



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## MARCH 2017 Worship at Morningside

**March 1, 2017**

Sarah Are preaching

Ash Wednesday

**March 5, 2017**

Baron Mullis preaching

*"The Free Gift"*

Romans 5:12-19; Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

**March 12, 2017**

Baron Mullis preaching

*"From Where Will My Help Come?"*

Psalms 121; Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

**March 19, 2017**

Youth Sunday

**March 26, 2017**

Beth Waltemath preaching

*"Encountering Christ"*

John 9: 1-41, Psalm 23

## From Our Staff



### *Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

Lent is a time to journey with Jesus as he faces the most difficult time of his ministry and messianic calling. We begin in the wilderness facing the temptation to deny God's

power and presence in our lives, we face questions about our identity as God's own, and we do not turn from the suffering directly in our path.

The gospel readings from John will reveal many characters' direct encounters with Jesus. Their conversations with Jesus will illuminate how "we are" as the French philosopher, Jesuit priest, and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, "not human beings having a spiritual experience; "but" spiritual beings having a human experience."

Christians have found various ways to experience and respond to God's presence in their daily lives. These daily rituals strengthen us when we feel we are lost in a wilderness as Jesus was or tempted to deny God's power in the world, we too can turn away from destructive forces and turn towards the grace that reconciles and rebuilds.

Contemplative theologians like St. John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila wrote explicitly on how to calm the mind and to face the psychological demons that keep us from resting in God during our prayer time.

St. Ignatius of Loyola outlined spiritual exercises for the monastics under his care to help them better see how God encouraged them daily in their spiritual transformation. Ignatius taught his students to journal about their consolations and desolations each day to understand how God calls us through our joys and through our sorrows to draw nearer to the divine love.

This Lent, consider taking on a spiritual practice of reflection whether it be through meditative prayer or journaling or simply sharing at the dinner table with family or friends. Ask yourself and others about a high point in the day, a low point in the day, and a hope for tomorrow. Then answer the question "What did I see or experience today that reminded me of God's love?"

It's amazing how a ritual of daily reflection can draw us nearer to God's presence and enliven us to respond to it with faith, joy, love and action.

Rev. Beth Waltemath

### **Sunday Adult Lenten Series Will Focus On Developing Faith Practices**

Our Lenten Series in Adult Faith Development will consider the spiritual migration from belief-based religion into practice-based religion. We will look at how practices inform and deepen our Christian faith as we consider the writings of key figures in contemplative Christianity from Jesus to the desert fathers of the Third and Fourth centuries, to the medieval saints, and finally contemporary theologians who've recovered many of these lost prayer practices.

Each weekly class will involve at least 10 minutes of guided contemplative prayer along with an introduction to historical content and writings and discussion of our own experience trying new methods of spiritual reflection. Resource books will be suggested but not required. Keeping a journal is encouraged. Regular attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. Join the group whenever you can! Faith Development meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. upstairs in Room 201.

## Inside Morningside

### Feline Allergies? No Worries—This CAT Will Be Good for All of Us

Hope the headline caught your attention—because this is important! The CAT is coming to Morningside—the Congregational Assessment Tool. This on-line survey many of us completed six years ago helped our staff and church officers understand and build plans and deliver on our congregation's wishes, hopes, and goals, leading to a full-time Director of Children's Ministries, greater outreach opportunities and a broader music and arts program.

In addition to the on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MorningsideAtlanta>

beginning Mar. 5, the Strategic Planning Committee also has paper copies available in the office for those without computer access. Further, the committee has scheduled a series of "listening sessions" to hear your input starting Mar. 2 from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m. in Room 201. More listening sessions are set for Sunday, Mar. 5 (12:15-12:45 p.m.), Monday, Mar. 6 (7-7:30 p.m.), Thursday, Mar. 9 (6:45-7:15 p.m. and 8:45-9:15 p.m.). Let Jeff Peters ([jeffcpeters@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcpeters@gmail.com)) know if you plan to attend

any of these sessions. Watch Life@, eNews and our website for additional times. All the sessions will be in Room 201. Your participation is valued, even if you take the CAT survey as well.

The survey takes anything from 20 to 40 minutes to complete and must be finished in one session—you can't save your answers and go back later. Of course, all responses are anonymous!

The CAT will only be around for three weeks, so please take the time to complete this vital tool soon. The more of us who do, the more statistically valid the results will be. Here, kitty, kitty!



### Nominating Committee Reaches Major Milestone in Associate Pastor Search

Remember that congregational meeting last fall when we elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee? The APNC has been meeting since November. Betsy Holland chairs and Jim Martin is secretary. Other members are Kent Balch, Sarah Brownlee, Lauren Fairleigh, Rachel Epps Spears, David Stewart and Caroline Tanner. The Ministry Information Form has been finalized and approved by Session (see Page 7). The form is now available at the Church Leadership Connection (<http://www.pcusa.org/clc>) where it may be viewed and matched with candidates seeking a call. Resumes will be accepted from seminary students who are not yet eligible to be matched on the CLC. The successful candidate must be ordained or eligible to be ordained as a "first call". The APNC hopes to begin receiving responses in March.

### Morningside Milestones

- Madeleine Harris has a baby sister! Join her and parents Lisa and Shannon in welcoming Fiona Adair Harris, born Jan. 31.
- Our church family grows with the addition of Susan and Mark Gilbreath, who come to us from Rock Spring Presbyterian; Sandy and Jerry Mashburn from First Baptist Church, Southern Pines, NC; and Ken and Kimberly Williams, who have reaffirmed their faith.
- Morningside Presbyterian Preschool welcomes graduates back for Alumni Day on Friday, Mar. 17 to play with the preschoolers. MPP also has some fun plans in the works for a special fifteenth-anniversary focus at Spring Fling on Saturday, Apr. 22. Our whole community is welcome to join in the celebration.
- Our progress toward having a Memorial Garden and Columbarium has made strides with the granting of the needed permits. Will there be ground-breaking coming up? Count on it!

## Spotlight on Our Adopted Family

### Parallel Journeys Bring Family from DRC to Atlanta's Doorstep

*(Morningside's Mission Ministries, with enthusiastic hands-on support from many members, has sponsored a young family from the Democratic Republic of Congo through the auspices of the International Rescue Committee. Government and IRC protocols for resettling and establishing these refugees takes time, so our exposure after the first welcome has been somewhat limited. However, the Kinumbe-Bauma family will join our congregation in worship on Sunday, Mar. 12. In the meantime, here is the project's chairperson's personal story.)*

Drew Stockstill once said, "As followers of Jesus Christ we have a Biblical mandate to love and serve our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable in our midst." With that sentiment in our minds and hearts, Morningside members partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to welcome a refugee family from the Democratic Republic of Congo last month.

We first came in contact with IRC more than a year ago during the Adult Faith Development series titled "Welcoming the Stranger." Through this first meeting, we recognized a very concrete way through which we could welcome a family who can no longer safely return to its home. Sponsorship was an opportunity we could rise to in order to heed the call for help from a stranger.

With the crisis in Syria burning a hole in my heart, I came across an article this past fall in the *New York Times* that featured a Syrian family who was supported by a group of retired school teachers in Canada. The family's story of oppression and poverty led to great expectation and hope with their journey to the safety of a Canadian town. But the process was daunting, the language barriers made basic communication difficult, and the resource needs for initial and ongoing support were substantial.

However, I knew that if those retired schoolteachers could use their savings and educational background to sponsor a family, Morningside had a big enough heart to accomplish the same and more. MPC was ready and waiting. All it took was a few conversations with Beth Waltemath, Leslie Prince, and IRC and the ball was rolling...

While there is a long wait list to sponsor a Syrian family through IRC, Morningside made it clear that we wanted to welcome any family that needed our help. In early January, I received a call from IRC letting me know that there was an Afghan family who could be placed with us, but that we may not be able to welcome this family if their travel was banned. We were angry—I was angry and also very heartbroken—that this family's call for help might go unanswered.

By the grace of God, however, both the Afghan family (whom you may have seen on the news) and a family of four from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) made it to Atlanta. MPC was given the opportunity to sponsor the latter family, and we quickly sprang into action cleaning, collecting and constructing to prepare for their arrival. Many members of the church generously provided the requested donations, and the families of MPC rose to the occasion by dropping off children's clothing and toys with less than 24 hours notice. Leslie and Lloyd Prince, a couple of men from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Jack Klotz, Bill Humphries, Alex and Meghan Page, Whitney and Brady Shepherd, Beth and William Waltemath and Baron Mullis all took part in preparing the apartment. Baron himself even put together the baby's bed, his first crack at crib engineering!

Due to the tenuous nature of their travel, we knew the family's arrival date but not the time, which made for a different welcoming committee than originally planned. IRC organized a large airport gathering for the family on the evening of Feb. 2, and more than 100 people RSVP'd on Facebook. However, it turns out that Georgine, Bienfait and their two children (ages three and one) missed their airport party. They arrived eight hours in advance of the celebration, and were warmly welcomed by IRC staff as well as family (Georgine has a brother whom IRC helped settle in Clarkston).

*(continued on Page 10)*



Morningside's Mission Ministries posing for the camera with the Kinumbe-Bauma family.

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 8:45 a.m. MPP Book Fair 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	8:45 a.m. MPP Book Fair 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 1 p.m. Playball 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	MPP CLOSED FOR GA PRESCHOOL CONFERENCE	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development/Confirmation 11 a.m. Worship/Communion/Children's Sunday School (PreK-Kinder) 12 noon. Fellowship 2 p.m. Hunger Walk	9 a.m. MPP 12 noon. Arts and Crafts Guild 1 p.m. Ballet for Preschoolers 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Children's Ministry Meeting	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap	8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 12 p.m. One Gray Hair 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Wells Knitting Group 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 12:30 p.m. Poetry Group 1 p.m. Playball 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate 7 p.m. Couples Group (offsite)	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 10 a.m. Saturday School at Dobbs
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
8:45 a.m. <i>Second Sunday</i> Worship Service 9:45 a.m. Faith Development/Confirmation 11 a.m. Worship/Children's Sunday School (PreK-5th) 12 noon. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Deacons 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir 5 p.m. Youth Group	8:30 a.m. MLPA 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Ballet for Preschoolers 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Committee Meeting	7 a.m. Men's Breakfast (offsite) 8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 10:30 a.m. Dobbs Reading 12:30 p.m. ICM Board Meeting 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 12:30 p.m. Third Thursday Theological Throwdown 1 p.m. Playball 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP (Alumni Day) 1 p.m. Karate	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 5 p.m. Austin Davis and Doug Selph's wedding
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
YOUTH SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development 11 a.m. Worship/Children's Sunday School (PreK-3rd) 12 noon. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Young Adult Luncheon/RHO Readers 2 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout	9 a.m. MPP 12 noon. Arts and Crafts Guild 1 p.m. Ballet for Preschoolers 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Session	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Wells Knitting Group	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 1 p.m. Playball 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 5:30 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary (offsite)
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development/Confirmation 11 a.m. Worship/Children's Sunday School (PreK-5th) 12 noon. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir 5 p.m. Youth Group	9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Ballet for Preschoolers 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Parliamentarians	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Dine Out at El Taco (MPP) 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 1 p.m. Playball 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	

# Serve!

## Want to Serve? Let Us Count the Ways to Reach Out in March

The Lenten season traditionally was a time to 'give up' something. Modern Protestant thought is to "add" something. It could be to exercise your body a half-hour every day or to read more, or attend a Faith Development class or small committed group. Or, to give back. Here are some ideas.

- 1) "1 in 7.5 people, or an estimated 755,400 people, in metro Atlanta and north Georgia turn to food pantries and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families each year. This includes more than 164,000 children and more than 64,000 seniors."

Our response? On Mar. 5, thousands of people in Atlanta will take to the streets, to raise money to stop hunger, and we are going to join them. The Hunger Walk is an annual 5K walk/run that raises dollars for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Thus on that day, our Youth Group is going to be walking, starting at 2 p.m. at Turner Field. The Youth Group has a goal of raising \$500. Interim Youth Director Sarah Are challenges us: "Let's see if the larger church community can triple that goal."

To register, you can **join the** "Morningside Presbyterian Youth!" by following this link or start your own team or donation page. You can also learn more about the walk and sign up to participate. [http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR/HungerWalkAtlantaCommunityFoodBank/HungerWalk/1616968441?pg=team&fr\\_id=1792&team\\_id=34650&ga=1.93727389.1044644338.1456068986&utm\\_source=Advisors&utm\\_campaign=6944aced5cEMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_02\\_22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c27048b507-6944aced5c-62531587](http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR/HungerWalkAtlantaCommunityFoodBank/HungerWalk/1616968441?pg=team&fr_id=1792&team_id=34650&ga=1.93727389.1044644338.1456068986&utm_source=Advisors&utm_campaign=6944aced5cEMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c27048b507-6944aced5c-62531587)

- 2) Want to spend some time with teachers and students at our partner school, J. W. Dobbs Elementary? Their Saturday School enrichment program will be Mar. 11 at 10 a.m. Our participants of all ages have helped with plantings on the grounds, painting murals and other fun activities. Contact Baron if you'd like to have a good time with some great people.
- 3) Interested in local mission and want to work with one of Atlanta's best men's shelters? MPC is looking for a Shepherd to organize six dinners (one every other month) and one to two special collections per year for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. If you are interested, please contact Mission Ministries chairs Tony Fishpaw ([tonydfishpaw@gmail.com](mailto:tonydfishpaw@gmail.com)) or Nancy Collins ([ncollins0209@gmail.com](mailto:ncollins0209@gmail.com))
- 4) Habitat for Humanity is an internationally recognized organization that rebuilds communities into prosperous and sustainable developments around the world, and would like to do the same for the Valdez family. Mrs. Valdez works for an airline and has three sons, ages 11, six and five.

If you are 16 years and older then we would like you to volunteer to build a home. We've joined five other congregations and we'll be working on the home from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. most Saturdays through Apr. 8. Sign up in the narthex at church or go to <https://atlantahabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/morningsidepres/event/index/4154164> for more information. No building experience is required!

- 5) Feed a hungry student! (Students are always hungry.) MPC would like to help provide meals for Tuesday evening meetings of the students of UKIRK, formally known as Emory PCM (Presbyterian Campus Ministry). These 10 students have no food allergies. If you would like to sign up to bring a meal please go here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/g07733>.
- 6) Even with hunger walks, there are always those in our community still in need. Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM) provides food each Saturday to our homeless and food-insecure neighbors in the 30306 and 30307 areas. Please join us in a food drive of non-perishable food to support this increasingly important effort. Canned vegetables, soups, ready-to-eat meals, especially those with pop tops, ramen noodles, peanut butter, cereal and can openers will be collected from Mar. 5-19 in the barrel just inside the stairwell next to the church office. For more information, contact Nancy Collins ([ncollins0209@gmail.com](mailto:ncollins0209@gmail.com), 678-634-4572) or Laura Ulep ([lauraulep@gmail.com](mailto:lauraulep@gmail.com)).

### Women's Roundtable

Women's Roundtable will meet on the 4th Monday of Mar. Rev. Beth Waltemath will present a special Lenten program on the spiritual practices and writings of women.

## Connect!

### You're Invited to Wrestle with Men; Attend Pakistani Wedding with Gray Hairs

Baron Mullis will not only explore wrestling with a 'tough text' from the March Lectionary for our men's group's Mar. 7 meeting, he'll also host the dinner. RSVP to the church office ([office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org)) for the 7 p.m. gathering at 2140 Council Bluff Court, 30345. All men are welcome to attend.

The next day—Wednesday, Mar. 8, at noon—if you've got even one gray hair (or will have!), you're invited to the luncheon meeting in Fellowship Hall of One Gray Hair. Our after-lunch speaker will be Bobbie McCrackin, sharing her recent experiences journeying through Pakistan, Turkey, Jordan, Morocco and Tanzania. She's titled her slide-talk: "A Personal Perspective on Muslim Society: A Wedding in Pakistan." Your RSVP contact is Sarah Brownlee ([rsbrownlee1046@att.net](mailto:rsbrownlee1046@att.net)).

The next event in this busy week will be a get-together of the MPC Couples on Friday, Mar. 10. Carol and Bill Southwood invite all twosomes to join them at Morningside Kitchen (the former Rosebud) at 7 p.m. RSVP to Kathy Bremer ([kathydaybremer@gmail.com](mailto:kathydaybremer@gmail.com)) to be included or if you have questions.

If all this dining makes you feel a bit lumpy and guilty, know that Pam Sharpe started a new six-week series of Tuesday yoga and Thursday weight-workouts on Feb. 28. Both classes are at 11 a.m. in room 201. Contact Pam at [yogapam@bellsouth.net](mailto:yogapam@bellsouth.net) to see about getting into the class of your choice. (Tai chi classes continue Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bob Wells is your contact—[wellscom@comcast.net](mailto:wellscom@comcast.net)).

### Make Some More March Dates; Look ahead to Easter Week

On Sunday, Mar. 19, get ready for an innovative and thought-provoking worship service as our younger members present our annual Youth Sunday with their music, prayers and homilies. At 12:30 p.m., you're invited to the Session Room to share your thoughts about the acclaimed novel *Lily and the Octopus* by Steven Rowley. There's no commitment needed to sit in on any meeting of our eclectic co-ed bunch of book lovers known as the RHO Readers.

Uh-oh! Back to the table! Support Morningside Presbyterian Preschool by having dinner at El Taco on Highland Ave. on Tuesday, Mar. 28. Be sure to tell the server you're there for MPP—if enough of us show up this dine-out could earn the preschool 10 percent of the entire evening's sales.

Morningside will celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of Christ beginning with Palm Sunday, Apr. 9, our Maundy Thursday service including the Lord's Supper on Apr. 13 at 7 p.m. in our Sanctuary, and a joint Good Friday service at First Presbyterian Church on Peachtree St. Saturday morning, Apr. 15, we change the somber feeling to the joyous "Running of the Eggs"—formally known as the MPC Easter Egg Hunt—on our lawn with treats, face-painting and other activities. Finally, on Easter morning, Apr. 16, we will offer two identical worship services, one at 9 and the other at 11. Put these special dates on your calendar and plan to be with us during this meaningful week in the lives of Christians everywhere.

#### March Birthdays

1 Cade Lawson  
2 Melinda Sandkam  
2 Sandy Ryan  
3 Alex Watts  
3 Beth Fain  
3 Linda Jenkins  
4 Phyllis Grimes  
5 Ann Watson  
6 Sarah Brownlee  
6 Betty Ray  
10 Sawyer Barnette



11 Ava Arepally  
11 Austin Smith  
11 Emilie Paille  
12 Jerry Mashburn  
12 Kelly Goldsmith  
12 Lindsey Howell  
12 Drew Kimball  
13 Magan Ward  
14 Jan Strickland  
14 Mary Leight  
17 Nan Payne  
17 Bryan Rogers  
18 Ibbly Bailey



18 Gail Kitchens  
20 Aaron Bertrand  
20 JoAnn Bertrand  
22 Kate Durden  
22 Brenda Fishpaw  
22 Jamie Jones  
23 Hillery McNeill  
26 Greg Brow  
27 Piper Burgess  
27 Carolyn Wingfield  
29 Hunter Sapp

## Spotlight on Our Arts Showcase

### Artists, Attendees Agree: ‘Let’s Do It Again!’



Peter Chatel offered a dazzling piece that elated the audience.

Honestly, some nerves were stretched as the planners of Morningside’s first-ever Arts Showcase and Café hoped and prayed the event would succeed. Would people turn out for a ‘coffeehouse’ in Fellowship Hall on a Saturday night in the middle of a holiday weekend?

Yes, they did! An audience of 75 on Feb. 18 enjoyed the musical offerings of violinist Alex Page, who also emceed the event, plus voice, piano and guitar selections by Ava Arepally, Peter Chatel, Ashley Filip Hoffman (who wrote her songs), Megan Mashburn, Taylor Morton, Ana Nuckols, Marie Oemler, and a duet performance by Sheryl and David Wingert.

At intermission, Alex invited the patrons to visit with the visual artists, whose works included botanical pressings, art jewelry, fabric art, pottery, photography, acrylic and tempera paintings and giclee prints. The art gallery opened before the coffeehouse entertainment and some works were still on view during Fellowship Hour on

Sunday. Artists represented were Ava Arepally, Alan Bremer, Lynn Daniel, Ginny

Fergus, Bill Means, Lester Morris, Anna Nuckols, Austin Davis, Doug Selph, and Shari Tant.

Refreshments including desserts (“Enough to feed an army!”) were supplied by the ‘host committee’ of Ellen Behm, Sarah Brownlee, Christine Butz, Sanda and Bill Means, Kim Nuckols, Susan Oder, and Mardee Rightmyer. Others involved in the production were Sarah Are, Victor Carballosa, Alicia Oben, and Lloyd Prince. Patrick McComas designed the logo. Musical direction and accompaniment were by Jonathan Crutchfield and the overall event producer was Julie Green.

Julie noted that the Pro Panels used to display the artwork were purchased for use by the church. Even though the Arts Showcase was free, patrons donated \$350 to help defray costs and enable another MPC Arts Showcase. Let’s see who else wants to display their talents next year.



Pianist Ava Arepally smiles at the applause she receives after her amazing piano selection.



# Morningside

ARTS SHOWCASE AND CAFÉ

## Session News

### Your Session at Work: Meetings in January and February 21

(Find a complete list of our church officers, their committee assignments and church staff at <http://www.morningsidepc.org/leaders>. Session minutes, once approved, are on file and available for review in the church office.)

- Session's business doesn't just happen in regular monthly meetings and committee work. Your busy elders got together for a learning and prioritizing retreat at the end of January, followed by a specially called meeting to approve the year's budget and the annual reports our denomination—Presbyterian Church (USA)—requires from us, which must be approved by Session. This is where we detail our membership (detail indeed—by age, gender, ethnicity and any special needs), our Christian education participation, attendance, outreach expenditures and budgets. Our net growth for 2016 was 13 members, by the way.
- Session also met again Feb. 19 to accept six new members (you'll see their names on Page 3).
- At our regular meeting, former Planning Committee Chair Bobbie McCrackin discussed milestones for this final year of our 2012-17 strategic plan, as well as presenting steps underway to develop our church's 2018-20 strategic plan. MPC is noted for our success at a time when many mainline Protestant churches are struggling. Probably the main contributor to our progress has been strategic plans based around congregational decisions about what is most important. That's right! We in the pews direct the church—and

we do that by expressing our opinions and desires in listening sessions and through surveys. See Page 3 for more information on how each of us can get involved in March to direct the efforts of our staff and Session to create a working plan for the next few years.

- Mission Ministries announced a new way we as individuals or families can support diversity in our communities through purchasing yard signs that welcome neighbors in several different languages. Watch for information on when and how you can buy a \$15 sign. Proceeds will go toward refugee support.
- Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has reached another milestone: Session approved the Ministry Information Form (known as the MIF), which is basically the job ad that we post with the PC(USA) to generate candidates. For those who like to keep track of such things, this means we're ending Phase 4 of the search process and now the search team we elected will begin receiving Professional Information Forms (OK, resumes) to evaluate and winnow down to actual candidates in Phase 5, which could take us well into summer.

Daisy Ottmann  
Clerk of Session

### Prayer Concerns

Members of our community have asked for individual prayer. To be on the prayer list—public or private—use prayer cards found in the pew racks or speak with Baron. *Morningside Messenger* will carry the list from the most recent weekly *Life@* insert: Sue Blouin, Lib Boggs, Patricia Boyko, Joe Brady, Ann Coffey (Sarah Beth Gehl's mother), Sandra Fortson, Walter Gilbert (Patrick Gilbert's father), Kat Harris (Eric Harris' mother), Ann Herndon (Will Herndon's mother), Charlotte Hudson (Jeff Adams' mother), Friends and relatives of Linda Johnson, Jan McMahan, Ted McMahan, Lin Parker (Nancy Coomes' friend), Bev Reed, Carlene Sauer (Kasey and Stephanie Libby's family), Beth Klotz Von Seggern (Jack Klotz's sister), Marlie Ann Senf, Carol and Bill Southwood, Robert Stack (Jane Stack's family), Shannon Miller and Doug Strain (Bill Smith's family), Mary Turner (Sanda Means' mother), Wells family, Dr. Nathaniel West (Dr. West's father), Baby Oliver Whiddon (Jill Klotz's friend), Evelyn Wimberly (Nancy Frampton's ex-mother-in-law), John Young.

## BackWords

### ‘Exploring the Arts: A Workshop about Worship’ Open to All Ages

If you’ve heard our choirs, seen our flower arrangements and marveled at our liturgical-holiday banners, you know for a fact that there is art in worship. There’s more to it even than that. And even if you’ve never imagined yourself in the role of a ‘worship leader’ it’s possible that God has given you gifts you haven’t even suspected. This month, a two-day workshop will give all of us an opportunity to find out. If nothing else, to give us a deeper appreciation for the arts that build our worship experience.

MPC will host a free workshop on the arts, open to all and to all ages, and co-sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church on Friday evening, Mar. 10, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, Mar. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The event even includes snacks and lunch and a chance to visit with other participants.

Activities include two art projects for children (Bottle Cap Art and Zentangle); African Drumming (all ages); Movement (all ages); Reading Dramatically; Writing prayers and liturgy (Baron Mullis); Writing hymn texts (Michael Morgan); Writing hymn tunes (Jonathan Crutchfield) and Handbells for youth and adults (Dave Vandermeer). All of these activities will be used to create a 30-minute worship service at the end of the workshop. Contact Jonathan Crutchfield by March 10 to register: [jcrutchfield@morningsidepc.org](mailto:jcrutchfield@morningsidepc.org).

### Adopted Family (*story begins on Page 4*)

While the family was driving from the airport to Clarkston, Baron, Alex, Jack, Lloyd and I were frantically trying to hook up a washer and dryer, fix a broken drawer, hang up clothes and put out toys to welcome the kids. Beth arrived with William and a welcome cake that my daughter Finley eyed with deep affection.

Before we knew it, Bienfait, Georgine, Ezekiel, and Dorkus were at the door. They were very kind and very thankful, but also understandably exhausted. Who knows how long their trip was from Africa to Atlanta? Or the weight of the emotional voyage they had embarked on? They come from a country with barriers to access basic humanitarian aid, a country that is illegally delaying elections, one that is often under local militia control, and one that is reportedly persecuting Christians. Personally, I think it was better that they arrived early. We were able to welcome them home in a unique and intimate way that would not have happened had they received the pomp and circumstance of the planned airport party. We watched as Georgine and Bienfait received orientation instructions in English and Swahili for how to use a sponge, the sink faucet and cleaning supplies. I was blown away that this was standard instruction. How blessed we are to have running water in each of our homes, and how blessed we are to not even think of it as a blessing.

Despite fears of awkward greetings and the accidental miscommunication that led us to write welcome signs in French and "Bienvenue" on the cake—they only speak Swahili and a bit of English—there was a profound sense of comfort in their arrival. Even Finley sensed it; when the family sat down at their new kitchen table, she took the empty seat next to Georgine and her baby. She thought she was part of the family and even asked which bed was going to be hers. It’s only through the innocent eyes of a child that we can truly see strangers as friends and follow Christ by welcoming them into our lives.

--Katy Watts