2023 SLATE OF OFFICERS



Presbyterian Women



PWCT—December 4, 12:15

p.m. The PWCT December Meeting Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 12:15 p.m. All 2022 and

2023 members are invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish for lunch and a toy/game for Toys for Tots.

The Virginia Dews Circle—December 5,

6:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Virginia Dews Circle will be on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair/Seekers classroom for their annual Christmas meeting. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share and a gift for kids or teens (Toys For Tots).

The Dorcas Circle, December 13, 10 a.m.

The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, December 13 in the fellowship hall at 10 a.m. for business and signing of cards. Following the meeting, the group will go to out for lunch.

Morning Glory Lunch, December 18, 12:15

p.m. The Morning Glory Circle will go to lunch following the worship service on Sunday, December 18. Please meet in the narthex to decide location.

Downing of the Browns, Jan 8

Downing of the Browns – January 8, 12:15

p.m. Many volunteers are needed to help take down the church decorations. Please plan on staying after church. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

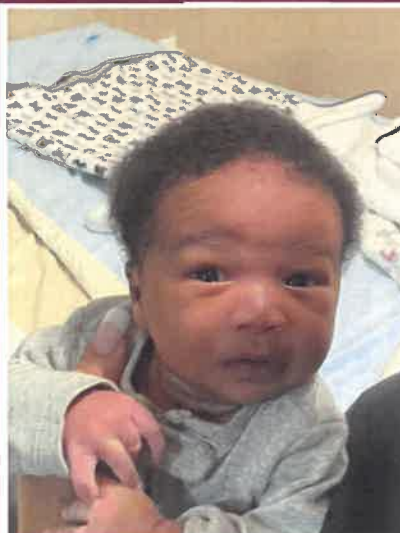


Oper Christmas Blessing December 18



Operation Christmas Blessing

was started in 2007 as a ministry of the Uptown Congregation Church in the Philippines. We are asking your help in supporting Grandma Moriles' special ministry through your prayers and financial help. Checks to MPC, earmarked *Operation Christmas Blessing*, may be mailed in to the church office, or placed in the offering plate along with your regular contributions on December 18.



Congratulations to Tamara

Mickles on the birth of her baby boy, **Tristen Corrie Offord**, who was born on October 14, 2022.

A rosebud and cradle cross were seen on the pulpit recently that were provided by the Presbyterian Women in Tristen's honor. Welcome little Tristen!

Tamara received a gift card from the Presbyterian Women. She responded by saying, "Thank you so much. It came right on time! It will definitely be used. Thank you ladies so much!"



Meet Our Staff

A Special Welcome to Our Newest Staff Member — Shane Turner, Media Coordinator

Shane has been a lifelong member of Morrow Presbyterian Church; active in the youth group and praise band. He also helps out behind the scenes when his parents are cooking for a church function.

Shane is currently on a break from Clayton State University where he soon plans to continue his education with a degree in history. Right now he works in childcare and in his free time enjoys reading, camping with his dad and playing with his dogs. Welcome, Shane!

And a Special Welcome Back to Our Interim Nursery Coordinator — Mimi England

Mimi is a familiar face as she returns to our nursery for a short time to help fill our nursery needs.

Mimi served as Nursery Coordinator for several years during her 29 years as a member of MPC.

Mimi is the Director of Account Services at All Points. She has worked there for 19 years.

Welcome back, Mimi!



Children's Christmas Party, Sunday, December 4, 5-7 p.m.



The annual Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 4 between the hours of 5—7 p.m.

Kids' Club will rehearse for their upcoming program prior to the party.

All children are welcome to come and watch the rehearsal and stay for the party.

Join us!

DECEMBER

December Birthdays

12/6 - Ugo Chukwura
 12/8 - Daya Tenson
 12/9 - Twarna Johnson
 12/11 - Cal Folds
 12/12 - Stephanie Lozel
 12/13 - Jaden Robinson
 12/14 - Audrey Sharpe
 - Malani Howard
 12/17 - Penny Sierra
 - Stephanie Venizelos
 12/19 - Drayl Johnson
 12/22 - Kevin Moriles
 12/23 - Kathy Prince
 12/24 - Ivana Follykoe
 12/25 - Our Lord & Savior Jesus
 12/27 - Janis Campbell
 12/28 - Immanuel Follykoe
 - Barry Weems
 12/30 - Mark Patrus
 12/31 - Hannah Folds



December Anniversaries

12/12 - Gary & Annie Johnson (30)
 12/15 - Felix & Maria Cruz (16)
 12/17 - Dock & Andra Gammage (28)
 12/28 - John & Tamara Callahan (29)
 12/31 - David & Angela Turner (32)
 - Tenson Pitchaimani
 & Daya Tenson (21)



**WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Dianne Hooten
 Secondary: Mike Sneed

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Dorcas Circle

USHERS

David Turner, Captain; Terry Broom,
 Twarna Johnson, Carol McGhee

CHILDREN'S SERMON

4 - Mary Dyche
 11 - Dock Gammage
 18 - Mike Sneed
 25 - Pastor John

LITURGIST

4 - James Eason
 11 - Dock Gammage
 18 - Deborah Venizelos
 25 - Dock Gammage

COUNTING TEAM

Deborah Venizelos and Jo Calhoun

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

4 - Jo Calhoun
 11 - Open
 18 - Open
 25 - Open

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 30 - 20
 November 6 - 24
 November 13 - 26
 November 20 - 22
 November 27 - 21

IN PERSON WORSHIP

October 30 - 60
 November 6 - 77
 November 13 - 63
 November 20 - 55
 November 27 - 51

Financial Health—November, 2022








October 30 - \$ 4,656.00
 November 6 - \$ 6,905.00
 November 13 - \$ 4,569.13
 November 20 - \$ 6,861.20
 November 27 - \$ 2,328.10
 Online - \$ 863.20

Needed:
 \$ 29,074.35
Received:
 \$ 26,182.63

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) Go to our website www.morrowpresbyterian.org and click on the Giving tab at the top.
- 4) Text MORROWPRES & AMOUNT to 73256.

DECEMBER 2022

				<p>1</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Family of Friends CANCELLED</p>
<p>4  Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 9:45 a.m. Elder Orientation 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook 12:15 p.m. PWCT Meeting—Covered Dish 5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas@ Hooten Home 5:00 pm. Kids Club & Children's Christ- mas Party</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 p.m. VA Dews Circle</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Choir practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group @ Sharon Goza's home</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cub Scout Christmas Party</p>
<p>11  Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook Choir Cantata 4:00 pm. Kids Club Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Youth 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Kids Club Program</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Dorcas Circle</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Session Meeting & Covered Dish Dinner @ Grants home</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir practice</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18  Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person</p> <p>11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook Operation Christmas Blessing</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth NO Kids' Club</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 a.m. Living Branch Life Group</p> <p>NO Choir practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Food Pantry</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>7 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service</p>
<p>25 </p> <p>NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook - Christmas Day NO Youth NO Kids Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>NO Choir practice</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 

Kelsey & Mason's Wedding Shower



FALL FESTIVAL 2021

