



Morningside Messenger

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Inside This Issue

- 1 Worship
- 2 From Your Pastor
- 3 Inside Morningside
- 4 Spotlight on Intown Collaborative Ministries
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Spotlight on Holy Week
- 7 Session News
- 8 BackWords

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APRIL 2017 Worship at Morningside

April 2, 2017

Baron Mullis preaching
“Now Hear the Word of the Lord!”
Romans 8:6-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday
Baron Mullis preaching
“Humble”
Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 27:27-35

April 13, 2017

Maundy-Thursday
Beth Waltemath preaching

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday
Baron Mullis preaching
“Doing What You Can”
Matthew 28:1-10; Colossians 3:1-4

April 23, 2017

Sarah Are preaching
Baron and Beth, liturgists

April 30, 2017

Paul Roberts preaching
(President of JCSTS)

From Your Pastor



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am going to go ahead and admit my ego flaw in the first sentences so that I can write candidly to you about something that is on my mind. Here it is: I do love a full sanctuary on Sunday

mornings. Mind you, I'm not talking about Easter-Sunday-full – that's a whole other complex scenario. No, I'm talking about those wonderful days when the whole roll-call of the faithful is present—it's wonderful. It's worshipping with a congregation I know and love, and it's preaching to a roomful who knows me and has shown great love for me personally. There's just nothing like it.

Now I've confessed what I love (perhaps for flawed and egotistical reasons), but there you have it. I want to move on to talk about worship attendance in general and summer worship attendance in particular—and I'm writing out of concern for the spiritual well-being of our members.

I recently gave the Session an article to read entitled, "RIP Average Worship Attendance." The premise was pretty simple: we used to be able to chart the general health of a congregation by watching worship attendance. Up meant we were in good shape, down meant something needed attention. The statistician who wrote the article said we can't rely on those metrics these days. The prevailing winds of social analysis suggest that the average church-goer worships once a month, and *considers that regular churchgoing*. I think Morningside is an extraordinary church, but we are not immune to the trend. While our membership continues to rise, our average attendance slips a little bit lower each year. A close read of the month-by-month granular data of our worship attendance shows our spikes are as high as ever, but that certain seasons see lower attendance. Summer is the clearest example. Some of this stems from vacations and vacation homes and parents choosing to sleep in while the kids are at camp (and they probably need the sleep). Some is attributable to the growing year-round demands of busy schedules.

This year some families asked me to make access to worship easier – note: they didn't ask to make *worship* easier, they wanted easier *access*. (I consider getting up and

getting your family ready earlier to make sure you are in church to be the sign of someone who is committed to worship.) So, we implemented *Second Sundays @8:45*. To date, we have had three services. I add together worship attendance at the 8:45 and 11 a.m. services and every *Second Sunday* our total number of worshippers has gone up by 15-20 percent above the weeks before and after. It's as clear a sign as any that our members *want* to be able to worship.

That's important to me—and to all of us. While statistics can show us what has happened to average attendance, they can't yet tell us what the affect will be. Will the church stabilize at a lower average? Will the spiritual health of adults suffer for want of worship? Will children who are in worship 12 times a year become adults who worship 12 times a year? It's too soon to tell. We won't know until, for at least our youngest generation, it's too late to make a difference.

I don't want that. I know you don't want that. So, I will continue to find ways to expand access to worship as a means of ensuring that our members are being fed. It's too important to do otherwise.

Our *Second Sundays @ 8:45* experiment appears to be working. To build on its success, our Session has approved a summer schedule to run from June 18 to July 30 with just one service at 10 a.m. Our 11 a.m. schedule returns on Aug. 6 with Sunday School Kickoff. *Second Sundays @ 8:45* will come back Aug. 13.

When I was a child, I asked my pastor, Dr. Wilson, why Christians had to go to church? He replied wisely that we didn't have to, but he added, "Think of a Christian like a coal and worship like the fire. When the coal is in the fire with all the other coals, it burns brighter and longer." He went on, "But remove the coal from the fire, and what happens?"

We all know the answer to that very well.

Shalom,

Baron

Inside Morningside

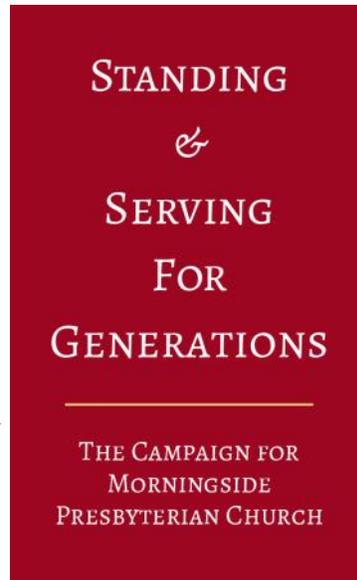
Standing and Serving' Campaign Enters final Year; Work, Pledges Continue

In March 2015, we launched “*Standing and Serving for Generations: The Campaign for Morningside Presbyterian Church*” with the goal of raising \$1.5 million to do, among other things and totally contrary to conventional wisdom, retire some \$700,000 debt remaining from the previous capital campaign begun in 2006.

Together we met our pledge goal. We ‘burned the note’ for one of our outstanding loans that year and have significantly reduced the major loan. Reducing debt service frees up operating funds for, as an example, having a Director of Children’s Ministries. Our campaign and finance teams were dedicated to incurring no new debt, but rather schedule improvements as pledges were paid. As of the March Session meeting, some \$350,000 in pledges is still outstanding.

Paying off the final debt and renovating Fellowship Hall are the remaining ‘big’ projects to be fully funded.

Much of what we’ve gotten for our money is somewhat invisible. For instance, did you notice that the preschool classrooms no longer have air-conditioners sticking out of the windows? That’s thanks to a major gift that allowed an upgrade to our whole-building HVAC system. All the



rooms, including the bathroom, downstairs in the Sunday-school wing received thorough face-lifts. Our aging electrical system got brought up to code and---yes, we needed to repair even more roof leaks to protect our organ. And \$25,000 of our funds went to our partners in service programs.

We look forward to the installation of a new audio-visual system for the Sanctuary, as well. Components have all been purchased and will be installed after the Easter holiday. Member Brent Drone has created a design for Fellowship Hall that the Facilities team promises will delight us. Obviously, fingers are crossed that the remaining pledges will be paid and we can wind up 2017 with our campaign fulfilled.

Incidentally, our new Memorial Garden and Columbarium is not one of the *Standing and Serving* projects. It, too, is being built and paid for on a pay-as-you-go basis, with the construction financed by specific gifts and reservations for plaques and niches.

Morningside Milestones

- We extend our Christian sympathy to the individuals and families among us whose loved ones recently left this world for the Church Triumphant: Rev. Beth Waltemath on the death of her grandmother Harriet Foley; Tim Gargis on the death of his mother, Dorothy “Dot” Gargis, and Dale and Barbara Ray, whose son Randy’s life was memorialized in our Sanctuary Mar. 18.
- Congratulations to Anna Mary and Mark Smith on the baptism of their daughter, Mary Hampton Smith, on Mar. 19, to Austin and Doug Davis-Selph on their wedding in our Sanctuary Mar. 18, and to Marti and Kirk Adams on the birth of their son Casper, little brother to Akin.
- Our Strategic Planning Committee thanks everyone who attended a listening session about our church’s future and who completed the CATscan survey. We’re awaiting the analysis of results from the survey company, which among other things, will compare our congregation with others of similar size across the nation.
- Yes, we are a welcoming bunch—to the extent that our ‘adopted’ family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo wants to continue worshiping with us. Rides to and from MPC on Sundays are dearly needed. Bienfait and Georgine have car seats for their children—if you don’t. Beth, Holly Campbell or the office can tell you how to get in touch.

Spotlight on Intown Collaborative Ministries

MPC Partner Organization Serves Our Neighbors, Ourselves

It's easy to look about our church's immediate neighborhood and be impressed with the lovely homes both old and new, chic shops and eateries, and lush landscaping and feel blessed. But even in our home ZIP codes of 30306 and 30307, individuals and families face hunger and homelessness. Stepping up to this need is one of Morningside Presbyterian's service partners, Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM), a charitable organization that provides food and clothing to homeless and low-income families in our immediate area.

How does that serve us? By providing an uplifting opportunity to share goods and use our time and talents to bring hope to our neighbors, to be ambassadors for God's love.

Here are three ways we can support ICM in April—and one of them is really fun! ICM's fifth annual Arts and Eats Fundraiser is coming up Sunday, Apr. 30 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Atlanta History Center. The evening's entertainment, naturally, features both arts and eats – live and silent auctions, a Wall of Wine, door prizes, games and entertainment, live music, a buffet dinner and an open bar. Tickets are priced at \$100 per person, \$200 for a couple, but 50 percent of each ticket purchased is tax-deductible. You can also support the fundraiser, whether or not you can attend, by donating an auction item – a stay at your vacation home, a promotion from your business or partner, or a collectible you think would be a good fit.



Visit <https://intowncm.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/ArtsEats2017/tabid/841191/Default.aspx> for more details on auction donations and tickets, or contact katyemac@gmail.com. There are also paper ticket forms available in the church narthex.



Coming up sooner is MPC's Saturday to serve at the ICM Food Pantry, located at McIver Hall beside Druid Hills Presbyterian Church near the corner of Highland and Ponce de Leon. We are committed to provide 12 volunteers from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Saturday every other month—this month on Apr. 8—to distribute food. Nancy Collins and Laura Ulep are our ICM shepherds, and Laura says, "We hope groups at MPC would pick one of our six Saturdays to serve. This is also a wonderful giving-back opportunity for families, as children 10 and older are welcome with adult supervision."

Remaining 2017 dates are June 10, Aug. 12, Oct. 14 and Dec. 9. To volunteer or to learn more about ICM's programs, reach out to Laura at lauraulep@gmail.com or Nancy at ncollins0209@gmail.com. Also watch MPC's communications for news about food and clothing drives on behalf of ICM.

Finally, we've just received word from Sally Oakes, director of ICM's food ministries, of a new volunteer option: home deliveries. Between six and 12 volunteers are needed on a rotating schedule to deliver food every other Saturday, currently near-by in either Booth Tower or Briarcliff Summit but always within a three-mile radius of ICM.

Sally says that a driver will "call the client ahead of time to see what needs they have that week, then arrive at the pantry at 9:30 to assemble the orders. You'll get them weighed, then go deliver them!" To step up for this new program, which is described as an "immediate need," email Sally directly at sally@intowncm.org.

Intown Collaborative Ministries currently partners with 16 local Jewish and Christian congregations in ZIP codes 30306 and 30307, serving more than 1,200 men, women, and children in the community each year with help from supporters like us.

Neighbors? Yes, we love all God's children. Show it by purchasing a \$15 yard sign sponsored by Mission Ministries. See details in the Welcome Center.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BRING THE KIDS OR VOLUNTEER FOR SPRING FLING Our preschool's annual family fun day and fund-raiser happens Saturday, Apr. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Don't miss new events including a \$15 'tasting menu' to determine our finest Grill Master. If you don't have kids to bring to our campus for all the activities, sign up to volunteer for a short shift. Contact Kimberly Williams (kew412@gmail.com) to sign on.						1 9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	12 noon. Arts and Crafts Guild 12:30 p.m. Memorial Garden Committee 7 p.m. Mandolin Society MPP SPRING BREAK	11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Parkinson's Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning MPP SPRING BREAK	7 p.m. Wells Knitting Group 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir MPP SPRING BREAK	11 a.m. Fun with Weights 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir MPP SPRING BREAK	MPP SPRING BREAK	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting/ Concert Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Coro Vocati Concert
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PALM SUNDAY 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 5 p.m. Youth Group	9 a.m. MPP/Organ Tuning 1 p.m. Ballet for Preschoolers 7 p.m. Mandolin Society/ MLPA/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 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 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 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	7 p.m. Good Friday Service at 1st Presbyterian Church MPP CLOSED	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Brass Rehearsal 11:30 a.m. Planning Committee 1:30 p.m. DCM Search Committee
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
EASTER SUNDAY 9 a.m. Early Service 11 a.m. Easter Service 12 noon. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Young Adult Luncheon 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	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. Girl Scout Leadership	7 a.m. Men's Breakfast 8:15 a.m. Children's Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 10:30 a.m. Dobbs Reading 1 p.m. Music for Preschoolers 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. Third Thursday Theological Throwdown 1 p.m. Playball 6 p.m. Night Yoga 7 p.m. Youth Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Leadership	9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 11 a.m. MPP Spring Fling
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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 12:30 p.m. RHO Readers 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/ 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 7 p.m. Wells Knitting Group 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	9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. Karate	9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting
30						
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 3 p.m. Opera Guild for Atlanta						

Spotlight on Holy Week

Palm Sunday Marks the Beginning of Holy Week Observances

As we're frequently reminded from the pulpit, the joy of Easter Sunday must lead through the spiritual disciplines of the season of Lent and the mournful reminder of Christ's suffering on Good Friday. There's a special addition this year, as the choral group Coro Vocati will be in concert here on Apr. 8 (see Page 8 for details.) As we prepare to enter this most vital period on the Christian calendar, plan to fully participate in what Morningside Presbyterian will offer—

Palm Sunday, Apr. 9 Although everyone is invited to carry palm fronds as we enter the Sanctuary, remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we especially expect to see our children enthusiastically waving the branches. This year, our Children's Choirs will lead in worship at both the *Second Sunday@ 8:45a.m.* service and again at the 11 a.m. service. This is also the day we receive one of our four all-church special collections for the One Great Hour of Sharing. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 13 Held in our Sanctuary, this evening service at 7 p.m. celebrates Christ's mandate to his disciples—and to us—to go forth and share the gospel. The Chancel Choir will sing, Rev. Beth Waltemath will preach and we will share the Lord's Supper by Intinction.

Good Friday, Apr. 14 We will hold a joint service at First Presbyterian Church on Peachtree St. at 7 p.m., featuring more than 100 singers from Central, First and Morningside churches. Our pastors will preach and read liturgy in this moving observance of Christ's Passion.

Easter Egg Hunt, Apr. 15 Help us prepare ahead of time for the annual "Running of the Eggs" by either taking a bag of empty eggs from the Welcome Center home to fill with candy, small toys and stickers or bringing your own filled eggs—nut-free, please!—and returning them to the Welcome Center baskets by Apr. 8. We need about 3,000 eggs to delight all our young collectors. We also need volunteers to martial the area and clean up (go here to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daea2aa6fe3-easter>). The Saturday gathering begins around 10:30 a.m. with face-painting, treats and other activities, followed by a trumpet 'Call to the Post' at 11. And then the stampede. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids, stray kids...all are welcome. But each child should bring his or her own basket.

Easter Sunday, Apr. 16 Join us for the joyous worship of our Savior's Resurrection at either 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. In addition to the traditional preaching of the Good News, both services will include the full Chancel Choir, the MPC Handbell Choir, organ and brass, in our beautifully flower-filled Sanctuary. Happy Easter to us all!



April Birthdays

3 Katy Watts

3 Robert Bartis

6 Sarah Burns

7 Michael Perez

7 Anthony Fox

8 John Blevins

8 Hannah Miller

8 Liz Sommerfeld

9 Austin Davis-Selph

11 Natalie Batchelor

11 Julie Brow

12 Kimberly Williams

12 Hope Bothwell

13 Greg Johnson

13 Brent Mooneyham

13 Mindy Potter

13 J. Brandon Odom

15 Jeff Adams

16 Bryson Hankinson

18 Andrew Stewart

18 Ezra Zook

20 Brad Strickland

20 Sophie Markovic

20 Thomas Markovic

20 Isabella Perez

20 Georgia Moore

21 Andreas Dopheide

21 Frances Adams

22 Sue Ballay

23 John Fillyaw

23 Chip Edgerton

24 Rebecca Holmes

25 Susan Gilbreath

25 Caroline Tanner

27 Hal Nuckols

28 Alan Bremer

29 Browning Fergus

29 Ann Bowers

30 David Fairleigh

Session News

Your Session at Work: March 20 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.)

- Delightful business opened Session's March meeting as one of our confirmands, Sophie Ryan, was examined (very gently) and accepted to be confirmed into membership on Apr. 30. The rest of the confirmation class will meet with Session in April. Session hopes Sophie tells her fellow confirmands not to fear the process.
- Since 2013, MPC and our preschool have had a comprehensive Child Protection Policy in place. This month, Session approved an update that added needed clarifications. One change, which does away with the position of 'lead volunteer,' means that many more adult helpers will be subject to background checks. Session agreed the additional effort and expense is a wise investment in protection for our vulnerable young ones.
- The upheaval on the lawn at the preschool end of the building is not due to an invasion of giant mutant moles. Facilities Chair David Mogge reports that work is well underway on the church's Memorial Garden and Columbarium and completion is expected before Easter. A dedication ceremony will follow worship after that date.
- Good news from Human Resources! The search committee for our new Director of Children's Ministries has identified final candidates. Prayers for announcement that the position has been filled would be welcomed.
- Also, big news from the Worship and Arts Ministries: Beginning June 18, Sunday worship will take place at 10 a.m. through July. The *Second Sunday* service will be suspended, as will pre-worship Sunday schools for all ages. On Aug. 6, coinciding with our annual Sunday School Kickoff activities, worship will move back to the 11 a.m. slot. By the way, Baron reported that average attendance when we hold two services on Sundays has increased by 25-35 individuals, an indication that the early service is meeting our goal of making it easier to attend worship.
- Susan Oder, chair of the Worship and Arts team, also announced that Nancy Hamilton will be the new chair for the Pew Crew. Faye McKay-Clegg has led this team for many years, scouring the Sanctuary after every service collecting communion cups, bulletins and stray possessions. The Pew Crew always welcomes new volunteers—and it's not necessary to serve every Sunday.
- A sweet gesture from the Daisy Girl Scouts who've been meeting at the church for the past two years and are now 'graduating' to Brownie Scout status is a thank-you gift of birdhouses for the woods made by the girls and/or planting flowers in our Children's Garden. Session gratefully thanked these young ladies for their contribution.

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, Patricia Boyko, Joe Brady, Susan Bradway (Jon Bradway's mother) Ann Coffey (Sarah Beth Gehl's mother), Sandra Fortson, Tim Gargis, Walter Gilbert (Patrick Gilbert's father), Kat Harris (Eric Harris' mother), Ann Herndon (Will Herndon's mother), Billy Jones (Melissa Lawson' father), Friends and relatives of Linda Johnson, Klotz family, Betty Lynn Lambert, Jan McMahan, Ted McMahan, Lin Parker (Nancy Coomes' friend), Ray family, Bev Reed, Carlene Sauer (Kasey and Stephanie Libby's family), Beth Klotz Von Seggern (Jack Klotz's sister), Marlie Ann Senf, Myra Shore (Lester Morris' cousin), Carol and Bill Southwood, Mary Turner (Sanda Means' mother), Waltham-Lewicki family, Wells family, Dr. Nathaniel West (Dr. West's father), Evelyn Wimberly (Nancy Frampton's ex-mother-in-law), John Young.

BackWords

Professional Choral Group Coro Vocati Returns to MPC Sanctuary

The Atlanta-based professional choral group Coro Vocati will present a concert of music for Holy Week in Morningside's Sanctuary Saturday, Apr. 8, at 7 p.m. Tickets at the door will cost \$20.

Our Organist/Choirmaster Dr. Jonathan Crutchfield accompanies the group and baritone Brandon Odom from our Chancel Choir is one of the vocalists. The concert will be built around three 'stations'—Gerald Finzi's "Lo, the full, final sacrifice" for choir and organ; James MacMillan's "Misere," and a set of metaphysical texts with musical settings by Blake Henson, Ralph Vaughan Williams and J.A.C. Redford.

These stations will be connected by a series of early American folk hymns reflecting on the "full, final sacrifice".



Reading Group Takes on Unusual Best-Seller

'Bardo' is a Tibetan word meaning literally "intermediate state"—also translated as "transitional state" or "in-between state" or "liminal state". It's thought of as the place souls stay between incarnations—not exactly a concept encountered in Reform Theology. However, acclaimed short-story author George Saunders has not only set much of his first novel in the bardo, he also sends our 16th President there as a visitor in the current best-seller *Lincoln in the Bardo*, the film rights to which also have just been acquired.

Lincoln goes there to be with his late 11-year-old son Willie—and a horde of other spirits also get involved. Our co-ed book group, the RHO Readers, will follow the story on Apr. 23, at 12:30 p.m. in the Session Room and all are welcome to join the discussion. The meeting date has been changed due to the Easter holiday.

The next two meetings, returning to the third Sunday of the month, will feature non-fiction selections. On May 21, the book chosen is *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts* by Joshua Hammer and the June 18 read will be *From Silk to Silicon: The Story of Globalization Through Ten Extraordinary Lives* by Jeffrey E. Garten. There is no commitment required to sit in on any or all RHO Readers meetings. For more information, contact Jill Klotz (wageworth@aol.com).

Adult Group Ends Lenten Program, Will Look at Christian Response to Prisons

The series on contemplative Christianity and Lenten practices will continue Apr. 2 and 9 in Room 201 at 9:45 a.m. The Apr. 9 program will be presented by Ken Sharpe and will discuss the life of Meister Eckhart.

The works and reputation of this great mystic and preacher of the Dominican Order in the late 13th -14th centuries have been rediscovered and integrated into contemporary spiritual practices.

After a pause for Easter Sunday, the group will take Apr. 23 and 30 to look at the moral problem of mass incarceration and consider the gospel's call to tend to and free the prisoners. Beth Waltemath and Paul Roberts will lead this two-week series. In May, the class will consider the life and work of Reinhold Neibuhr.

Bienfait Kinumbe, the father of our refugee family, is seeking employment. His trade is painting, and he has a lot of experience working as a painter in Uganda, where they were in a refugee camp for many years. If anyone in our congregation knows of a company that employs painters, or if someone needs painting done themselves, every dollar will help them. Contact Katy Watts at katyemae@gmail.com. We are also seeking volunteers to tutor Bienfait on the Georgia Drivers License test. He is most anxious to learn the rules of the road so he can pass his test. Contact Holly Campbell at hollycampbell1@gmail.com.