



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 2008 Worship at Morningside

Faith Hope and Love Sermon Series continued -

Sunday, May 4, 11 a.m.

III. "Love: The Greatest Gift"

Text: I Corinthians 13:1-13

Joanna Adams preaching

Children's Choir

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

Sunday, May 11, 11 a.m.

Sermon: "Power Sharing"

Text: I Corinthians 12:4-13;

Numbers 11:24-30

Joanna Adams preaching

Day of Pentecost; A Word with the Children;

Infant Baptism; Mother's Day

Trinity Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.

Sermon: "Three In One"

Text: Matthew 28:16-20;

II Corinthians 13:11-13

Joanna Adams preaching

New Member Sunday

Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m.

Sermon: "Mother God"

Text: Psalm 131; Isaiah 49:8-16a

Joanna Adams preaching

Infant Baptism



Dear Friends,

Two topics might be one too many for this brief column, but both have been on my mind of late. The first topic is a recent theft that took place on our Morningside property. Several weeks ago, under cover of darkness, a team of thieves slipped on to the grounds and proceeded to remove 300 feet of the copper gutting from our buildings. The process must have taken a while and must have involved noise, ladders, a truck, etc. I understand that ours is not an isolated experience but is part of a pattern that is taking place all across the country. There is a thriving black market for scrap metals and for copper in particular. Ray McCullough called our insurance company and was told that the theft would be covered this time, but that if we replaced copper with copper, we would lose our coverage.

I understand that in England there has been a run of thefts involving lead roofing material that churches have used for centuries. "The local parish church has become a victim of the international demand for metals," says a spokesman for a British insurance company.

"When I get an early morning call these days, I think, 'Oh no, they've taken the roof again,'" said an 80-year-old church warden in a Leicestershire village. When I think of how the church represents the presence of God in the midst of our communities, I have to wonder what has happened to respect for religious institutions. As said one British parishioner whose parish church had lost 100 square feet of roof, "We increasingly seem to live in a world where the question is, 'Is nothing sacred?'"

We now have aluminum gutters at Morningside, but don't ask me to like it!

If you stretch your mind a little, the first topic is related to the second. In our efforts to remind people of the presence of God in our midst, Morningside makes sure that our morning worship each week is spiritually rich and intellectually nourishing. Both the Session and the Worship Committee are aware, however, that sometimes, people's work, travel, and recreation schedules make it impossible for everyone to participate in the 11 a.m. Sunday worship service.

In the months ahead, the Worship Committee will explore through a task force possibilities for an additional worship service, perhaps on Sunday afternoon or on a weeknight. The 11 a.m. service will stay exactly as it is, but this may be just the time to consider enriching our life together with an informal gathering, perhaps with communion, Bible study, and a brief message at a different time. The location would likely be the Fellowship Hall, once that space is accessible to all. I don't think that even the smartest thieves can figure out how to remove the elevator! If you are interested in serving on the task force, contact Philip Hawkins or me.

The maintenance of divine worship has been the responsibility of the church for 2,000 years. It seems we need it now more than ever.

Your pastor,

Joanna Adams

May Will Bring Musical Excitement Here at Morningside—and Abroad



Morningside will say some *adieux* in May to talented and dedicated musicians who so enrich our worship experience, Sunday after Sunday. Fortunately for us, most of the farewells will be only temporary.

Our Children's Choir will sing their final performance before summer break in a combined anthem with the Chancel Choir during the May 4 Sunday services. Afterwards, Children's Choir Director Sandra Crawford, stepping down after 18 years of leadership, will be thanked and honored at a special fellowship celebration hosted by the choir parents.

On May 18, Organist/Choirmaster Walter Huff and 30 members of the Atlanta Opera Chorus, including choir members Jennye Guy and Lenna Turner, will depart for France, where they will present 10 performances of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" with the Opéra Comique de Paris.

"The Opéra Comique has one of the most distinguished histories of any opera theater," Walter says. "Bizet's 'Carmen' and Debussy's 'Pelléas et Mélisande' both were first performed here and it has always been a central part of Parisian musical life."

The artistic staff of the Opéra Comique, wanting an authentic American flavor for this most American of operas, looked over videos and reviews of recent productions in the U.S. and chose the Atlanta Opera, where Walter has been chorus master for the past 18 years.

In the audience for the June 8 afternoon performance will be 21 Morningsiders, including Joanna and Al Adams, Chris Henry, Melinda Sandkam, young Atlanta Opera performer Taylor Morton and his parents and other well-wishers who will spend that week touring Paris and Geneva, the cradle of John Calvin's Reformed Theology.

As for Walter and the chorus, they also will perform in the city of Caen in Normandy and in Granada, Spain, before returning to Atlanta July 2. More information about this can be found at opera-comique.com and atlantaopera.org. In next month's newsletter, we will profile the information on our guest music leadership.

Also, at the end of the month, Elysium Chamber Orchestra and Chorus will return to our Sanctuary in concert Saturday, May 31 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, at 3 p.m. Directed by Alan Raines and David Hancock, the 50-member group is the only combined choral and orchestral chamber ensemble in the Southeast.

For those who missed out on the trip to Paris, Elysium's performance is titled *Salut à la France*. Included will be Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem," Gillet's "Loin du Bal," Camille Saint-Saëns' melancholy "Prelude" from "La Deluge," and the beautiful "Le Denier Sommeil de la Vierge" by Jules Massenet. Tickets will be on sale at the door for \$15 adults and \$8 children, but Morningside members will be admitted free of charge. For more information, visit Elysium's website at www.elysiumchamber.org.

New Recycling Effort Turns Trash to Treasure

Nobody plays that videogame anymore and the kids have both worn out and outgrown that once-favorite DVD. Technology bypassed your cellphone so long ago it's become a family joke. And that inkjet printer needs new cartridges...again.

Every one of those items cluttering up your junk drawer or destined for the trash can help Morningside Presbyterian's efforts to become a 'greener' church, as

well as helping your cleanup efforts, reducing landfill and giving you a tax deduction. Through our EcoPhones recycling drive, sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee, all those products can be turned into cash to further our resource-saving initiatives. There's a collection station in the Narthex for your discards. Larger electronic items can be recycled the third Saturday of the month in the 8th St. parking lot at Grady High School.

RHO Readers Book Club Will Visit Chile, Classic Novel

Traveling via the printed page, the RHO Readers will visit the founding of Santiago, Chile, in Isabel Allende's historical novel, *Ines of My Soul*, May 11. The club welcomes all women and meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room for book talk and general conversation. Due to the church trip to

France, there'll be no book club meeting in June. The next get-together will be July 13 and the selection is Flaubert's classic, *Madame Bovary*. "If we've read it at all, it was probably in college and most of us will have a vastly different perspective this time around," noted discussion leader Daisy Ottmann.

Morningside Milestones

- Nothin' but net! Our One Great Hour of Sharing collection Easter Sunday raised \$1,359 for our denomination's mission work. And the Morningside Presbyterian Preschool's collection of Coins for Clowns over the Lenten season yielded more than \$1,500.
- Presbyterian Service Day was a rainout, but our volunteers found inside work to do at Clifton Shelter. The next day, intrepid Becky Carlisle and Nancy Collins did the entire landscaping project on their own.
- Wasn't *Morningside Messenger* supposed to start coming via e-mail? Yes—but we've had some technical difficulties with making the electronic version look like our printed copy. We're still working on it. In the meantime, we're continuing to collect and correct e-mail addresses and the names of those who want to continue receiving the newsletter via post.
- More Morningsiders! As we welcomed these 16 adults Apr. 20, we also rejoiced that they bring with them ten children to swell our nursery, Sunday school and VBS. Our new members include Joan Adams, Kent Balch and Tony Fishpaw, Bryan Davis, Jill Davis, Richard Finn, Brenda Fishpaw, Amy Jarratt, Braxton Jarratt, Amy Jensen, Van Jensen, Breck Kean, Lee Kean, Meghan Nelson, Bryan Smith and Tamara Nix Smith.
- Three members of the Gay family celebrated the sacrament of baptism Mar. 23: young Bryce and Grace and their dad Michael. Also baptized that Sunday was Duncan Walker, son of Jim and Suzanne. We salute these new Christians, youngsters and adults alike.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	2 9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH)	3 9a.m.-4 p.m.Habitat Build (Dad's Day) 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 p.m. Young Adult Cookout
4 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Chil- dren's Choir; Communion 12 noon Reception for Sandra Crawford 2:30p.m. "Godspell"	5 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	6 9:30 a.m. Presbytery meeting (Trinity PC) 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	7 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir ; Venture Crew	8 7 p.m. Community Forum	9 9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH)	10 9a.m.-4 p.m.Habitat Build 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
Pentecost 11 Mother's Day 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Word with Children; Baptism; New Member Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 1:30 p.m. RHO Readers	12 10 a.m. Children's Christian Ed committee 7 p.m. Mandolin Society, Morningside Lenox Park Assoc. 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	13 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Preschool committee 7 p.m. Theology on Tap (Cobbs' home)	14 12 noon Preschool (FH) 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	15 6:30 p.m. Mission committee	16 9 a.m.-noon Preschool (FH) Newsletter Deadline	17 9a.m.-4 p.m.Habitat Build & Home Dedication (Women's Build) 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 6 p.m. East End Cookout
18 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Paris/Geneva trip meeting 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	19 6 p.m. Human Re- sources 7 p.m. Session; Mando- lin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	20 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	21 9 a.m. Preschool Graduation Recogni- tion (FH) 12 noon Senior Luncheon; 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	22	23	24 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary dinner
25 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Pre- school Graduation Recog- nition; Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 3 p.m. Elysium rehearsal 5 Men's Social Gathering	Office closed 26 6:45 p.m. Parliamen- tarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Elysium re- hearsal 7:30 p.m. NICA	27 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Elysium re- hearsal	28 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	29 7 p.m. Elysium rehearsal	30 7 p.m. Elysium re- hearsal	31 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Dog Walk 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 8 p.m. Elysium Concert

Early Easter Leads to Early Pentecost

On May 11, we will observe Pentecost. Translated the word means “fiftieth day”. In the church Pentecost falls 50 days after Easter and is the seventh Sunday after Easter. As Pentecost is tied to Easter, a “movable feast” occurring on different days in different years, so too is Pentecost which can be observed as early as May 10 and as late as June 13. The color of Pentecost is red, the color of the church, and is symbolic of the tongues of fire pouring God’s spirit upon the people.

Pentecost was originally a Hebrew festival, the “Feast of Weeks” calculated to fall on the fiftieth day after Passover, an agricultural thanksgiving to God for the first fruits of the early spring harvest. By the time of the New Testament, it had lost its agricultural association and had become a celebration of God’s creation of His people and their religious history. By the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE, the festival focused

Vacation Bible School Deadline Looms; Adults Can Join Fun

Registrations are rolling in for Morningside’s Vacation Bible School, “Meet at the Marketplace,” June 23-27. (Deadline to register is May 4; form on website and bulletin board at church). Now we need to fill all our volunteer slots. Consider if you have ANY flexibility in June to take a morning or two to join us. It takes at least 30-40 volunteers to make VBS happen! If you can take a morning (8:30 a.m. to 12:15) any of those days, contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam at 404-876-7396 ext. 15 or msandkam@morningsidepc.org for more information or to sign up. A closing day program on Friday, June 27 needs extra helpers. It’s also a great time to meet all the families that join us for that week. If time off in the middle of the day works better for you, put 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on your calendar now.

on God’s gift of Torah (the Law) on Mt. Sinai and continues as such in modern Judaism.

Though mentioned more than once in the New Testament, Pentecost is most significantly associated with the familiar scene in Acts 2 where in the upper room God poured the Holy Spirit, as tongues of fire, on those present. Though debate continues about what actually occurred, what seems clear is that Pentecost represents God’s gracious presence actively at work among His people, calling and enabling them to live out the witness of being His people. For Christians, Pentecost Sunday is a celebration: of hope evoked by knowledge that God through his Holy Spirit is at work among His people, of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God’s people. It celebrates God’s ongoing work in the world tempered with the recognition that His work is done through His people as He pours his spirit upon them.



French ‘Intrigue’ Revealed May 8

Can’t make it to Paris and Geneva in June? Come explore the French Reformation right here instead on Thursday evening, May 8, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. “The French Reformation: Fervor, Passion, Intrigue, Betrayal!” Hollywood apparently has yet to discover the Huguenots of Calvin’s native France. They are our cousins in the Reformed tradition. What can we learn from their remarkable story? This evening of exploration will be led by MPC member Sheryl Wingert. A light dinner will be served, so come straight from work. RSVP to Melinda Sandkam.

Treasurer Reports Program Expense Growth

Church Treasurer Randy Parrish says, “I am pleased to report once again that MPC remains in satisfactory financial condition, and that we continue to expand our work both within our congregation and in the community. Offering receipts are up 21% through the first quarter of 2008, owing to the continued growth in our membership. Our receipts have allowed us to accelerate some payments--such as Mission gifts--but expenditures remain in line with budget. I would highlight the following items:

- A 52% increase in Mission/Outreach spending, including support for our Habitat for Humanity build and of the work of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

- A 54% increase in Christian Education and Congregational Care spending, supporting initiatives such as the Women’s Roundtable, Theology on Tap and other educational and social offerings for our congregation.
- Property expenditures are in line with the prior year after several years of increasing spending. This reflects the benefits of the completion of the work in the first phase of the *A Time of Promise* campaign and a reduction in the ‘catch-up’ work necessary in recent years.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.”

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>2007</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Offerings	146,945	131,895	108,732	35%
Other Income	11,286	8,774	7,976	41%
Total Income	158,231	140,669	116,708	36%
Christian Education	18,420	16,003	11,968	54%
Congregational Care	7,950	8,515	7,793	2%
Evangelism	6,814	8,007	7,329	(7%)
Finance & Admin	23,735	23,456	18,422	29%
Mission	29,443	21,707	19,362	52%
Property	39,605	36,460	39,703	(0%)
Worship	30,877	33,346	23,576	31%
Total Expenses	156,844	147,494	128,153	22%

New Mission ‘Game’ Fights World Hunger with Words

Whether right here in Atlanta or around the world, many people need our help to put food on the table. On Mother’s Day we begin our three-week collection of canned food for the pantry at the Presbyterian Senior Community of Calvin Court. This pantry provides supplements for residents who may need a few extra items each month. Please add to your grocery lists in the week ahead: canned tuna, chicken, roast beef, Vienna Sausages, Spam, powdered milk, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, soup, pudding and Jell-O, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion and soap. Drop off items in baskets found in the Narthex May 11-25. To reach those around the world who are fighting hunger every day, go to www.freerice.com and strengthen your vocabulary at the same time as “earning” rice for those in need. Do you know

what “edentate” means? What about “sinistral”? For each word you get right, you earn 20 grains of rice for the UN World Food Program. What could be easier?

Homes Benefit on Mother’s Day

Every year, Morningside joins more than 200 Presbyterian congregations in Georgia collecting a special offering on Mother’s Day to benefit residents of the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. This ministry has four campuses and spends approximately \$2.75 million in benevolent care each year. With our contributions, Presbyterian Homes provides exceptional services to senior adults who have outlived their financial resources.

Breaking New Ground...



Work began the week of April 13 inside and outside the church to create the new patio entrance, elevator, and office spaces to complete the *A Time of Promise* capital improvements. This phase of work concentrates on building accessibility and security. In the photo, workmen clear concrete and earth to create the corridor which will lead from the elevator to the Fellowship Hall, providing access to all four levels of the building.

Gift Endows Children's Wing With Handsome Flooring

Our Sunday school and Morningside Presbyterian Pre-school classrooms will have warmer, softer surfaces thanks to a donation from members Sandy and Todd Jones.

The new flooring will match that in the Nursery, and will be installed in the downstairs rooms as well as the one adjacent to the Parlor Kitchen. MPP contributed additional funds for moisture barriers and trim. There will be a volunteer opportunity to lay the easily-installed floors this summer.

Elders on Call for May

Sarah Brownlee	May 4-10
Ruthlyn Newell	May 11-17
Bill Humphries	May 18-24
Martin Dunlap	May 25-31

Deacons on Call for May

Holly Campbell	May 4-10
Randy Brookins	May 11-17
Sarah Mercer Tinnon	May 18-24
David Fairleigh	May 25-31



Birthdays

1 Karen Paul	15 Nancy Frampton
4 Seth McMillan	16 Bryan Smith
5 Alex Prevost	17 Sam Tomaka
5 Tish Craddock	18 Rosemary Wells
6 Brian Rouse	19 Randy Brookins
6 Matt Prevost	21 Lauren Fairleigh
6 Ian Bresnahan	22 Jeff Hackney
6 Jennifer Pittman	22 Pearl Weathers
9 David York	24 Todd Brawner
10 JoAnn Kearns	25 Van Jensen
10 Sheryl Wingert	26 Breck Kean
11 Trent Kean	27 Alan Penrod
11 Bob Wells	28 Daisy Ottmann
12 Laura Edgerton	30 Carole Jacobsen
12 Glenn Small, Jr.	31 Kate Parrish
14 Mardee Rightmyer	31 Katy Means
14 Sarah Beth Gehl	

Your Session at Work: April 21 Meeting

Meeting the day after welcoming 16 new members to Morningside, the Session noted total church membership now is 364. **Rev. Joanna Adams** said that even though *A Time of Promise* construction has begun in earnest inside and outside, the work and programs of the church continue uninterrupted.

For Children's Christian Education, **Emilie Paille** reported Elementary-school-aged children will follow a Books of the Bible curriculum this summer. Emilie said the Children's CE committee will have a curriculum recommendation for the Session in June.

Lynn Hogue, leading Christian Education for adults, reported that 34 men attended the most recent Theology on Tap, and the small-group Bible study under way will be evaluated to see how many classes are warranted in the fall. Lynn said the committee recently brainstormed ideas to consider for next year.

Bill Humphries reported for the Finance Committee in **Jim Armstrong's** absence. He said the committee plans to examine trends at the end of April to better understand patterns of the church's receipts. Committee member **Nancy Collins** gave a special report on insurance. Nancy outlined areas, including coverage of our newly renovated organ, that need to be updated when our policies are renewed June 1. The Session endorsed the recommended updates. Bill also reported that Jim is interviewing people to conduct a financial review of the church this year, as required by the denomination.

For the Human Resources Committee, **Carolyn Morton** noted that **Gabriel Couret**, our former office assistant, resigned to pursue a new opportunity. Member **Ann Benson** has replaced him. HR is searching for someone to maintain and update the church's website part-time.

Sarah Tomaka, chair of the Environmental Action Committee, reported that Georgia Interfaith Power & Light will conduct an energy audit on our church. The results will help inform a grant application due May 15.

Sarah also opened discussion about expanding church paper recycling. As this requires an external bin, it was decided to wait until the parking lots are redone as part of *A Time of Promise*. In the meantime, Sarah will work with **Lloyd Prince**, **Greg Morton** and **Ray McCullough** on placement plans for the bin, which could serve the neighborhood as well as the church and preschool.

Mission work continues to receive active participation from members, according to Carolyn Morton, chair of the Mission Committee. She introduced Free Rice, an online game that enables players to earn food donations from sponsors through the World Food Organization (see Page 7).

The Stewardship Committee continues to seek ways to provide ongoing education about giving, according to co-chair Bill Humphries. The committee will use the church's website and Life @ Morningside, among other communications, which will include updates on church finances.

The Session endorsed a resolution from the John Knox Presbytery to make an overture to the 218th General Assembly to embrace the Authoritative Interpretation in the original Peace, Unity and Purity report, completed in June 2006.

Daisy Ottmann, **Chip Edgerton**, **Sherrill Terry** and computer consultant Mike Faff will comprise a task force to determine what database management software MPC needs since the church has outgrown the capabilities of its current software. The task force will e-mail their recommendation, including costs, to Session for consideration.

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session

‘Getting to Know You’ More Than Just a Song in MPC Groups

Lately, there’s been a lot of talk about Morningside about forming ‘small groups’. What exactly does that mean? Everyone is welcome at any gathering in the Morningside community. Well, okay, if it’s the *Men’s* Gathering or the *Women’s* Roundtable...but, you get the idea! There are many opportunities to get together every month at MPC and you are welcome at any or all. Being in a small group of 12 to 30 people instead of 225 at Sunday worship opens a great window to meet others and have meaningful conversations.

Build for Habitat for Humanity on ‘Dad’s Day’ May 3 or ‘Women’s Day’ May 17, or just come out May 10 to work with other volunteers from Morningside. Get to know 20 new friends through Bible study on Sunday mornings in the *Exploring the Book* class. Never made it to the Women’s Roundtable? Try a summer activity. The Roundtable takes a break May through July, but this year the women will gather in small groups to see movies, go out to dinner and more. Both Theology on Tap and the men’s social group continue to draw new attendees each time they meet. The

RHO Readers Book Club has added new participants from the community at large.

The eight-week Disciple Bible Study has brought together 13 students this spring and plans are already underway for more sessions in the fall. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam if you would like more information on any small group opportunity at Morningside. If you would like to hear personally from someone involved with any of these groups, Melinda can put you in touch with an attendee.

MPC Cookbook Makes Perfect Gift

Don’t forget that MPC's own cookbook, *Morningside Cooks*, makes a great gift for Mother's Day, a birthday, bridal shower and even college graduation. And at only \$12, it is affordable for all your gift-giving occasions. The cookbooks are on sale this spring on Sundays May 4 and May 11 during the fellowship time following the service. All proceeds go to the mission work that MPC supports.