

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FOR BANCROFT AND MORRICE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
JANUARY 2012

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www.bmpumc.org

NINA MORTIMORE, EDITOR

[We] have a shared mission to serve God to the best of our ability by making him known in our church, community and world.

Dear Friends in Christ,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! January is one of my favorite times of year because it is a time of new beginnings! I begin every January reflecting on one of my favorite scripture passages, 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* Paul goes on to say that God has given us the privilege of sharing this good news with people. In fact, he tells us it is our task to assure people that they can be reconciled with God, and he calls us Christ's ambassadors.

I recently had the privilege of witnessing, telling this good news to someone and watching that person begin a new life with Christ. Watching God work in someone's heart, seeing their excitement to begin life all new, reminded me again that we have a God who never gives up on us, no matter what. With God, every year, every day can be a new beginning!

I was also reminded how important our witness is. Often, we shy away from sharing this good news, afraid of appearing pushy with our "religion." The truth is our communities are full of people who are looking for this good news, searching for someone who will listen to their story and assure them that God loves them, forgives their sins, and gives them a new start. People are longing for a new beginning!

In the September newsletter, I shared that each month we would focus on the five ways we commit in our membership vows to participate: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. In January, we will focus on our witness. How have you participated by witnessing?

Our witness includes individual sharing, telling people that in Christ they can have a new beginning. Our witness also includes the witness of our church in the community. How is our church a witness? As a church, how are we being ambassadors of Christ? What do people in our community think and say about us as they walk or drive by our building? Are they saying, "Now, there's a place where you can experience God's love!" Are they thinking, "I know someone there will help me. Someone there will listen." Or, "That's a place I can go and have a new start."

God wants each of us to be ambassadors and the church as a whole to be an effective witness, reconciling people to God. Both Bancroft and Morrice churches witness God's big love by generously giving money, food, clothes, and other supplies to people in need. There has been some great servant evangelism, giving free car washes and handing out free water as ways of showing God's love.

Let's continue this good work, and walk together into the future being mindful of our witness. I sincerely hope each of you will consider coming to Bancroft on January 29 as we begin walking together into 2012 by planning how we can increase and expand the effectiveness of our witness. We will eat together, have fun, laugh, and plan together. Look for the article in this newsletter for more information about this important day for our churches. Remember Jeremiah 29:11: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Blessings,
Pastor Tricia

**JESUS
PARRES**



UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR is the part of our church which allows us to be in mission here in the United States and around the world. Quite often, UMCOR is one of the first relief agencies into an area devastated by natural disasters. They also work with areas that are struck by famine or other conditions where humanitarian aid is needed. You may help out financially by writing a check to the church with the Advance # on the memo line and drop it in the collection plate. Above all, please keep the victims and workers in your prayers. Below are only examples of ways we help.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines have been struck in recent weeks with typhoons and floods. UMCOR is helping the victims with food and other supplies. Use Advance # 240235, Philippines Emergency.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Advance # 982450 is used to help many victims of natural disaster. It is the fund to donate to help the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey or to help alleviate the famine in Somalia.

HAITI HOT LUNCH

The third Sunday of each month at Morrice is a special offering for the Haiti Hot Lunch program. A lunch box is used to collect change for the children in Haiti United Methodist schools. The offering is used to see that the children receive at least one hot meal daily.
Thank you for your help.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

On January 15, we will collect the first of our Special Sunday offerings. The Sunday before Martin Luther King Day in the United Methodist Church is designated as Human Relations Day. The offering collected on this day is used to help encourage social justice and work with at risk youth in the United States and Puerto Rico.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

Don't forget the food collection Sunday on January 8. We should continue to remember our food banks throughout the year. Even one or two items will help keep something on the shelves.

Shepherd's Fund

The Shepherd's Fund helps people who are needing assistance paying for rent, utilities, or medication. In this present economy, more and more people are calling for assistance. The Shepherd's Fund usually gives \$100 maximum per need. Occasionally, if a bill is over but near the \$100 amount, the fund will pay more. The caller must raise the full amount from this and other local charities before a check from the Shepherd's Fund is sent directly to the utility company, pharmacy, property manager, etc. Funds are not given directly to the individual requesting them. As with other local charities, individuals may not make frequent requests of the Shepherd's Fund, so funds are available for as many people as possible. If you would like to help your neighbors in the Bancroft and Morrice communities through the Shepherd's Fund, you can designate "Shepherd's Fund" on your giving check or envelope.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped to fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse. The relay center at United Methodist Church of Swartz Creek collected a total of 7,028 shoe box gifts. Fantastic job!

Website

The website for our churches will soon be updated. If you have ideas of how to use the website, and/or if you have computer/website skills you would like to share, please contact Pastor Tricia.

**Bring your
Friends**

JANUARY

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Communion
- 4 Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 5 Protection Training at New Lothrop UMC
- 8 Trustees, Choir (M) after worship; Food Collection Sunday; Hospice House offering
- 11 Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 13-14 U-Nite at Genesis 10:00-5:30 am
- 15 Special Sunday offering
- 16 ML King Day: Ad Board (M) 7:00 pm
- 18 Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 21 Protection Training at Flint: Bristol UMC
- 25 Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 26 Salad Luncheon (M) 11-1:00 pm
- 28 Recycling Day (M) 9-11 am
- 29 Planning Day at (B) 12-4 pm

U-NITE

Calling any and all youth (6th grade and older) to attend U-Nite. This is an all-night event with groups from the Crossroads District. They meet at the Genesis Athletic Club in Grand Blanc and have use of the pool, racquetball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts, running track and much more for the entire night.

The early bird deadline is \$15.00 (before January 6) with at the door cost of \$20.00. Adult chaperones are also needed. Those who are "certified" are not charged, but "uncertified" adults are asked to pay \$10.00. Our group will gather at the Morrice UMC at about 9:45 pm and return about 5:30 am.

If you would like more information, there are sheets located on the back table or you can talk to Nina.

What is M.A.R.C?

We now have a charge membership in the Michigan Area Resource Center M.A.R.C (Michigan Area Resource Center) is an audio-visual media and music lending library, open to all United Methodist churches and affiliated agencies in Michigan. Resources are available on a borrowing basis, similar to any library. MARC Office hours are Monday- Wednesday, 8:30am-5:00pm. MARC offers over 4,000 video titles (including DVD format) and 700 sheet music titles along with other media resources such as audio resources, print materials, and maps and media kits for all ages on various subjects. If you would like to explore or order resources for children or adult ministries, you can do so online at <http://marc-web.org> where you can browse the online catalog and check out resources. MARC can be contacted by phone: 888-217-1905, by fax: 616-459-0191, or by email: marc@wmumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

*Bancroft: Worship 9:00 am
Children's Sunday School during
worship
Adult Sunday School after
worship
Morrice: Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Children's Sunday School during
worship*

WALKING TOGETHER INTO THE

FUTURE!

January 29 is an important day for both Bancroft and Morrice churches. COME, LEARN, PLAN! Everyone is welcome to this interactive learning and planning day for both Bancroft and Morrice churches from 12pm to 4pm. We will learn about the demographics of our communities and effective ways to reach out. We will review our mission and ways to live it together. Each church will decide on 1-3 goals that will give your church direction and momentum moving into the future. We will eat, have fun, laugh, plan, and begin living into 2012 together as church! Come and be part of this important and enjoyable day! Lunch provided.

PROTECTION TRAINING

There are two training sessions for anyone interested in working with children, youth and vulnerable adults. This training is one session, and the only cost is for a few postage stamps.

The first session is Thursday, January 5 at New Lothrop UMC, 6-9:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Brian Kelley at (810) 635-4555 or at bkelly@umc-ss.org. The second session is Saturday, January 21 at Flint: Bristol UMC, 12:30-3:30 pm. If you would like to attend that session, please contact Jeff Ponier at iponier@comcast.net.

Both of our churches have child protection policies which urge all those who work with our children and youth to take this class and become certified. Certified adults are needed to chaperone all district and conference events with youth and children present. Anyone who has been fingerprinted for work in schools still needs this certification to receive their card.

Please consider doing this for the future of our churches.

Bancroft

BANCROFT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

January Sunday School Adult class will still be studying Dr. David Jeremiah's "The Coming Economic Armageddon". Lesson 6 is entitled "The Mark of the Beast" based on Revelation 13:1-18. Lesson 7 "Financial Signs of the End Times" scripture is from Revelation, Ezekiel and 2 Timothy. Lesson 8 is entitled "The Collapse of the Global Financial Market" based again on Revelation 18:1-24.



BANCROFT UMW

We had 11 people present at our November meeting. Among the activities for the month of December are cookies and fruit baskets to help make their day brighter.

The Lions' Club donated some money to help people in the community to have a happier Christmas this year. With their donations and what we have we hope to help five families this year.

On December 8, 17 people went to Turkeyville for a turkey dinner, shopping and a show.

A big thanks to Joanne and June for taking the boxes to Swartz Creek again this year to be sent to Samaritan's Purse.

We sent 153 labels and 68 boxes to Red Bird Mission this month.

BANCROFT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we were greeters. We made turkeys and added feathers with "thought" messages on each feather. We recycled the "thoughts" from the Upper Room. We made a Nativity scene and we will see a video on Sunday.

The Shiawassee Township Fire Department firemen volunteered to help fill twenty Christmas stockings for Loaves and Fishes. We took our stockings to the fire hall. Each child had a buddy to help him choose items for his stocking. After, we had snacks, the firemen gave us a tour. We sat in the trucks and they explained how the controls worked. We tried on helmets, boots and suits. They were big and heavy. We learned about fire safety. Thanks to the volunteers, we had an exciting and fun time.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Remember to do something for a friend this season!

Time for a New Church Directory!

Plans are underway to publish new church directories. An updated directory for both churches will help us stay better connected. In February and March you can have your photo taken for the directory, or you can submit a professional photo that we can scan into the new directory. We need volunteers to take photos and to collect information for our directories.

Women's Christian Book Club

Do you like to read? Wished you had a group where you can share your thoughts and questions? Do you have little time to spare for meetings but a desire to support others in prayer? There is interest in a book club for women that will meet once a month, as a time to share our joy of reading and our support of each other. What can be better than sharing a good book and knowing a group of women are supporting you in prayer, too? If you are interested, contact Pastor Ticia.

MORRICE

GREETING YOU AT MORRICE

- 1 Cheryl Lewis
- 8 Laura Smith
- 15 Donna Godfrey
- 22 Joyce & Van Polhemus
- 29 Shirley Shaw

COFFEE/BEVERAGE AT MORRICE

- 1 Cheryl Lewis
- 8
- 15 Pat Stiff
- 22
- 29

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

The Administrative Board is the "official" board of the church. They make final decisions on programs, budgets, missions, and other items concerning the church and its people. The next meeting is Monday, January 16 at 7:00 pm at the church. Anyone who is a member or holds a position in the church should attend if at all possible. Please mark this on your calendar.

MORRICE LITURGIST

- 1 Donna Godfrey
- 8 Joyce Polhemus
- 15 Alethea Harvey
- 22 John Morimore
- 29 Bridget Morimore

HOSPICE HOUSE OFFERING

Recently the Administrative Board at Morrice voted to collect a special offering each month for Hospice House of Shawasssee. The second Sunday of each month has been selected. If you would like to make a donation to this cause, please indicate it on your offering envelope.

The Hospice House is a volunteer organization located on Copas Road in Owosso.

MORRICE CHOIR

The Morrice choir could use some more voices to make a joyful noise! They practice on January 8 immediately following worship. See you there!

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to our honor roll students at Morrice Area Schools, grades 7-12. The list includes: Kelsey Butcher, Brianna Clark, Brittany Clark, JD Eva, Nate Hart, Nick Hart, TJ Hulbert, Ashton Morris and Averi Munro. Great job, everyone!

WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Please welcome our new neighbors who are living in the parsonage house next to the Morrice UMC. They are renting the house. Please make them feel welcome.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Morrice trustees or Pastor Tricia.

WINTER SPORTS

The best of luck to all our winter sports coaches and athletes. From Morrice we have Brandy Morimore coaching 8th grade volleyball which included Brittany Clark.

The varsity girls basketball team includes Brianna Clark and her grandpa, Doug Clark is an assistant coach.

Wrestling on a combined Perry Morrice team is Mike Morimore.



SYMPATHY EXTENDED

Our condolences are extended to the family of Alex Gilbert who passed away in December. He attended the Morrice UMC. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

MORRICE TRUSTEES

The Morrice Trustees will meet after worship on January 8. Please plan on attending if at all possible. All the trustees can listen to the choir practice while they do their work.

RECYCLING DAY

The Morrice UMM (United Methodist Men) will sponsor a recycling day at the church parking lot on Saturday, January 28. Someone will be available to help load bagged or bundled newspapers into the trailer 9-11:00 am.

At the same time, a representative of the youth group will collect rinsed pop bottles and/or cans for recycling. Funds collected are used for various youth programs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 2	Sue Banker	M
Jan. 3	Jessica Eva	M
Jan. 3	Myranda Combs	M
Jan. 3	Sarah Cooney	B
Jan. 5	Lilly Twichell	M
Jan. 6	Emma Sidel	M
Jan. 7	Chuck Sumpter	B
Jan. 13	Diane Clark	M
Jan. 13	Verlyn Drake	M
Jan. 13	Madison Munro	M
Jan. 13	Forrest Harris	M
Jan. 14	Nicholas Hart	M
Jan. 14	Evan McPherson	M
Jan. 14	Kevin Nanasy	M
Jan. 14	Terry Wagner	M
Jan. 15	Gemie Eva	M
Jan. 18	Lisa Cole	B
Jan. 19	Nick Michael	M
Jan. 20	Stacey Nanasy	M
Jan. 21	Haley Cozart	B
Jan. 22	Jerry Wright	B
Jan. 23	Dale Willis	M
Jan. 27	Laura Davis	M
Jan. 28	Jonny Morris	M
Jan. 29	Joelle Hulbert	B
Jan. 29	Jenny Cooke	B
Jan. 29	Josh Schneider	M

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jan. 15	Henry & Abby Liberacki	M
Jan. 24	Pat & Lori Grover	M

BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Bible Study returns this month. The group meets at Morrice at 7:00 pm. They read through several chapters of the Old Testament and discuss how it relates to us today. You may be surprised at some of the observations that are made. Everyone can come and join.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 7 Tools for Ministry
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17-19 Chrysalis (Girls)
- Feb. 18 Haiti Banquet
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 23 Salad Luncheon at (M)
- Feb. 25 Recycling Day at (M)
- Mar. 2-3 Adult Lay Speaking Workshop

SALAD LUNCHEON

The Morrice UMW (United Methodist Women) will host a salad luncheon on January 26 at the church. They begin serving salads of all types, home made biscuit with turkey gravy, beverage and dessert at 11:00 am and finish about 1:00 pm. The suggested donation is \$5.00 with take out orders available. Please use the door at the rear of the building.

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