



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Inside This Issue

- 1 Worship
- 2 From Your Pastor
- 3 Inside Morningside
- 4 Spotlight on Searches
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Spotlight on New Faces
- 7 Learn!
- 8 Connect!
- 9 Session News
- 10 BackWords

## Serving You

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## OCTOBER 2016 Worship at Morningside

### October 2, 2016

Baron Mullis preaching

*"A New Creation"*

Jeremiah 32:6-15; Corinthians 5:16-21

### October 9, 2016

Baron Mullis preaching

*"Build, Plant, Eat"*

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; 2 Timothy 2:8-15

### October 16, 2016

Beth Waltemath preaching

*"Bearing Witness"*

2 Samuel 11:27-12:14, Romans 8:22-25

### October 23, 2016

Baron Mullis preaching

*"Keeping The Faith"*

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

### October 30, 2016

Baron Mullis preaching

*"Asking God Your Hardest Questions"*

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

## From Your Pastor



### *Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

During a session meeting the other day, I stopped to recount with our elders the ways that we could (and should) count our blessings. Truly, we have much for which to be grateful.

At the same time, it would be Pollyanna-ish for me to suggest that we don't have any challenges ahead of us in the year to come. For five years we have been growing our giving, not for bragging rights or wasteful spending, but so we could grow our staff. We had to. It is the only way to provide support for the burgeoning children's and youth programs of Morningside. We may have done it in fits and spurts and with grant applications and partnerships with local agencies, but we did it. We grew our staff to where it should be for a congregation our size that wants to do what we do. And then, in exactly the moment when we had a full-time Associate Pastor, a full-time Director of Children's Ministries, and an exceptionally gifted (if not quite full-time) Organist/Choirmaster to form our program staff, we were struck with change.

Change isn't optional. We all know that. It happens in our professional lives, it happens in our homes, and it happens in our church. Growing from the experience is optional.

I believe we have a choice this year. We can choose to see how incredibly lucky we are, or we could miss seeing our blessings, worrying about the challenges of change instead.

Here are a few things I told the session while we were reflecting on our gifts:

- 1) We baptize children all the time. Sometimes we baptize more than one child a Sunday. I've baptized more than fifty children at Morningside and am working toward a hundred. Some of my colleagues celebrate one or two baptisms a year.

- 2) We continue to welcome new members. Folks want to be a part of the ministry we're doing. We had nine in our recent new members' class. That is just not happening in most congregations.
- 3) We will be debt-free next year. From a high of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in debt a few years ago, we now owe roughly \$187,000 and we're on track to pay it off next year – thanks to you, and thanks to God.
- 4) While we miss the staff to whom we've said "Godspeed," we have great people coming on board to walk with us through our interim. Sarah Are is off to a fantastic start with our youth program, and Sarah Tomaka and Beth Waltemath both started their work with us the day I wrote this message.

Our commitment isn't measured by our best days. It's measured by what we do when we have a challenge in front of us. We do have challenges—but there's no cause for gloom: We'll continue to meet our challenge to maintain a family of faith for all – from our youngest infant to our oldest congregant. Being a church isn't a sprint, it's a marathon, and I for one, want to say how deeply grateful I am for you, for our life together, and for what God is calling us to do.

Shalom,

Baron Mullis

### Does Your Pet Need Blessing? We Have a Service for That!



Our third annual service for the Blessing of the Pets will be held on our lawn Sunday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m. This short service thanks God for all of creation and each pet gets a special blessing and a commemorative certificate.

If Fang, Puff or Tweetie don't play well with others, even when leashed or caged (please!), you can bring a picture and Baron will provide a blessing *in absentia*.

## Inside Morningside

### Time Nears to Show Your ‘Church Home’ Where Your Heart Is

*Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Home is where the heart is, the saying goes. And while church may not fit every image of home, Morningside Presbyterian is a place of belonging, a place where we not only worship but also gather together in so many ways. We study. We share meals and prayers. We sing. We laugh and cry. We watch our children play. What is treasure, if not that? We all chose Morningside as a home for our hearts.

Home. It is a place of love and warmth, but it is also a place of responsibilities: dishes to wash, clothes to launder, bills to pay. Morningside is just the same. The church stays clean, lighted and welcoming through the hard work of its staff, as well as the many volunteers who pitch in throughout the week. People give of their talents to prepare food, teach or work on the grounds. But elbow grease only goes so far. The church, too, has staff to support, bills to pay. Just as we invest in our homes, we must invest in Morningside.

Support comes almost entirely through our tithes and offerings, given Sundays throughout the year. During Commitment Season, we consider our gift for the year ahead and let the church and God know our plans to contribute financially to the life of the church.

Join us on Commitment Sunday, Oct. 30, in pledging your support to Morningside, so that it may continue to be the center of our community. Please join us in taking forward your pledge for 2017 on that special Sunday. You can also send in your pledge card by mail to the church office or drop it in an offering plate any Sunday during Commitment Season. Pledges can also be made online today through your member page at [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org) and you can have your pledge securely paid automatically by the month.

Please consider a 2 percent increase in your giving to help us reach these goals of the 2017 Commitment Season:

- Continued increase of Mission allocation to an ultimate 10 percent of our annual budget.
- Increased compensation to ensure beloved Music Ministry staff attain competitive salary levels.
- Youth program growth and further development.
- Ongoing maintenance of a treasured building.
- Continued program development throughout MPC.

### RHINO Service Project Promises Good Work, Good Eats, Good Company

Our fall adult service trip with Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) will take a slightly different turn this year as storm-ravaged homes in other parts of Southern Louisiana are added to the toll racked up by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Besides a day’s hard work, these projects also involve meeting local residents and enjoying famed Louisiana cuisine.

To join this year’s team, leaving Atlanta on Wednesday, Oct. 26, and returning Sunday, Oct. 30, after services at St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian in New Orleans, RHINO’s sponsor organization, contact Roland Behm ([roland.behm@gmail.com](mailto:roland.behm@gmail.com), 404 217.5514).

### Morningside Milestones

- We joyfully received Mary Chapman back into membership here Sept. 18, as she’s moved back to Atlanta from North Carolina. Also with joy we welcomed—for the first time!—Kelly and Spencer Cobb, Catherine and David Gordon, Emily and Jordan Hylton, and Elise and Johnny Hitchcock. Please seek out all these new Morningsiders (and their children) and introduce yourself. For those who keep track of such things, our membership now stands at 520.
- We’ve also enjoyed a crop of little Presbyterians at the baptismal font in September. The new members of Christ’s church are Wesley Denver King, son of Lauren and Denton; Ida Josephine Ringenberg-Means, daughter of Marta and Katy; and Jack Joseph Knezevich, son of Joe and Anna Marie.
- We also share sorrows among our church family. Our sympathies go out to Katye and Alex Watts on the death of Katye’s father, John Vytal; to Suzanne and Tyler Ryan on the death of Ryan’s father; to Matt and Ame Frease on the death of Ame’s grandfather; to John Young and Ken Yunker on the death of John’s father; and to Baron Mullis and Lester Morris on the death of Lester’s grandmother. Please keep these members and their families in your prayers.

## Spotlight on Searches

### **In the Meanwhile...Morningside Begins Process to Seek Program Staff**

Morningside is a blessed church (read Baron's letter on Page 2 if you feel doubtful). While unexpectedly having two vacancies in our full-time staff, our Human Resources Committee worked diligently and quickly to make sure those responsibilities were filled in record time. With Sarah Tomaka, formerly director of Morningside Presbyterian Preschool and currently Children's Ministries Chair filling the role of Director of Children's Ministries, third-year seminary student Sarah Are leading Youth Programs, and The Rev. Beth Waltemath will be covering our associate pastor duties during our search. Now our church can look toward filling these positions long-term.

The extensive groundwork laid to develop the job description for our church's first DCM last year means the front-end process for opening a new search will take much less time. Meetings with key stakeholders have been or soon will be held to see what changes in the DCM job might be appropriate, then the search committee will be able to begin collecting names of potential candidates, scheduling interviews and in general moving forward to find the right person for this crucial job.

The process for calling a new full-time Associate Pastor is much more complex and could take as long as a year (or more). The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta prescribes a seven-phase process to transition from one pastor to another. We've already completed the first two phases by dissolving our pastoral relationship with Rev. Drew Stockstill to accommodate his move to Pennsylvania, and bringing in Sarah and Beth on a contractual half-time basis to split his major job responsibilities: Youth, Mission, Young Adults and Adult Faith Development.

In the next phase, we will elect members of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC), who in the following phase will be trained by and work with our presbytery liaison to begin to develop a Ministry Information Form (the MIF). A MIF is essentially a job description that is circulated denomination-wide.

In Phase 5, we start getting Professional Information Forms (PIFs) from interested candidates. As a thriving church, we can expect many! Of course, the APNC will also be working with the HR and Finance committees to see what kind of compensation package we can offer our new Associate. In the meantime, they'll be looking over PIFS, requesting audio or video recordings of sermons, and winnowing the list down to top candidates. Reference checks begin, along with interviews and perhaps visiting neutral pulpits to hear the top candidates preach.

Presbytery will have stayed with our team every step of the way, mentoring and monitoring the process. Once we've picked our guy or gal and all the proper checks have been passed, the APNC negotiates the terms of call, and the candidate goes before the presbytery's Examination Commission. Once that hurdle is passed, we can call a congregational meeting to introduce and vote on the candidate. At that point we can install our new Associate Pastor. Whew! We'll keep you informed of our progress through the steps.

### **An Election You Can Feel Good About – Cast Your Vote for MPC Officers**

Our Officer Nomination Committee (ONC) wants your suggestions for nominees to be elders on our Session and deacons for the Board of Deacons for the next three-year term, and our associate pastor search committee (APNC), as well as congregational members to serve on next year's ONC.

As a courtesy, check with your nominee to make sure he or she is willing to serve before turning in that name, but be aware this does not guarantee that the person will be on the final slate presented to the congregation for their votes Sunday, Oct. 30. We generally have more nominees than open positions and the ONC strives to make sure each class of officers is representative of our church as a whole.

Turn in nomination forms to the church office, the offering plate or in one of the boxes in the Narthex and Welcome Center no later than Sunday, Oct. 16. A congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers will be held after worship on Sunday, Oct. 30.

# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 3 p.m. Gus's Birthday Party
<b>2</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development/Communion 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School 12 noon. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir 6 p.m. Blessing of the Animals	<b>3</b> 9 a.m. MPP 12 p.m. Arts and Crafts Guild 1 p.m. Ballet 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	<b>4</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monet 2:15 Parkinson's Tai Chi 3 p.m. Youth Council Meeting 4:30 Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	<b>5</b> 8:15 a.m. Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MPP Music 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 1 p.m. Playball 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>7</b> 9 a.m. MPP 10 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	<b>8</b> 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School 12 noon. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Deacons 6 p.m. Journey	<b>10</b> 9 a.m. MPP Closed 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	<b>11</b> 9 a.m. MPP Fall Break 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monet 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	<b>12</b> 9 a.m. MPP Fall Break 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 12:30 Poetry Group 1 p.m. Playball 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>14</b> 9 a.m. MPP 9:45 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate 7 p.m. Couples Group  <b>CHURCH RETREAT TO MONTREAT BEGINS TODAY</b>	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
<b>16</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School 12 noon. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. RHO Readers/Young Adult Luncheon 2 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir	<b>17</b> 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon. Arts and Crafts Guild 1 p.m. Ballet 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Session	<b>18</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monet 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	<b>19</b> 7 a.m. Men's breakfast 8:15 Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MPP Music 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 12:30 p.m. Third Thursday Theological Throwdown 5 p.m. Girl Scouts leadership meeting 5:30 MPP Open House 1 p.m. Playball 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>21</b> 9 a.m. MPP 9:45 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate 7 p.m. Youth Lock-in	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 7 p.m. Morningside Mingle
<b>23</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School 12 noon. Fellowship	<b>24</b> 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Ballet 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Parliamentarians	<b>25</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monet 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	<b>26</b> 8:15 Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MPP Music 5:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>SERVICE TRIP BEGINS TODAY (RHINO)</b>	<b>27</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Fun with Weights 1 p.m. Playball 5 p.m. Food Trucks 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>28</b> 9 a.m. MPP 9:45 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	<b>29</b> 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
<b>30</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 9:45 a.m. Faith Development/Commitment Sunday 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School 12 noon. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir	<b>31</b> 9 a.m. MPP Halloween Parade 1 p.m. Ballet 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Parliamentarians					

## Spotlight on New Faces

### MPCers Eager to get to Know Newcomers to Our Pulpit, Youth Programs



Rev. Beth Waltemath

The Rev. Beth Waltemath, our interim Associate Pastor, has preached her first Morningside sermon. Interim Youth Director Sarah Are now has several weeks with our youth under her belt. We'll get to know them both well in the coming months. But *Morningside Messenger* asked both these newcomers to our staff a few pertinent (or perhaps impertinent) questions to break the conversational ice.

We just had to ask Sarah, What is an 'Are'? Her answer: My last name is a funny thing. My great-great grandfather was orphaned around the age of 10, and thus largely undocumented. As a teen, he ended up forging a birth certificate to fight in WWI. Thus, we have no record of his parents or of his lineage. We often assume and wonder if our name is tied to the river Aare, or if it is a derivative of other more common names (Ares, Ayres, McAre). However, those are all rabbit trails."

Beth will be busy as she leads our mission, faith development and small group programs. She is the mother of three kids—the baby only three months old. She has co-parented and co-pastored North Decatur Presbyterian Church for the last six years. While her husband, Rev. David Lewicki, will take-over the bulk of the co-pastoring of that church, Beth will continue to stay in relationship with her family's church by moderating session, training elders, and preaching occasionally. We ask—in awe, "How will you manage?" Beth said, "The challenges of serving Morningside while staying in relationship with North Decatur are mostly logistical: 15 minutes drive with no traffic. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at Morningside. Wednesdays and one Sunday a month at North Decatur. These congregations are truly 'sisters' in that they share some very significant DNA but also are uniquely their own creations. I look forward to introducing Morningside to some of the tools and spiritual resources I've developed in my call at North Decatur, but I also very much look forward to learning from Morningside and co-creating new ideas and models with its members according to their patterns of life and expressions of faith."

She continued, "Mission, service, outreach and advocacy have been central to the congregations I have served in New York and in North Decatur. The ethos to love thy neighbor, feed the poor, give voice to the voiceless and care for creation has infused every intention behind their common life together."

"Education and faith formation are my passions. It has been central to all of my calls. I love to explore life's pertinent questions with people and learn from the answers they derive from their experience. I am always encouraging people to find their 'inner teacher.' In my calling as a teaching elder, I seek to listen and to teach; and only 'preach' when necessary. Although my kids may argue otherwise."



Sarah Are

Another question for both was "Why MPC?" Sarah said, "Interviewing for the position of youth interim was the most intense interview process I have ever experienced with a church, which made an incredibly positive impression to me. Careful consideration in the interview process tells me that this church is serious about their youth ministry program, which makes this church a good fit for me, because I care deeply about youth ministry." Beth's response included, "I felt called to serve MPC in this capacity when I learned of the areas with which it needed help. This was affirmed when I met with the search committee and I felt at times as if we 'were completing each other's sentences.' To me a call is an invitation. I have felt truly welcomed and valued in my interactions with people at Morningside."

Beth and Sarah have much more to share with us, which you'll read in future issues. To wrap up this interview, we asked what we as Morningsiders could do to help each in their new roles here. Beth asked that we "Practice the first rule of improvisations, say 'yes, and...'" Approach our journey and work together with a spirit of discovery. For when we gather, God is with us. When we serve and care for others, God's realm is realized in the here and now."

Sarah responded with a practical sentiment, "There is nothing in specific that I need from MPC, apart from regularly reminding me of your names (I promise, I will do my best to learn all of them, as quickly as I can!) and continuing to be the faithful and loving people that you are."

For Morningside's part, we are as eager to welcome Beth and Sarah as they are to meet and grow along with us. It promises to be a great year!

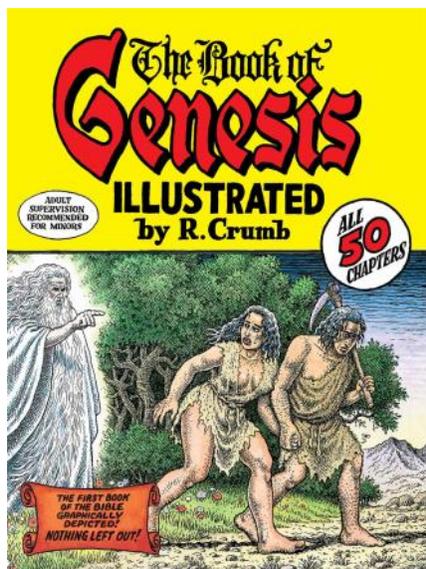
*(Part One of a series to be continued in November.)*

## Learn!

### What Do Covenants, Comics Have in Common? Both Will Be Adult Class October Topics

Wrapping up their exploration of income and wealth inequality (see the story on Page 10), our adults who meet in Room 201 on Sunday mornings will begin two three-week sessions on intriguing topics. All are welcome to drop in at 9:45 a.m.

Launching on Sunday, Oct. 2, Margaret Hofland will lead a discussion around concepts of God's Covenants.. She says, "The Bible is not a book about God and not a book about humankind but a record of a relationship between God and his people. Using the study guide *Partnership* by Andrew Kuyvenhoven, we will see how covenant affects all our relationships and holds the Bible together." Members Margaret and her husband Frank founded



and own Accent Décor, Inc., a company offering innovations in décor with a firm commitment to giving back to the world through their business.

And for something completely different, beginning Sunday, Oct. 23, the group will welcome member Van Jensen, writer of iconic comic books including *The Flash*, *Green Lantern Corps* and *James Bond*, as well as the first ever U.S. Comic Book Ambassador.

Van's three-week series, "Seeking God in the Comic Books," will look at the long, weird history between comic books and the Bible. We'll examine some of the many graphic novel adaptations of scripture, as well as comics (both reverent and profane) with Biblical inspiration.

### Men of Theology on Tap Will Tackle 'Tough Ones' This Year

For 2016-2017, our Theology on Tap topic will be "Taking on the Tough Ones." Baron will lead a Bible study on the toughest text in the preaching line-up for that month.

For the next meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 4, that text will be Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4. Men are invited to join us for a wonderful dinner hosted by Ken Sharpe (1700 Timberland Rd., 30345) and consideration of the problem: what happens when God doesn't appear to be listening? Come and learn—and see whether that text is coming to an October sermon this month.

### Children's Ministries Tweak Structure for 2016-17 School Year

Have you noticed our kids' groups have been slightly rearranged and some have new class names? Here's a rundown:

- **0-23 months** - Infant and Waddler care is provided in the Nursery, 105, during both 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and 11 a.m. worship.
- **2's and 3's** - childcare is provided in the Caterpillar Room, 012, during Sunday School and worship (childcare for 2 years and up is also provided in this room during adult Sunday School). *A Goldfish, animal cracker, or Nilla Wafer snack is provided in this room.*
- **Prekindergarten and Kindergarten** - will attend worship until the Peace of Christ when they will meet their teachers in the Narthex to go down to the Butterfly Room, 001. They will remain there until worship is over. Parents should pick-up from this room. *A Goldfish, animal cracker, or Nilla Wafer snack is provided in this room.*
- **1st-3rd Graders** - will attend worship until the Peace of Christ when they will meet their teachers in the Narthex to go to the Lamb Room, 003. They will return to worship at the Offertory. This group will remain in worship all morning on the first Sunday of the month.
- **4th-5th Graders** - will attend worship until the Peace of Christ when they will meet their teachers in the Narthex to go to the Lion Room, 005. They will return to worship at the Offertory. This group will remain in worship all morning on the first and third Sundays of the month.

All our children's classes need more volunteers on Sunday mornings. Please email our interim DCM, Sarah Tomaka ([sarah.tomaka@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.tomaka@gmail.com)) for more information about volunteering.

## Connect!

### There's A Seat for You on This Porch If You Act Fast



Don't miss out on one of the traditional highlights of our Church year: the annual retreat to the William Black Lodge In Montreat NC. MPC has been fortunate to secure THE prime fall weekend for beauty, color and good weather, Oct.14-16. If you're too chilly on the porch, there's a blazing fireplace right inside.

Be in touch with the church immediately to snag one of the remaining rooms. There are accommodations and activities for children, as well as the adult program around the exciting theme "Singing for a Change: Hymns in a Prophetic Key" led by Dr. Mel Bringle, who writes, "Social change has long been stirred by song. Like no other activity, singing brings us into solidarity with one another, giving voice to our fears and our dreams, encouraging us to continue in struggles for justice for both humans and nature." Discussions during the weekend

will explore a variety of sacred songs that have fostered protest and hope around the globe.

### But Wait! Another Chance to Mingle More with Morningsiders Awaits on Oct. 22

No agenda, just a friendly social gathering—also known as a party!—this year's Morningside Mingle for an adults-only crowd will take place Saturday, Oct. 22, starting at 7 p.m.

All adult members are invited for food, beverages and fun hosted by the Board of Deacons at the home of Kent and Tony (1368 Northview Ave. 30306). Take advantage of this opportunity to get better acquainted with other members by responding with a big 'Yes!' to the church office.

### While We Feast, Remember We Still Have Hunger in Our Community

Due to low supplies at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the pantry at Intown Collaborative Ministries is in great need of canned chicken, canned tuna, Vienna sausages, ready-to-eat soup, pork and beans, jelly, spaghetti noodles, pasta sauce, juice boxes, 64oz juice bottles, granola bars, and instant coffee. Please consider donating food items during the scarce time for aid the homeless and hungry in ZIPs 30306 and 30307.

ICM also needs grocery bags, ziplock bags of all sizes, egg cartons, squirt soap for the bathrooms at the pantry, and small hygiene kits. There is a donation bin located in the stairway by the church office. Please contact Laura Ulep ([lauraulep@gmail.com](mailto:lauraulep@gmail.com)) with questions.



### Birthdays

1 Charlotte Spears	13 Amy Jarratt	21 Sadie Irwin
1 Shelley Senterfitt	13 David Yntema	21 Liam Fox
2 Carson Myers	14 Lily Woolley	22 Julie Green
2 Frances Bresnahan	15 Joseph Brady	24 Jeff Harris
2 Alan Godfrey	15 Sanda Means	25 Riley Ruby
3 Jeannette McClure	15 Alex Regnault	26 Finley Holaway
3 Anna Sapp	16 Ann Brady	26 Pam Sharpe
4 Tia Bartis	16 Philip Hawkins	27 Robin Hackney
5 Miranda Brownlee	16 Bess Hinson	28 Abigail Ward
5 David Wingert	17 Rachel Reed	28 Merwin Peake
7 Natalie Holler	17 Joanna Adams	29 Rob Payne
8 Duncan Spears	18 David Stewart	29 Jason Loring
9 Jane Simpson	18 John Macaulay	29 Terry Lawson
11 Daniel Sommerfeld	18 Donna Scalf	30 Pat Antenucci
13 Ali Bradway	20 Bob Coomes	30 James Beasley
	20 Sienna Weis	31 Don Grant
	20 Jessica Adams	31 Brian Johnson
	21 Rich Powell	31 Jeff Peters

## Session News

### Your Session at Work: September 19 Meeting

(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 approved requesting a \$5,000 Compassion Grant from our Presbytery on behalf of Journey men's shelter, to support their Shine a Light on Homelessness initiative.
- The Evangelism team is beginning work on plans to revamp our church website in 2017. Members who have skills and interest in becoming involved with MPC's website or social media accounts are invited to be in touch with elder Jeff Peters.
- Worship and the Arts Ministries chair Susan Oder reported that Julie Green is our new Arts Events chair and has begun preparing for an Arts Festival to be held here Feb. 18-19, 2017, including a coffee house with open mic, performances by MPC members and an exhibit of member arts and crafts. All ages and talents are invited to perform or exhibit at what we hope will be just the first of an annual arts event.
- A highlight of the monthly report from our Deacons is the possibility for a new members' picture directory.
- Session approved the design and creation of the

Morningside Memorial Garden and Columbarium See sketches). The expansion would use the space currently designated as a memorial garden, but would add a wall for memorial plaques, niches for ashes, seating areas and a fountain. A group of members have been working with Facilities Manager Randy Young, landscape architect Mary Chapman and others to develop the proposal which they brought to Session. Privately raised funds are in hand to begin work now and the garden will be completed as more money is received. On-going expenses for maintaining the garden will be covered by fees for adding names to the plaque and for reserving columbarium niches.

Daisy Ottmann  
Clerk of Session



### Time to Register Your Little Angels (Etcetera) for Annual Christmas Pageant

It's time to sign up your Prekindergarten through fifth Grade children for our Christmas Pageant which will be performed on Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Sanctuary, followed by our traditional carol sing and chili cook-off for all in Fellowship Hall.

Registration is online this year via Morningside's website, ([images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2687/montreatform.pdf](http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2687/montreatform.pdf)) and we'd like all our performers to be signed up by Oct. 16 so we can assign their parts and rehearsal schedules by the end of the month.

### 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: Elizabeth Hope Amis, Friends and relatives of Hugh Bell: Connie Crowley, Sandra Fortson, Timothy Johnson, Marilyn Neforas, Kent Smith, and Robin and Charles Wilkins, Victor Carballosa, Robert Carithers, Walter Gilbert, Ann Herndon, Penny Hill, Charlotte Hudson, Friends and relatives of Linda Johnson, Drema Lafoy, Bob McCullough, Jan McMahan, Lin Parker, Marilyn Pentelovich, Karen Peterson and family, Betty Ray, Peter Regnault, Ed Sanders, Carlene Sauer, Schoen Family, Beth Klotz Von Seggern, Helen Schroder, Shannon Miller and Doug Strain, Katie, Alex and Finley Watts, Marty Wender, Rick and Lorellee Wolters, John Young.

## BackWords

### MPC Adults Invite You to Share ‘Social Creed for 21<sup>st</sup> Century’

Recently the Morningside adults in the Faith Development Sunday morning class embarked on the topic of “Seeking Social Justice: A Christian’s Response to Income Inequality”.

The enlightening materials presented by speakers from Columbia Theological Seminary, the Federal Reserve Bank and academia spotlighted misperceptions and facts about not only income inequality but inequalities of wealth itself. As a reference, study moderator Peter Cobb also used a guide put out by the Presbyterian Church USA: *Seeking Social Justice* by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. A part of that study introduced two social creeds for the Christian community, one written in 1908 and another in 2008.

The existence of the social creed came as “news,” and as good news. For it testifies to the ongoing effort to “offer a vision of a society that shares more and consumes less, seeks compassion over suspicion and equality over domination, and finds security in joined hands rather than massed arms.” (*Seeking Social Justice*, p. 4)

The class acknowledges that often the work done by both the Presbytery and the larger church go unengaged or under-engaged by local congregations. *So it is with the Social Creed for the 21st Century*.

Peter notes, “This is a compelling message and one we believe rooted at the heart of the gospel. It is not particularly hard to agree on some basic social and ethical tenets about how we organize our civil and Christian life. It is hard to argue against fairness and

justice, non-exploitation, the cherishing of creation, and peace. However, translating aspirations into articles of action and advocacy is a far more challenging and contentious task.”

It was interesting to realize the differences in emphasis from 1908 to 2008. Great strides have been made to reach the goals of the 1908 creed, which basically dealt with the welfare and safety of the newly industrialized working class. The 2008 version focuses more on full civil, political and economic rights for all and also addresses building loving connections throughout the human family, adopting grace over greed for those blessed with economic abundance, and greater stewardship of God’s creation and its resources.

Over the years, the Presbyterian Church and the National Council of Churches have devoted time and resources to finding a common voice and common ground on which to give expression to shared social concern and shared social hope.

The Faith Development group invites you to read “A Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century,” which can be found on MPC’s website in the Welcome section under “What We Believe” ([www.morningsidepc.org/welcome/whatwebelieve](http://www.morningsidepc.org/welcome/whatwebelieve)). If you are interested in the creation of congregational forums for a broader and deeper conversation about how this social creed informs and instructs our work as a church and as people of faith, contact Peter.

### November Ballot Offers Opportunity to Create ‘Safe Harbor’ for Exploited Children

How often do you have the opportunity to change a life? By voting YES on Amendment 2 on Nov. 5, you can make sure that child sex trafficking victims in Georgia get the support and services they need to turn a horrific past into a successful future.

Amendment 2 will create the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund, which will provide up to \$2 million every year in dedicated funding that can be used to provide a safe place to live, medical care, counseling and education - all of which are desperately needed by child victims.

This cannot happen without your vote. Amendment 2 will be one of four constitutional amendments at the very end of your ballot—after all of the candidates for federal, state and local office. For more information about the Safe Harbor fund visit [www.safeharboryes.com](http://www.safeharboryes.com).