

## December 2007 Worship at Morningside

### Advent ~ “To Follow the Star”

December 2, 2007

Preaching – Joanna Adams

Sermon: “Heads Up”

Text: Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:34-44

The sacrament of communion  
will be celebrated.

December 9, 2007

Vivaldi’s *Gloria*

Chancel Choir/Instruments

December 16, 2007

Preaching – Joanna Adams

Sermon: “The Christmas Question”

Text: Matthew 11:2-11; Isaiah 35:1-10

Christmas Pageant - 5 p.m.

December 23, 2007

Preaching – Joanna Adams

Sermon: “The Better to Be Near Us”

Text: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve December 24, 2007

Candlelight Service of

Lessons and Carols - 8 p.m.

Meditation - Joanna Adams

December 30, 2007

Preaching – Chris Henry

Sermon: “Christmas in Bethlehem”

Text: Micah 5:2-5a; Matthew 2:13-23

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*Church Office Hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.*

## Hamilton Jordan Will Share Survivorship Lessons

Morningside's very special guest for our next Community Forum, Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m., will be Hamilton Jordan, President Jimmy Carter's White House Chief of Staff, bestselling author and four-time cancer survivor. He will discuss the health challenges he's faced, how they have helped him grow as a person. He'll also talk about his faith and the limits of that faith.

As the name implies, Community Forum is open to everyone and offers a great opportunity not only to hear outstanding speakers but also to invite our friends and neighbors into Fellowship Hall to get acquainted with MPC.

Hamilton Jordan, a versatile speaker, is equally sought after for his motivational message on overcoming adversity, having survived three cancers all before the age of 50, and his expertise on government issues such as the current political landscape and the future of healthcare. Since leaving the White House, he's written two bestselling books, started an NFL franchise, was named "Sport Executive Of The Year" for founding the global men's professional tennis tour and created numerous

other successful companies, many in the health and biotechnology sectors.

Mr. Jordan is always churning new ideas and his latest involvement with a new grassroots political campaign is creating a buzz. As co-founder of Unity '08—a movement committed to presenting a third presidential ticket and platform in the 2008 election — he's at the forefront of an idea to engage all Americans in a grassroots campaign to move away from polarizing politics and focus on the issues that face our nation. Unity '08 plans to build an online community of millions of registered voters who will participate in an online convention in the first half of 2008.

His passion for giving people a platform on political issues is only rivaled by his desire to be an inspirational advocate to those who are battling or overcoming disease. His assertive approach to horrific life experiences, delivered in a compelling, inspirational manner, give hope and encouragement to those facing similar challenges.

### Morningside Milestones

- Still growing! We welcome young **Joseph Bennett Metz**, son of **Mindee** and **Derek** by baptism and our most recent group of new members: our choir's **Julie Green, Jennifer Jones, Linda Langstraat, Roxanne Sullivan, Julia Taylor, and Ruth Wells**, at 96 probably Morningside's oldest 'newbie' ever.
- Celebration of our marvelous Wicks-Coulter pipe organ drew crowds for both the dedication service Nov. 18 and the organ recital Nov. 27 featuring Donald Sutherland. The congregation specially thanked the dedicated organ-building team led by Robert I. Coulter and including Josh Crook, Don Furr, Mat Newcome, John Pritchard, Reginald Ross, Randall Ruppert and Dwayne Short. And thanks to **Nancy Coomes'** for assisting with our organ renewal's great coverage in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.
- Congratulations to **JoAnn Bertrand**, recently recognized by the Atlanta Botanical Garden as a "Roots of the Garden" for her many volunteer hours.
- We extend our Christian sympathy to **Pat** and **Jim Antenucci** on the death of Pat's brother, Jim Spratlin.

## *Study Reconnects Adults with ‘Christmas Characters’*

Each year during Advent a long list of biblical figures re-enter our imaginations and our worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago in a remote corner of the Roman Empire. This year we invite you to join us during adult Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. in the Morningside Room Nov. 25-Dec. 16 for our Advent Bible Study Series led by Chris Henry, “Christmas Characters: A Pageant of God’s Unending Love.”

Come and hear as the Old Testament prophets proclaim the coming of a messiah who will bring a message of peace and joy! Come and witness the cries of John the Baptist from the wilderness! Come and rejoice with the angels and shepherds at the birth of a new king! Come and see afresh the faces of two proud parents with the weight of the world on their shoulders and a wind from God at their backs! Come, let us adore him...Christ the Lord!

## *Morningside Men To Enjoy ‘Theology on Tap’*

This fall, a growing number of men gathered for social events on fourth Sunday evenings and ‘Theology on Tap’ studies on first Tuesdays of each month. In December, the men will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the home of **Richard Brownlee** (1046 Bellevue Dr. NE, 30306). Chris Henry will lead the discussion

on the topic of “What about ‘Them?’ How Christians Relate to People of Other Faiths.” Since the usual social time would fall during Christmas week, we will look forward to reconnecting in the new year. And, since Theology on Tap would fall on New Year’s Day, we’ve rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 15.

## *Monthly Women’s Bible Study To Explore ‘Most Satisfying Psalm’*

Start your Advent off with a Wednesday morning of fellowship and Bible study led by Rev. Joanna Adams on Dec. 5. We hope that you will join us in the Morningside Room at 9:15 a.m. to look at *The Most Satisfying Psalm* as we go deep into the ‘prayer book

of the ages’ and discover anew its spiritual truth-telling. Coffee and pastries are available beginning at 9 and childcare is provided in the nursery, Room 105.

*All Ages Take a Break from Sunday School on December 23 and December 30. Childcare and Children’s Worship will still be available during the 11 a.m. worship hour.*

## *‘Treasure Hunt’ Kicks Off 2008—Here’s a Sneak Peek*

New Year, New Rooms! The children will start the year with a treasure hunt during 9:45 a.m. Sunday school. Exploring their new classroom downstairs, they will get to “discover” where everything is and make themselves at home. Youth also will start in a new location on Jan. 6, sharing space with Melinda’s office. (Not many program directors can say that they have a Foosball table in their office.)

In January, our youth will welcome volunteer leaders for Sunday school while our Youth Intern Rebekah Diehl completes her alternative context course at seminary. The adult

Sunday school class *Exploring the Book* will start the year with a five-week series "Let Justice Roll: The Old Testament Prophets speak to the Church of Today" led by Chris Henry. They will study Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, and Micah...focusing primarily on their understanding of justice.

MPC’s Library will remain closed during construction related to *A Time of Promise* and will reopen when Librarian **Betty Ray** and her assistants will be able to unpack our books in their new location.

# December 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 10:30 a.m. Atlanta Opera Chorus
<b>2</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Communion 12 noon Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Atlanta Opera Chorus	<b>3</b> 5-8 p.m. Holiday Babysitting 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Piedmont HOA 7:30 p.m. NICA	<b>4</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Atlanta Opera Chorus 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	<b>5</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>6</b> 9 a.m. Preschool Outreach 12 noon Communications committee 7:30 p.m. MLPA Traffic	<b>7</b> 9 a.m. MPP in FH 6:30 p.m. Deck the Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 10 a.m.—1 p.m. <i>Gloria</i> dress rehearsal 2 p.m. Deck the Sanctuary
<b>9</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> 12 noon Fellowship	<b>10</b> 8:30 a.m. Preschool Carol Sing 6 p.m. HR committee 7 p.m. Community Forum; Mandolin Society; Property committee 7:30 p.m. NICA	<b>11</b> 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	<b>12</b> 5:45 p.m. Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir Party 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>13</b> 7 p.m. Christmas Pageant Preparation	<b>14</b> Atlanta Community Food Bank Drive ends  Time TBA Young(ish) Adult Potluck	<b>15</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9-11 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers;
<b>16</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; New Member Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 12:15-2:15 p.m. Officers' lunch and training 5 p.m. Christmas Pageant and dinner	<b>17</b> 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. NICA	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	<b>19</b> 7 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>20</b> 7 p.m. Carol Sing	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Fun Run (Virginia Highland) 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>23</b> 4th Sunday of Advent No Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship; Word with Children 12 noon Fellowship	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Office closed	<b>26</b> Office closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>30</b> No Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	<b>31</b> 7 Mandolin Society; 7:30 NICA					

### Mission Committee Offers Advent Calendar of Service Opportunities

There may not be little doors to open on this Advent calendar, but there is a special activity for every single day of Advent. Inspired by the mission work here at Morningside Presbyterian, there is something for everyone. Next time you're at church, pick up a copy of the colorful calendar with daily suggestions for how you can love your neighbor throughout the month. Here are details of holiday mission opportunities:

- Through Dec. 14—Help fill the four holiday barrels from Atlanta Community Food Bank. As we are blessed during the holiday season to fill our tables with delicious meals for family and friends, please share these blessings with others. Whether it's a can of cranberry sauce or a hearty soup, consider picking up an extra can when at the grocery store. Some requested items include peanut butter, pastas, soups and a few no-nos are glass containers, baby and pet foods. Complete lists of needed items are available on collection cans at church.
- Dec. 1-8—Two volunteers to stay one night at the Shearith Israel Women's Shelter from 6 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Volunteers still needed on Dec. 2, 3, 7 and 8. Details are available on the mission bulletin board and shepherds **Emilie Paille** and **Jeanne McCarthy** can answer any questions for you.
- Dec. 9—Serve dinner at Druid Hills Men's Shelter. Sign up to bring a dish to help feed 30 men at the shelter.
- Dec. 11—Provide a dish for Common Ground to help feed lunch to 35 men with HIV/AIDS. Pick up an empty pan on Dec. 9 and return to church by 10 a.m. Tuesday filled with the requested item.
- Dec. 20—Bring coats, gloves, hats and other requested items to the Carol Sing. The list of needed items will be available on Shearith Israel Women's Shelter display in the narthex this month.
- As you travel over the holidays (and any time on business), please bring back those great travel-size toiletries! They are requested by a number of the outreach missions we assist.

### New MPC Committee Advocates for Political Causes

Thanks to all who volunteered to help with the Covenant Network Conference. Morningside was well-represented and those who attended the closing service were truly blessed by a moving sermon from our very own Joanna Adams. In addition to organizing volunteers, the newly formed Morningside Advocacy Committee provided snacks for conference attendees.

As the Georgia legislature prepares to convene in January, be on the lookout for an Advocacy Newsletter which will keep Morningsiders in the loop with devel-

opments in the statehouse and issues of importance to our faith community. Also, mark your calendars and look for more information regarding the following events: Thursday, Jan. 24: Community Forum at Morningside in the evening to discuss the 2008 legislative session, led by the Rev. Wendell Phillips, public policy advocate for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and Thursday, Feb. 7: Presbyterian Rally Day at Central Presbyterian Church and the State Capitol.

### 'Yule' Enjoy Giving Morningside Gifts of Time, Greenery

Adults and kids—unrelated to each other!—had until Nov. 29 to sign up for MPC's gift of free babysitting Dec. 3. The evening allows parents a night out of shopping, planning or just taking a holiday breather. If you'd still like to help set up and serve dinner, play games or cuddle the little ones or clean-up for the evening which will run from 4:30-8:30 p.m., check with Leslie Prince

at [qcclieslie@aol.com](mailto:qcclieslie@aol.com).

Sanctuary decorating for adults will be Friday evening, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8. Holly, magnolia and evergreens from your yard are also needed, or sponsor a poinsettia for \$10. **Georgia Marshall** is leading the decorating team and can be reached at 404 909.3477.

## Nuts & Bolts

### MPC Chooses New Associate Pastor, Officers

**Christopher A. Henry** was called to fill the new position of associate pastor and new classes of elders and deacons were elected Nov. 4 to serve until 2010, along with **Georgia Marshall** and **Bill Means**, who will represent the congregation on the 2008 Nominating Committee which will prepare a slate of officers for next year's election.

Chris will be ordained during the worship service Jan. 6 and profiled in the January *Morningside Messenger*.

The six new elders will be **Van Crisco**, a cardiologist married to Dr. **Carol Crisco** and father of **Max**; **Chip Edgerton**, a native Atlantan CPA married to **Laura**, and former chair of the Property Committee; **Lucy Ennis**, who loves animals, works at Emory and is wife to **Steve**; **Carolyn Morton**, who is looking forward to her twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with **Greg** this month and is mother to Atlanta Opera's newest star, **Taylor**; **Bill Southwood**, choir member, husband of **Carol** and divisional finance director for the

Salvation Army; and **David Wingert**, who also sings in the choir, is in his thirty-fifth year on the astronomy faculty at Georgia State and met wife **Sheryl** in Stanford University Choir.

Our new deacons are **Nancy Collins**, who is our mission shepherd for Clifton Night Shelter and has degrees in both Law and Nursing; **David Fairleigh**, an avid golfer, cardiac technician and husband to **Elizabeth** and daddy to **Lauren**; **James Klotz**, who is the third generation of ordained Presbyterian officers from his family, works in aviation, and frequently serves as an usher, liturgist and as a member of the Environmental Action Committee; and **Brad Odom**, the southeast district manager for West Elm furniture and an lover of music, movies and restaurant adventures.

We thank and congratulate our new officers and look forward to their contributions over the coming three years.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### *Morningside Classifieds*

- Wanted: Greeters for Sunday mornings. Contact Leslie Prince.
- Wanted: Insurance agent to review church policies. Contact Jim Armstrong.
- Wanted: Calligrapher for occasional projects. Contact MPC office.
- Wanted: Home for our old 33" Snapper riding mower. Needs work. \$500 OBO. Contact Ray McCullough at 404 876.7396 X13.

1 Richard Blanchard	11 Wendy Phillips	25 Nicholas Lazzaro
1 Becky Graham	13 Tony Menefee	27 Nancy Anderson
1 Olivia Rose Hunter	13 Linda Sweum	28 Christa Czander
2 Eleanor Peebles	13 Tom Tomaka	30 Annie McNeill
3 Dawn Bell	14 Larry Strickland	
4 Angie Keller	16 Teri Sawyer	
6 Ted McMahan	17 Philippe Regnault	
8 Baker Hubbard	19 Lauren Edgerton	
9 George Thompson	20 Shannon Lazzaro	
9 Derek Matthews	23 Doug Self	
10 Caitlin Hudgins	24 Annie Neill	
10 Taylor Marshall	25 Myong Sun Kim	



## Your Session at Work: November 19 Meeting

**Kathy Bremer**, chair of the *A Time of Promise* campaign, confirmed that construction is scheduled to begin in January 2008. You may already notice some packing and moving going on in preparation for the work. Ray McCullough and Melinda Sandkam have relocated their offices and the Library is closed for the duration.

Kathy also agreed to help lead development of the church's next five-year strategic plan. Listening sessions among the congregation and study of best practices in areas such as evangelism and Christian education are planned. The Session Retreat, Feb. 8 and 9, will focus on transforming these important areas.

**Martin Dunlap**, Human Resources chair, said that the Board of Pensions has agreed to begin coverage for Chris Henry, who pending passage of his final examination by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Nov. 27, will be ordained next month as Morningside's associate pastor.

**Leslie Prince**, co-chair of the Evangelism Committee, noted the church needs additional greeters. This is a great way to get better acquainted with members and to meet visitors. If you're interested in learning more about being a greeter, please contact Leslie.

Although pledge Sunday was Nov. 18, it's never too late to submit your annual pledge, according to **Bill Humphries**, Annual Stewardship chairman. Pledges are always welcome.

Mark your calendars. Hamilton Jordan, brother of member **Helen Schroder** and former White House chief of staff during the Carter administration, has agreed to speak at MPC's December Community Forum (See story Page 2). You won't want to miss this inspirational talk.

**Ruthlyn Newell**  
Clerk of Session

## Read *Messenger* On-line, Save Trees, Time

With the relaunch of our church website and the activities of our Environmental Action Committee, the Communications Committee is considering additional ways to keep our congregation efficiently informed. One option to be introduced in the next couple of months is an e-mail alert and link to the on-line copy of *Morningside Messenger*. The newsletter long has appeared on our website. Now we'll be

asking recipients if they'd care to replace their mailed copy with the on-line version. This change will get the information to you faster (no post office delays!), save paper, postage and a lot of staff and volunteer time. To opt in, e-mail [office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org) with your e-mail and regular mailing address or fill out the short form soon to be circulated in the Bulletin.



### ELDERS ON CALL FOR DECEMBER 2007

**Ruthlyn Newell** December 2-8

**Sarah Tomaka** December 9-15

**Michael Perez** December 16-22

**Emilie Paille** December 23-29

**Daisy Ottmann** December 30-January 5, 2008

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## MPC Cookbook Authors Provide ‘Tasteful’ Present

Real Man’s Quiche, Chatham Artillery Punch, World’s Best Chocolate Sauce, Shrimp and Goat Cheese Risotto—these are just a few tempting recipe titles from more than 350 of our congregation’s favorites collected in *Morningside Cooks*, our first-ever collaborative cookbook, on sale just in time for Christmas shopping and priced at only \$12. And, the price includes a donation of more than \$7 per book to Morningside’s missions.

The cookbook committee will start taking pre-orders after worship Dec. 9 and copies may be picked up the following Sunday, Dec. 16, in the Parlor during fellowship hour, which will also feature snacks prepared from recipes in the book. The books will become generally available that Sunday and can be purchased thereafter in the church office. Payments may be made by cash or check payable to MPC.

It’s also not too late to pick up an Advent CFL bag with five bulbs, a devotional and a reusable canvas bag decorated by our Sunday school classes for \$15, sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee.

### ‘Follow Star’ to Pageant Dec. 16

More than 40 children will don the robes of First Century kings, angels, shepherds and the rest to present our annual Christmas pageant with spirit, color and song at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, as they “Follow the Star” to Bethlehem. Don’t miss this special moment to consider the gift of the holy infant to our lives.

*The Morningside Messenger writing and production team wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and Advent season filled with hope, joy and love—and peace throughout the world.*