

### Transition – Mardee Rightmyer

I graduated from college with what I euphemistically refer to as a “do nothing degree”- a B.A. in History. However, I did have a minor in Library Sciences so I applied to Emory in their graduate Library Sciences program. I prayed about it for several months before applying, even asking God for a fleece - a full scholarship - if I was supposed to go. (Look up Judges 6:36-40 to learn about Gideon and his fleece before God.) Within several weeks, I received my letter of acceptance with the full scholarship! *However*, I could not shake the feeling that this was really not the path God wanted me to take, even with my deep love of books and libraries.

Within weeks, having said nothing about my plans, I had several people ask me if I had ever considered working for the church. Each told me about the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. I was curious enough to write for information. On the return from a trip to New York to visit relatives, I stopped in Richmond to talk with admissions. I met with the President, filled out the application on the spot, then wrote my faith journey on a yellow legal pad and turned it in. Two weeks later, with a phone call approval and another full scholarship, I moved to Richmond with the peace I had been seeking awash within me.

Looking back over forty-three years, having served in six churches, on Presbytery staff, Synod staff, and as a volunteer in mission in Korea and China, I can say that each move was filled with peace. Now, I have reached another life-changing decision. I am ready to retire. I look back and realize I still prefer pen and ink where I have time to reflect and pray as I collect my thoughts and feelings. I love working in the yard. I love traveling. I love reading bound books. I love children and nothing gives me more pleasure than to tell them how much they are loved by God! The best part is that I will stay here and volunteer with the children and be with this church I love.

I also love Mary Oliver’s poetry which I turned to again when she died recently. These lines from her poem from *Evidence* express why I want to retire now:

*I do not live happily or comfortably with the cleverness of our times.  
The talk is all about computers.  
The news is all about bombs and blood.  
This morning, in the fresh field, I came upon a hidden nest.  
It held four warm, speckled eggs.  
I touched them.  
Then went away softly,  
having felt something more wonderful than all the electricity of New York City.*

My final day on staff will be June 30th. I am totally at peace and filled with anticipation of what is to come. I think I might volunteer at the public library! And rest assured...Julie and I will remain actively involved (as long as we are not travelling somewhere!)

*Mardee*



A note of thanks...

*I wanted to thank the congregation at Morningside Presbyterian Church. It is certainly evident that you are a caring and loving congregation. On behalf of my family, thank you for providing a memorable morning to say goodbye to Dale. I appreciate the outpouring of love and kind comments. The beautiful reception provided the opportunity for us to meet so many of you. Your stories of my brother will remain with us.*

*In Christ, Jeffrey Glendening and family*

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meets Saturday, 2/9, at 9 a.m., at Trinity Presbyterian (3003 Howell Mill Rd. NW). Near the end of the meeting will be the installation of Mardee Rightmyer as the new Moderator of our Presbytery.

All are welcome.



We are proud of you, Mardee!

#### February Worship Notes

2/3 - Communion  
2/10 - Children’s Choir Sings  
2/23 - Baptism

**REMEMBER** – every Sunday we have two opportunities for fellowship. At 9:30 a.m., meet for **Coffee & Conversation** in the Welcome Center. After the 11 a.m. worship service, join members and guests in the Fellowship Hall for **Fellowship Time**, including light refreshments and the chance to get to know one another better.

## Morningside Presbyterian Preschool News

\* **Registration** opens to the community, **Friday, 2/1**. Tell your neighbors and friends! Contact MPP Director, [Melinda Sandkam](#) for info!

\* MPP is excited to replace the 17-year-old main climbing structure on the **playground** with funds from the school's Fun-Raiser. Weather permitting, the playground will be closed for installation beginning **Monday, 2/4** and lasting for one week.



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

### "Souper Bowl of Caring"

We will participate once again in the national fundraising campaign called "Souper Bowl of Caring", which seeks to help alleviate hunger in local communities

across the country. MPC will collect for our local mission partner, **Intown Collaborative Ministries**, which runs a food pantry, food co-op and more here in urban Atlanta for those who are food insecure or in some cases, homeless. **Sunday, 2/3**, the youth will be in the back of the sanctuary to collect donations after worship. Click [here](#) to donate online any time before 2/3. If you donate online, let [Emma](#) know, so we can report your donation along with the others to the national organization. Click [here](#) for more about "Souper Bowl of Caring."

## Rebecca's Tent Women's Shelter

\* Sign up on the mission board to serve at **Rebecca's Tent Women's Shelter** one evening **6 - 8 p.m., Wednesday, 2/6 - Sunday, 2/10**. Welcome residents with a warm dinner as they return from work or job searches. Post your name and email on the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board for the date that works best for you. Men are welcome, too! For more info, contact [Phyllis Grimes](#).



- Children will make **valentines** for Rebecca's Tent shelter residents during the Sunday School hour on **Sunday, 2/3**.

## MPC Couples & Friends Group

This month, the group formally known as "**Couples Group**" meets on **Saturday, 2/9**, at Lloyd and Leslie Prince's home (2950 Mt. Wilkinson Pkwy, S.E., Unit 912, 30339). All couples are invited to join. Contact [Kathy Bremer](#) to RSVP and sign up to bring a dish.

## THREADS - Clothing Children with Dignity

"My three little ones keep growing out of their clothing much faster than I can afford to get new, warmer ones. I really love those pajamas with footies that keep their toes covered and toasty. Socks and panties seem to disappear daily into the dirty clothes hamper - or the sock-eating dryer. There's never enough money or time to keep their little bodies clothed suitably. Thank God for **THREADS!**"

The above was written by a low-income, single mom who was chosen to shop at THREADS, a clothing ministry housed at All Saints Episcopal Church. MPC contributes new and gently used clothing to THREADS all year long, but a **special donation of new pjs, socks and underwear** for children - birth through age 14 - will begin **2/10 and end 3/3**. This collection is vital as THREADS gives each child five new sets of pjs, socks and undies each time they come, at 6-month intervals, to shop at the THREADS store.

It's easy and inexpensive to grab a couple of sets of these needed items next time you're in Target, Walmart, Costco, Sam's or another discount store. It's also easy to drop them off in the display baskets in the Welcome Center starting 2/10. Only *new* pjs, socks and underwear can be accepted.

## Guatemalan Refugees & Casa Materna

On **Monday, 2/11**, join the Mission Committee and others from the Presbytery to learn why refugees are fleeing Guatemala for the U.S. Our speaker is Judith Castaneda, Director of CEDEPCA, the non-profit group supported by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta working for justice, education and job training for some of the poorest people in Central America. We will also hear an update on **Casa Materna**, a birthing center started by Atlanta minister, Anne Sayre, and built in 2012 by volunteers from our Presbytery. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. in MPC's Fellowship Hall. A donation (\$10) is requested to cover the cost of the meal. RSVP to [Julie Green](#).

## February LGBT & Friends Gathering

Please join us at the home of Curt Barrett on **Tuesday, 2/12, 7-9 p.m.** when we welcome guest speaker, Roland Behm. The evening's topic will be: Safe and supported children - advocating for protection of Georgia's minors from "conversion therapy". Please note Curt's new address (1016 Grant Park Rd, Decatur, 30033). RSVP to [Michael Siedschlag](#). We hope to see you there!

## FEBRUARY 2019

1 Fiona Harris  
2 Jake Cook  
2 Tom Daniel  
3 Helen Schroder  
5 Kirk Adams  
5 Gary Hurd  
5 Alex Page  
6 Kerri Markovic  
6 Will Barnette  
6 Gene Turner  
7 William Kitchens  
9 Nancy Collins  
9 Leslie Grant  
10 Andrew Brady  
10 Martha Krenson  
11 Heather Regnault  
12 Finley Watts  
12 Gwendolyn Brady  
12 Domenick Treschitta  
12 Jim Clegg  
12 Brooks Powell  
14 Michael Pittman  
15 John Turner  
17 Liza Burke  
18 Leo Libby  
18 Todd Jones  
20 Emmett Mashburn  
20 Becky Schreiber  
22 Lib Boggs  
22 John Adams  
23 Elsie Adams  
23 Preston Barnette  
24 Ellie Spears  
24 Georgia Marshall  
25 David Mogge  
25 Barbara Raya  
27 Curt Barrett  
27 William Lee  
28 Beth Baer  
29 Nancy Cunningham



## **MLK Workday at Dobbs Elementary**

Thank you soooo much for transforming our workrooms into lounges where our staff can relax, eat lunch, and enjoy a wonderful space that they can call their own. Words will NEVER be enough to express our gratitude. I appreciate all of you!

Charnita V. West, Ph.D.  
Principal  
J.W. Dobbs Elementary

### MPC Family Needing Household Items

Thank you so much to those who have already given generously to help out a member family in need of household items. Email the [Church Office](#) if you can donate anything from the [updated list](#) or put your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board.

### Intown Collaborative Ministries

Join the Children's Ministry for a special mission event during Fellowship Hour **Sunday, 2/10**, when we prepare hygiene kits for ICM. Click [here](#) to sign up to donate supplies.

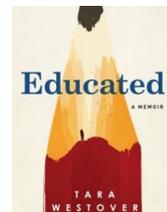
In the first two weeks of January, ICM helped 103 families, for a total of 341 people, to get 2,848 lbs. of food! Your Mission Committee supports 3 food collections yearly. Our next one runs from **Sunday, 2/17 through Sunday, 3/10**. A blue bin will be in the stairwell next to the church office to collect donations.

### RHO Readers

**Sunday, 2/17, RHO Readers** discuss *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.

All are invited, regardless of having read the book.

Click [here](#) for this quarter's book schedule and synopses.



### Women's Roundtable

Lynn Young (277 The Prado, 30309) is hosting this month's Roundtable.

RSVP to [Sanda Means](#) if you can attend on Monday, 2/25 and stay tuned for info on the speaker!

Moving help requested for the Kinumbe-Baume family, who is moving to a new apartment in Clarkston on Saturday, 2/9 and possibly the afternoon of Sunday, 2/10. Strong arms needed! Email Holly Campbell or text 404.435.0676 for more details.



# FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>MPP Open Registration</b>	2 10 a.m., Chancel Choir Retreat
<b>Communion</b> 3 9:30 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m., Sunday School for All Ages 11 a.m., Worship 12 p.m., Fellowship  No Youth Group due to Super Bowl	4 12 p.m., Arts & Crafts Guild  7 p.m., Children's Ministry Committee	5 11 a.m., Yoga 1:30 p.m., Staff Meeting 2:15 p.m., Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m., Tai Chi 7 p.m., Theology on Tap	6 6:15 p.m., Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir	7 11 a.m., Yogasculpt 7:30 p.m., Handbell Choir	8	9 9 a.m., Presbytery Meeting (Trinity Pres) 10 a.m., ICM Food Pantry (Offsite) 6 p.m., Couples & Friends
<b>Children's Choir Sings</b> 10 9:30 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m., Sunday School for All Ages 11 a.m., Worship 12 p.m., Fellowship 12:30 p.m., Deacons Meeting 6 p.m., Youth Group	11 7 p.m., Missions for Guatemala Dinner	12 11 a.m., Yoga 1:30 p.m., Staff Meeting 2:15 p.m., Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m., Tai Chi 7 p.m., LGBT & Friends 7 p.m., Preschool Committee	13 10:30 a.m., Dobbs Tutoring 6:15 p.m., Strategic Implementation 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir	14 11 a.m., Yogasculpt 7:30 p.m., Handbell Choir	15	16
17 9:30 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m., Sunday School for All Ages 11 a.m., Worship 12 p.m., Fellowship 12:30 p.m., RHO Readers	18 12 p.m., Arts & Crafts Guild	19 11 a.m., Yoga 1:30 p.m., Staff Meeting 2:15 p.m., Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m., Tai Chi	20 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir	21 11 a.m., Yogasculpt 7:30 p.m., Handbell Choir	22 Session Retreat Gathering (Offsite)	23 Session Retreat Gathering (Offsite)
<b>Baptism</b> 24 9:30 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m., Sunday School for All Ages 11 a.m., Worship 12 p.m., Fellowship 6 p.m., Youth Group	25 6:30 p.m., Women's Roundtable (Offsite)	26 11 a.m., Yoga 1:30 p.m., Staff Meeting 2:15 p.m., Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m., Tai Chi	27 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir	28 11 a.m., Yogasculpt 7:30 p.m., Handbell Choir	March 1	2