

## February 2008 Worship at Morningside

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### *People Want to Know*

A Sermon Series for Lent

- I. Sunday, February 3, 11 a.m.  
*Transfiguration Sunday*  
"What about Dreams and Visions?"  
Chris Henry
- II. Wednesday, February 6, 7 p.m.  
*Ash Wednesday*  
"What Does Repentance Mean?"  
Joanna Adams
- III. Sunday, February 10, 11 a.m.  
"Why Not Eat the Apple?"  
Joanna Adams
- IV. Sunday, February 17, 11 a.m.  
"Why a Crucified Savior?"  
Chris Henry
- V. Sunday, February 24, 11 a.m.  
"Why Should I Love My Enemies?"  
Cathy Schreiber
- VI. Sunday, March 2, 11 a.m.  
"What About Heaven?"  
Joanna Adams
- VII. Sunday, March 9, 11 a.m.  
"Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"  
Joanna Adams

## Dear Friends,

Traditionally, Presbyterian preachers follow the lectionary, a set of assigned Scripture passages for each Sunday of the year. Occasionally, it behooves both the congregation and the preacher to address questions not necessarily raised by the assigned texts. Beginning with Transfiguration Sunday on Feb. 3 and continuing throughout Lent, Chris Henry, Cathy Schreiber and I will be preaching a sermon series entitled *People Want to Know*. Our topics will reflect questions we have heard people actually asking.

I rejoice that Morningside is a faith community where questions are welcomed, not stifled, and where the



words of the hymn, *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, are taken as an invitation to grow in understanding the great mysteries of life and death:

*For the love of God is broader*

*Than the measure of our mind...*

We look forward to a special season of discovery with you.

Blessings and peace,

Joanna

## Lenten Season Begins with Ash Wednesday



How often have you passed up a tempting treat by wise-cracking, "Oh, I gave that up for Lent," no matter what time of year it actually was? Even for Protestants who for many years did not closely follow the Christian calendar except for celebrations of Easter and Christmas, the idea of Lent conjured an image of fasting and sacrifice. Many modern congregations such as ours at Morningside have rediscovered the truth and beauty of celebrating the liturgical seasons. Our observance of the 40 days of Lent begins Feb. 6 with a 7 p.m. worship service marking Ash Wednesday with prayers of repentance and the imposition of ashes.

Whether or not you give up chocolate or watching "American Idol" or some other favorite indulgence during this season of preparation for Christ's death and resurrection, it is a time for prayer and humility, considering how each of us needs to change in order to live a fully Christian life.

# Adults Study *Theology of Cross* Through Lent

The adult Sunday class “Exploring the Book” begins a five-week Lenten study Feb. 10 on the meaning of Jesus' death in the Pauline letters and the contemporary church, using Dr. Charles B. Cousar's book *A Theology of the Cross*. One scholar described the book as "a splendid achievement: at once deeply conversant with cutting-edge technical scholarship and written with great lucidity for the non-specialist." We are deeply honored to announce that Dr. Cousar has agreed to

teach the introductory class in this series, an opportunity not to miss. Dr. Cousar is Samuel A. Cartledge Professor Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he is beginning his 48th year of teaching. Dr. Cousar specializes in the letters of Paul and is particularly skilled in highlighting the contemporary urgency of these ancient words. Please contact Associate Pastor Chris Henry for more information or to order a copy of the book.

## *Preschool Children's Worship Migrates to Larger Classroom*

Our cohort of three- and four-year-olds and those pre-k children who are already five has grown so much through the end of worship program (10:45 a.m. through the end of worship) is moving to larger quarters in Room G-11 across from toddler/twos room. During the Sunday school hour three-year-olds are wel-

come in the Nursery where there are additional age-appropriate toys from our special toy basket. Those in pre-k are always invited to get a taste of what the older kids do and join the mission work and arts and crafts of the 9:45-10:45 hour of elementary age Sunday school in Room G-1.

## Morningside Milestones

• Morningside's youth Sunday school marked Epiphany Jan. 6 by writing two haiku reflecting their New and Old Testament studies. Haiku are Japanese poems with three lines of five, seven and five syllables respectively.

1) *The swaddled babe floats  
Moses found by royalty  
Leader of the Jews*

2) *Revealing Jesus  
Fulfillment of sacred task  
From death decree: birth*

• Transitions: Margaret (Margot) Haygood Bittick joined parents Mimi and Charles Dec. 22; Rex Bonner Ruby was baptized Jan. 21; we offer our condolences to Kendall Frank on the death of her father.

• Did you catch Leslie Grant and son Will on Rachel Ray's talk show Jan. 18? The topic was Leslie's new company, Chickin Feed, helping kids and parents make healthy eating choices.

• *Morningside Cooks*, our recipe collection, has already made its production costs and is starting to contribute to our mission budget. But many copies remain! Great gifts and if you don't have your own yet, they're available from the office for \$12.

### FEBRUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

2 Karen Churchill-Hairston  
3 Helen Schroder  
5 Marilyn Austin  
6 Will Barnette  
6 Gene Turner  
9 Nancy Collins

9 Leslie Grant  
10 Andrew Brady  
10 Martha Jondle  
11 Perry Lum  
11 Heather Regnault  
12 Gwyndolyn Brady  
12 Jim Clegg  
12 Peter Dickson  
15 John Turner

16 Kayte Pellerito  
17 Ross Weikel  
18 Todd Jones  
23 Charles Bittick  
23 Bill Smith  
24 Georgia Marshall  
25 Barbara Ray  
25 Blair DeWitt  
Schultee-Weikel

26 Deborah Coleman  
27 Jim Armstrong  
28 Beth Baer  
29 Nancy Cunningham



## *Newly Ordained Rev. Henry Expresses Thanks*

Friends at Morningside Presbyterian Church,

In one of my favorite moments in all of his letters, the Apostle Paul writes to his friends in the congregation at Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you." There is something about that impulse within each of us to give thanks to God for the gift of other human beings in our lives that seems so fitting and proper to me, especially in times such as Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008. My ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament provided so many opportunities to look back and give thanks for those who have guided, directed, encouraged, and supported me throughout my walk of faith and journey into a life of ministry. And as I looked out into the pews that morning, I saw and gave thanks to God for all of you, the wonderful congregation at Morningside Presbyterian.

I give thanks to God that I have the honor of working with such a wonderfully faithful and dedicated staff of professional colleagues who are also great friends. I give thanks for the ministry of Joanna Adams and her gifts as a wise leader and mentor to me.

I give thanks to God for the Session and Diaconate at Morningside; who responded to the particular call of leadership and servanthood at this time and place and who have been so valuable to me in discerning God's call in my own life.

I give thanks to God for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, to Ian Bresnahan, Bart Engram, Collier Maxwell, Carolyn Morton, and Emilie Paille, for their prayerful discernment and conscientious work.

I give thanks to God for the Men of Morningside, who commissioned and gave the magnificent stole that I received during the service and whose commitment to study and fellowship has inspired me.

I give thanks to God for this wonderful congregation of believers, whose warm welcome to all and powerful witness to the gospel serve as a reminder of what is possible for neighborhood churches in the mainline denominations.

Most of all, I give thanks to God for the call to serve as your Associate Pastor. I am convinced that God gathered us for exactly this time and that God will lead us forward in the coming months and years.

There are so many opportunities for ministry and service ahead; so much for us to accomplish together in the name of Jesus Christ. But please know that, as I reflect upon my call to Morningside and the wonderful service of ordination, I give thanks to God every time I remember each of you.

With gratitude and love,

Christopher A. Henry

## **Sudan Educator Salutes MPC**

Dr. Ingrid Renau, working in southern Sudan thanks to a Presbyterian grant partially funded from MPC's *A Time of Promise* campaign, writes in part, "I am so thankful to our Lord Jesus for this opportunity now to greet you in His wonderful name and to say how much I appreciate your making my being her a reality...in the three months I've been here thus far I've been on orientation: I've visited three of the areas ACROSS has education bases...In each visit I've taught teachers and worked with adult learners.

We can e-mail Ingrid at [ireaneau@aol.com](mailto:ireaneau@aol.com) to be added to her listserve and blog.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
					9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH)	8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Communion 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Listening Session; Deacon meeting; Pearlinton MS meeting	7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. NICA	5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	Ash Wednesday 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew 8 p.m. Chancel Choir	Rally Day at State Capitol 6 p.m. Evangelism committee 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH) 7 p.m. Session Retreat begins (at Joanna & Al Adams' home)	8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 2 p.m. Session Retreat ends (at MPC)
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Word with Children 12 noon Fellowship 1:30 p.m. RHO Readers	10 a.m. Children's Christian Ed committee 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. NICA	10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Preschool committee	12 noon Preschool (FH); Valentine luncheon 5:45 p.m. Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew		9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH)  Newsletter Deadline	8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers;
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. NICA	6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap	5:45 p.m. Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew		9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH)	8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers; Presbytery Meeting (at New Life Church)
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 5 p.m. Men's Social Gathering @ Manuel's	6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. NICA	6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Atlanta Symphony Orchestra String Quartet	5:45 p.m. Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew		Preschool out (conference)	

## Up and Coming

# Pancakes, Giving Make Lent Special at Morningside

Mardi Gras or “Fat Tuesday” is actually the last of the three days of Shrovetide or of the period of Carnival which lasts from Epiphany to Ash Wednesday. Especially in Medieval Europe, it was a time to feast because the fasting season approached. Somehow, this tradition turned into pancake suppers on Shrove Tuesday, aka Mardi Gras. So, come get your fill of hotcakes as MPC and Morningside Presbyterian Preschool invite the community—kids especially—for supper Feb. 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event also kicks off MPP’s collection of coins for clown programs at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Helpers for everything from set-up through pancake flipping, serving and clean-up and more electric griddles are needed. Contact Leslie Prince to sign up.

Also in the spirit of the season are a full 40 days’ worth of mission opportunities, here organized by week for your consideration:

- First week—donate a \$10 Valentine’s Day gift card for a woman at Shearith Israel’s Shelter or provide a dish to help feed 35 men attending the Common Ground program at AIDS Alliance of Faith & Health.
- Second week—stay a night at Shearith Israel

Women’s Shelter (Sunday, Feb. 10-Wednesday, Feb. 13) to assist the staff and the shelter’s 13 women guests.

- Third week—bring new pajamas, undies and socks for children sizes up to Junior 3 for girls and 20 for boys. We’ll have a Pajama Party to support Threads on Sunday, Feb. 24! Threads clothes homeless and abused children from infants through fifth grade. The Threads program at All Saints Episcopal offers the youngster a choice of new or gently used seasonal clothing in current styles that fit in a relaxed, attractive environment where they are treated with respect and served as if they were in a retail clothing store.
- Fourth week—commit a Saturday to help others. Sign up for either the Saturday, Apr. 5, Presbyterian Work Day or any Saturday Apr. 12-May 31 to build for Habitat for Humanity. Or sign up to serve at the Druid Hills Men’s Shelter on Sunday evening, Mar. 9.
- Fifth week—volunteers from Morningside return to Pearlinton MS to continue the work with a community that is still recovering from the hurricanes. Support these volunteers with your prayers each day of their trip, Mar. 10-14



## What Is Holy Week?

### Big Fun Day Tells All

Feb. 17 is the deadline to RSVP for MPC’s first 2008 Big Fun Day for all elementary age children—members and friends. Taking place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 1, Big Fun Day will offer fun outside activities and lunch, plus the group will learn about Holy Week and work on a Palm Sunday skit for worship Mar. 16.

## Strings Will Serenade

The string quartet from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, who played to enthusiastic applause at MPC last year, will return for another free concert Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. The evening is sponsored by the Morningside Lenox Park Association and hosted by MPC which will provide childcare.

## Your Session at Work: January 14 Meeting

Developing the church's strategic plan will be the primary focus of the Session retreat Feb. 8 and 9. Input gathered during "Listening Sessions" with the congregation will guide the Session's planning (*see story Page 8*).

Treasurer **Randy Parrish** reported that the church ended 2007 in the black. Receipts in December exceeded the budget. Randy also led the discussion about the 2008 budget. He moved that the Session approve a budget just under \$580,000, about a 20 percent increase over last year's budget. Based on results of the 2007 annual stewardship campaign, where some \$460,000 was pledged, and other sources of income, the Session found the proposed budget to be reasonable and approved it unanimously.

The Session approved a new building use policy developed by Property committee chairman **Lloyd Prince** and Facilities Manager **Ray McCullough**. Ray or Office Administrator **Sherrill Terry** will administer the new policy, which includes rules and pricing for outsiders' use.

Mission chair **Carolyn Morton** noted that *Morningside Cooks* cookbooks are still available for sale. Visit the church office to make your purchase. Remember, \$7 in proceeds from every cookbook sold is donated to support our church's mission work.

**Lynn Hogue**, Communications committee chairman, reported that **Derek Matthews** has agreed to chair the church's website content subcommittee. The goals of the subcommittee are to keep the site's content current and relevant. At Elder **Van Crisco's** suggestion, the Communications Committee will investigate ways to give MPC members secure access to online copies of the church directory.

The church received a gracious thank-you note from Rev. David Henry for everything we did to make our new Associate Pastor **Chris Henry's** ordination as meaningful and memorable as possible.

The Session will be considering the timing of MPC's church officer nominating, training, examining and ordaining and installing processes, with an eye to moving them away from the busy end-of-year holiday season.

**Ruthlyn Newell**  
Clerk of Session



### Elders on Call for February

Feb. 3-9	<b>Randy Parrish</b>
Feb. 10-16	<b>Jim Armstrong</b>
Feb. 17-23	<b>Lynn Hogue</b>
Feb. 24-Mar.1	<b>Daisy Ottmann</b>

### Deacons on Call for February

Feb. 3-9	<b>Sarah Tinnon</b>
Feb. 10-16	<b>Collier Maxwell</b>
Feb. 17-23	<b>Randy Brookins</b>
Feb. 24-Mar.1	<b>Shari Tant</b>

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# Strategy Steering Group Says ‘Imagine 2012’

Want to know what your fellow Morningside attendees think? Want to tell them what you think? (About the future of Morningside Presbyterian, that is.) Once again, members and friends of MPC have an opportunity to share their thoughts and visions about the opportunities, threats and concerns facing the church as well our strengths and the qualities that make our congregation, worship and programs special.

Perhaps the most meaningful part of the exercise is to imagine MPC in 2012 and describe what our community looks like and what kind of impact we are having. As they say, “you can’t get anywhere if you don’t know where you’re going.”

The Strategy Steering Committee has set a series of dates for facilitated ‘listening sessions’ to which everyone is invited to bat around our ideas along these lines. If you cannot attend a listening session (the next one is

after church Feb. 3), you can fill out a questionnaire available on our website or from the church office. Or you can jot down your thoughts and forward them to the office in writing or via e-mail.

Finally, you can always buttonhole a member of the team led by Kathy Bremer and Leslie Prince: Joe Ballay, Will Barnette, Lucy Ennis, Sarah Beth Gehl, Cindy Humphries, Gail Kitchens, Collier Maxwell, Michael Perez, Mardee Rightmyer, Sarah Mercer Tinnon, Trenton Tunnell, David York, or any of the elders.

This process successfully created our current plan, Vision 2010, which powerfully revitalized so many areas of the church’s programs ahead of schedule that it is already out of date. The Session will concentrate on the outcome of the listening sessions at their Feb. 8-9 retreat and the revised plan should be ready to share with everyone by May.