



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Serving You

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

## August 2008 Worship at Morningside

**Sunday, August 3, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Wrestling"**

**Text: Genesis 32:22-31**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

*Infant Baptism*

**Sunday, August 10, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "The Stumble of Faith"**

**Text: Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 14:22-33**

**David Weitnauer preaching**

**Sunday, August 17, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Saying Yes and Saying No"**

**Text: Matthew 5:33-37;**

**II Corinthians 1:15-22**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

*Church School Kick-off;*

*New Member Sunday*

**Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "On Not Keeping Score"**

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

**Sunday, August 31, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Whose Justice?"**

**Text: Matthew 20:1-16**

**Christopher Henry preaching**



## Dear Friends,

This has been an unsettling summer, hasn't it? Everything—from a gallon of gasoline to a quart of milk—costs more than ever. Millions of Americans accustomed to throwing the kids in the car and heading for the beach or Disney World for vacation are deciding to forego the trip. Whether you are headed off somewhere or staying put this August, I hope you will find ways and places to engage in a bit of soul restoration. In anxious times, it is essential that we breathe deeply of the goodness of life and allow ourselves to be rejuvenated by the wonders of creation, which are no farther away than our back doors. The fireflies are dancing in the soft evening darkness. The early morning sun bathes the earth with light. Our Creation is alive each day with divine energy: “The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.”

Michelangelo's fresco, “The Creation of Adam” adorns the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Surrounded by angels, God reaches out to the newly created Adam, awakening him to consciousness. Adam reaches back. The fingers of creature and Creator do not quite touch. To be human is to keep reaching out for our Creator, trusting that our Creator is reaching towards us as well.

Poet Mary Oliver wonders at the creative force behind the fashioning of all things as she contemplates fish bones at the foot of the waves on the shore:

### **Fish Bones**

*Maybe Michelangelo  
or Picasso  
could have imagined  
these dream shapes,*

*these curves, and thongs,  
snow-needles,  
jaws, brain-cases,  
eye sockets --*

*somebody, anyway,  
whose mind  
was in some clear kind  
of rapture*



*and probably  
in the early morning  
when the sun  
or its invisible muscle*

*was rising  
over the water.  
I don't think  
it was just a floundering  
in the darkness,  
no matter  
how much time there was.  
This morning*

*I picked up something  
like a honey-combed heart,  
and something else  
like a frozen flower*

*at the foot of the waves  
and I thought of da Vinci --  
the way he kept dreaming  
of what was inside the darkness --*

*how it wanted to rise  
on its invisible muscle,  
how it wanted to shine  
like fire.*

Friends, be on the lookout for fish bones, and everything else that proclaims the handiwork of God. Let negative, exhausted thoughts be transformed into wonder, thanks, and praise. That transformation is God's handiwork as well.

Your pastor,

Joanna Adams

## Special Activities Continue as Summer Sizzles to End

A cheerful alternative to the Braves pitching woes and \$5 hot dogs is Morningside Church's own softball team, playing in the North Atlanta Church League. Come out Aug. 5 to support the team, led by Marshall Hunter and including Richard Blanchard, Thomas Markovic, John Moore and other friends of the church. Sarah Brownlee is coordinating a carpool from the church to Northside Drive Baptist (3100 Northside Dr.) Game time is 6:30 p.m. against the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Good News Bears. The final game of the season will be Aug. 12 at the same field.

East Enders—Morningsiders who live in Decatur, Avondale, Oakhurst and other points east—will gather for a grilling potluck Saturday, Aug. 9, at

Melinda Sandkam's home (201 Superior Ave., Decatur), beginning at 6:30 p.m. Melinda says anyone who brings a dish to share and dinner to grill is welcome, even if they make their homes in Brookhaven or Poncey-Highland. She also invites willing hosts for the next East End Gathering or any other neighborhood event to be in touch.

A new program expected to continue as the leaves turn is the Thursday evening walking group led by Mary Leight. Everyone is invited to meet in the preschool parking lot Thursdays at 7 p.m. for an hour of walking and talking around our beautiful and ever-changing neighborhood. Thanks to Mary for reviving a fun and social exercise activity many of us enjoyed in years past.

### Morningside Milestones

- We all wish happiness on their August wedding days and forever after to Rev. Christopher Henry and Sara Hayden and to Deacon Sarah Mercer Tinnon and Peter Chatel. We look forward to welcoming home these new brides and grooms.
- Welcome our new children's education leader, Nancy Meehan Yao. She's a second-career student at Columbia Theological Seminary, along with her husband James. The Yaos have two sons, John and James. Nancy's been an early childhood and Head Start teachers for more than 20 years and has served as deacon, elder and Christian educator in churches she's attended.
- Our church website continues to grow to serve more and more of our communications needs. The latest major addition is a complete archive of all of Joanna Adams' sermons since she became our senior pastor.
- Thinking of becoming a member at Morningside? Our June joiners include Jim Caudill, Alison and Ward Howell with their children Lindsey and Happy, and David White. Our next New Member Sunday will be Aug. 17, beginning with an Inquirers' Class at 9:45 a.m.
- Also joining the church universal via baptism is Margaret 'Margot' Bittick, daughter of Charles and Mimi.
- Morningside Presbyterian Preschool Director Martha Hartzell wrote us to say: "Thanks to Todd and Sandy Jones and a host of church volunteers, the preschool and Sunday school now have three classrooms with beautiful laminate flooring. Our preschool teachers were awestruck by the difference these quality floors made in the overall appearance of the classrooms. We deeply thank you all for your generosity."

## *Boo-hoo? Not! MPC Goes Back to School with Joy*

Join the fun on Sunday morning Aug. 17 on the front lawn of Morningside at 9:30 a.m. Following the first week of school for our children, we will kick off our Christian Education school year with light breakfast treats.

The children will then have a chance to meet the new Children's Sunday School Leader Nancy Yao,

“bridge” to their new age groups, visit their classrooms and see sketches of how the rooms will look at the completion of renovation. Adults will be ‘dismissed’ at 9:45 to join a class described below, the New Member Inquirers Class, or continue with Coffee & Conversation. During worship, our celebration of education will continue with a dedication of our school year.

## **Adults Will Learn More About Sabbath, Confessions**

Aug. 3 Emily Nisbet will lead a survey of Biblical texts relating to the Sabbath commandment in Room 107 at 9:45 a.m.: ‘The Practice of Sabbath in the Scriptures’. Emily is a regular Morningside visitor and rising second-year student at Columbia Seminary, recently back from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in California.

Next on Aug. 10, Kathy Wolf will share happenings at the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly affecting the Book of Confessions and the life of our denomination.

Kathy is a rising senior at Columbia Seminary and Theological Student Advisory Delegate from Columbia to this year's Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly, where she served on the Bills and Overtures Committee. *How did our Book of Confessions come into existence? Who decides when and how we change this book? What will the next addition say?* Don't miss this introduction to Associate Pastor Christopher Henry's seven-week study of our denomination's Book of Confessions, which begins Aug. 17. We will read each confession alongside relevant Biblical texts and explore how Presbyterian minds have changed on issues of Biblical interpretation. We also will consider the significance of our confessional heritage in our time in “Reading the Bible and the Confessions: A Peculiarly Presbyterian Perspective”.

*What do Presbyterians believe? What makes our denomination unique, or peculiar? Have you ever had to answer questions like these from friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers?* While there are many good answers, one of our most distinctive characteristics is that ours is a confessional church tradition. In our Book of Confessions, the Presbyterian Church (USA) gives voice to who we are, what we believe, and what we are called to do. Together with the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, these confessions provide the most complete and authoritative account of our identity and our theology. Still, this important resource remains a mystery to many Presbyterians.

### **Small Group Options Revive for Fall**

The men of Morningside will return to Theology on Tap and Men's Social Gatherings in September. The first Theology on Tap will be Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. Watch for details.

Joanna Adams' First Wednesday Bible Study also returns Sept. 3 at 9:15 a.m. in Room 107. Child-care is provided.

Details for Small Group Bible Studies this fall will be available soon. If you are interested in being part of a short-term Bible study with 8-12 others, be sure to let Associate Pastor Chris Henry know.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Hayden-Henry Wedding (in Kansas) 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>3</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Baptism 12 noon Fellowship	<b>4</b> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>5</b> 6:30 p.m. Preschool committee; Weight Watchers; Men's Softball 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	<b>6</b> 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>7</b> 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 6:30 p.m. East End Cook-out
<b>10</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 1:30 p.m. RHO Readers	<b>11</b> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>12</b> 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Men's Softball	<b>13</b> 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>17</b> Church School Kick-off 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; New Member Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	<b>18</b> 6 p.m. Human Resources 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>19</b> 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	<b>20</b> 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>21</b> Staff Retreat	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>24</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship; New Member Lunch & Learn	<b>25</b> 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Prayer Group	<b>27</b> 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons						

## Mission Ministries Include Serving Morningside

You don't have to travel 'into the wild' to fulfill a longing to provide mission service. We have a wide range of missions here at MPC. For example, as babies are born and children "graduate" to new age levels, we also have more families with young children joining. As we kick off a new school year, we will add a three-year-old class separate from the four-year-old pre-k children. Consider teaching any age group here at MPC on a rotation that is usually 8-10 weeks.

Do you have one Sunday to give every two months? We need you! Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam 404.876.7396 x 15 or [msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org) today to let her know which age group is your favorite – infants, toddlers and twos, threes, fours, kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade or 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade—to enjoy during Sunday worship.

If you have ever considered working with our teens—leading Sunday school class, taking a group ice skating, heading up Souper Bowl Sunday and more, please contact Rebekah Diehl who continues as our Youth Program Coordinator. Help organize and lead outings, teach Sunday school, plan a mission project and much more.

Education not your thing? Georgia Marshall and the Flower Guild need help beautifying our sanctuary for Sunday mornings. Faye McKay-Clegg loves training new ushers. Linda Sweum and her team, plus other cadres of volunteers, keep busy folding weekly bulletins, special mailings and the *Morningside Messenger*. Any of these ministries could use your willing hands.

## Community, Earth Welcome Your Help, Too

Twenty-five kids and their parents set a MPC record for attendance sorting food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank on June 21 (we also served in July). As gas prices continue to rise, the cost of food also rises and this affects the most vulnerable in our community. ACFB and similar organizations around the country have seen needs increase. Assistance is deeply appreciated.

MPC's Meals on Wheels team recently mourned the death of one of our long-time clients, Mrs. M. Her daughter remarked how much her mother appreciated MOW volunteers for enabling her to receive a hot meal each day. The food made it possible for Mrs. M. to remain in her home of 60-plus years that meant so much to her. You can never tell how a small act of kindness can touch the lives of others. MPC's seven volunteers deliver on a regular basis each month; four others fill in occasionally. Currently, full-time/substitute drivers are need for the second Monday and third and fourth Wednesdays. The Morningside/Virginia Highland route takes less than an hour. Meals are prepared and picked

up at First Presbyterian Church in Midtown. For information, contact Sarah Brownlee at 404.876.3572 or [rsbrownlee@joimail.com](mailto:rsbrownlee@joimail.com).

Help us wrap up our summer collection for Intown Community Assistance, the ecumenical ministry serving those with emergency needs on the Ponce de Leon corridor. ICA provides essentials to those facing homelessness and we are collecting canned protein, canned fruit juice (one-serving size), snack crackers, granola bars and can openers for when non-pop-top cans are donated. Baskets are located in the Narthex through Aug. 3.

As men from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries move to homes, they receive Welcome Home baskets of household goodies—bare essentials for their new homes. We'll collect for these baskets Aug. 17 through Sept. 7. Watch for a list of needed new and gently used items, including plates, glasses, silverware, towels and linens.

# Time of Promise Enters Exciting Phase

Work to provide access to all four levels of the church has become more visible in the past few weeks as concrete footings are in place for our elevator shaft and the covered walkway to the new Fellowship Hall entrance. In this Aaron Bertrand photo, workers fabricate the metal roof for the walkway. The *A Time of Promise* campaign team thanks everyone for fulfilling their pledges to keep our construction program on track as we look toward completion this fall.



## Prayer Group Meets Fourth Tuesday Evening for August

Our prayer ministry continues but has been meeting monthly over the summer. The next Prayer Group meeting will be Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-1. Send prayer requests to the office and/or join this quiet time of prayer and reflection.



## Elders on Call for August

Lucy Enniss	August 3-9
Carolyn Morton	August 10-16
Bill Southwood	August 17-23
David Wingert	August 24-30
Ruthlyn Newell	August 31-Sept. 6

## Deacons on Call for August

Collier Maxwell	August 3-9
Holly Campbell	August 10-16
Nan Cunningham	August 17-23
Randy Brookins	August 24-30
Shari Tant	August 31-Sept. 6



## August Birthdays

- 3 Bill Southwood
- 4 Julia Jarratt
- 5 Nancy Coomes
- 5 Sandy Jones

- 5 Ray McCullough
- 5 Pete Mounts
- 6 Lucy Grant
- 8 Martha Hartzell
- 8 John McNeill
- 12 Jake Jones
- 13 Jennye Guy
- 13 Charlie Menefee
- 13 Robert Gray
- 16 Jackie Cleveland
- 17 Katie Davis
- 19 Mimi Bittick

- 19 Nick Lazzaro
- 20 Caroline Parrish
- 22 Bill Means
- 22 Sarah Mercer Chatel
- 26 Nowell Berreth
- 27 Debbie Fox
- 29 Cha Holmes
- 29 Randy Parrish
- 30 Jill Klotz
- 31 Scott Bremer
- 31 Charlsie Woolley
- 31 Dale Ray

## *But Wait! August Has Even More in Store at MPC*

Here are a few more items deserving your attention this month:

Let's end the summer with a renewed push to clean house of all those out-of-date cell phones and spent inkjet cartridges. We need more of each to fill our box for the EcoPhones drive. The collection box is in the Fellowship Hall to the right of the stage. Only cell phones and ink cartridges are accepted (no cords, cordless phones or toner cartridges, please).

Have you read *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen? Want to sit down and chat about it with other fans?

Come visit with the RHO Readers conversation and book group Sunday Aug. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room. This informal book club will begin its fourth year Sept. 14 as we discuss Dennis Lehane's novel, *Shutter Island*, currently in film production.

The Women's Roundtable begins again on fourth Mondays starting Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Amy Jarratt (1697 N. Pelham Rd., 30324). Mark your calendars now for remaining 2008 gatherings: Sept. 22, Oct. 27 and Nov. 24. Topics and speakers will be announced soon. All women are welcome. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam.