



Morningside Messenger
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 2008 Worship at Morningside

World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.
Sermon: "Hope for the World"
Text: Luke 4:16-21; I Corinthians 11:17-26
Joanna Adams preaching
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

Sunday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m.
Sermon: "The Case Against Playing It Safe"
Text: Matthew 25:14-30
Joanna Adams preaching

Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.
Sermon: "Recovering an Attitude of Enough"
Text: Exodus 33: selected verses
Joanna Adams preaching
The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.
Sermon: "The Imperative of Grace"
Text: Psalm 145:8-16; II Corinthians 8:7-15
Christopher Henry preaching
Children's Choir will sing during worship.



Dear Friends,

I am writing these words on the day my husband Al was released from the hospital after a several-day stay for a heart procedure. Happily, his heart appears to be healthier now than it has been in years. An hour ago, we ate lunch together at the kitchen table. The menu was ham sandwiches and iced tea, but to us, it tasted like heavenly food, a joyful feast, a precious reminder of the basic gift-ness of life.

In the fall of 2008, there are many things going on out there that can make us anxious: the diving Dow Jones, the rise in gasoline prices, the increasing levels of unemployment. In times like these, it is easy to forget that everything—and I mean everything—we have, even life itself, is a gift.

One of the ways Morningside has an impact on our lives is that we are reminded often around here of the constancy of God, who is faithful and sure in every season. Here, too, we learn of the sacrificial love of God in Christ, who gave his life that we might have life and have it abundantly. I have long been drawn to these words, written by Paul Scherer: “Love is a spendthrift, leaves its arithmetic at home, is always in the red.”

When I was in New Hampshire recently, someone asked me if Morningside were a wealthy church. “No,” I answered, “but we are rich.” Indeed we are: rich in blessings beyond measure. If we have anything to boast about, it is our life in Christ, who is our all in all.

Stewardship Season this year has as its theme “Giving as Celebration.” As people of faith, we give to support Christ’s mission, not because we have to, but because it is a joy to do so. I recently read about a young career woman who, when she was arranging a stock transfer to her church, was asked by her broker, “Don’t you feel lucky to give?” From that moment on, she began to see herself not as a doer of good deeds, but as a celebrant of the sheer blessedness of life.

Now more than ever our church needs each of us to step up to a generous, even sacrificial, level of financial support. Otherwise we will not be able to do what God is calling us to do in ministry and service in 2009. But we can, and we will, because we are grateful people. Lucky ducks, too.

Your pastor,

Joanna Adams

MPC Welcomes Kevin Weber

Our fruitful, ongoing relationship with Columbia Theological Seminary has brought us a new pastoral intern, Kevin Weber, who will be with us through April 2009.

Besides his classwork and service at MPC, Kevin is incoming CTS student body President and a newlywed. He and wife Callie married in May.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to grow, work and love with you,” Kevin says. He will work closely with Melinda Sandkam in developing programs for the church.

Miranda Brownlee Serving With Colombia Peacekeepers

MPC member and recent Emory graduate Miranda Brownlee is serving as a member of a Presbyterian Peacekeeping team in Colombia. She is acting as a translator in the “accompanier program” which helps provide witness and safety for the many displaced persons in that South American nation.

The Session endorsed Miranda’s service and requests prayers for her safety and that of both the peacekeepers and those they serve. She will return to Atlanta in mid-October.

Important Messages Before, After Worship Oct. 5

Two ‘new things’ will happen Oct. 5, as the adult Bible class welcomes all to begin a study of Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians and the church as a whole elects six Elders and four Deacons to lead us for the coming years at a congregational meeting.

Although it was written nineteen centuries ago to residents of an ancient Greek city, Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians is as relevant and urgent for the contemporary Christian community as it was for its original audience. This explains why, in his *Cotton Patch Version of Paul’s Letter*, Clarence Jordan entitled his translation of this letter “The First Letter of Paul to Atlanta”—the similarities between the church in Corinth and churches

in metropolitan America are surprisingly real. Taught by Associate Pastor Chris Henry, the class meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 107.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Underway for Storm Victims

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta has established a hot line for volunteers and a fund for those struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and other storms. The hotline number is 404 898.0711 Ext. 160 or send donations to DR1000162 at the Presbytery, 1024 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta 30306.

Morningside Milestones

- In the past four years, Morningside’s membership has grown from slightly more than 100 to our current total of 392. But we’re not celebrating growth for growth’s sake, but rather that all these brothers and sisters join us in our experience of God’s transformative power. We recently welcomed Shirley Adair, Maggie and John Adams, Andrea Arnold, Nathan Burgess, Lynn and Tom Daniel, Amy DeBaets and Brian Mills, Shanon Hall, Brooke and Michael Lampe, and Sharon Pace. Seek out these new Morningsiders and say hi!
- Joan Adams and her husband David Eaton presented their children for baptism Sept. 21. As we welcomed Jackson, Emily and Kate to Christian fellowship, we also said goodbye as the family just moved to Maine where David has taken an executive position at Colby College.
- We all contributed enough items to fill 12 Welcome Home Baskets for Clifton Shelter Ministries. Our elementary-age children assembled the baskets at Big Fun Day, Sept. 20.
- Habitat for Humanity has recognized MPC’s ongoing support for their mission by inviting us to participate in building Atlanta’s 1000th and 1001st homes.
- Melisa and Matt Prevost, along with their children Caroline and Alex, welcomed baby brother William Aug. 14. Evan “Evie” Bresnahan joined parents Frances and Ian and brothers Clyde and Finn Sept. 18. In a new tradition at Morningside, the following Sunday a single bloom adorned the Chancel to celebrate these precious babies.
- Congratulations to Steve Enniss on his appointment to the prestigious Folger Library in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, this means we’ll be saying goodbye soon to Steve and his wife, Elder Lucy Enniss. We wish them both continued success.
- One of our former Columbia Seminary interns, the Rev. Mary Alice Haynie, is retiring from her pastorate and is undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow cancer. She’d love your prayers and greetings c/o Carolyn Hughes, 3393 Dover Church Rd., Colfax NC 27235.

What Does Your Pledge Mean Here at MPC?

This is the second in a series devoted to an important subject in the spiritual life of the church and each of its members. Last month we spoke of the concept of pledging. This month we talk about pledging at Morningside. Next month we'll examine the dreams of the Morningside faith community which rely on our pledges made in faith.

Today we have nearly 400 MPC members. At the close of 2007 Morningside had 335 active members. This was up from 272 the year before – a wonderful indication of the growth and vibrancy here. Three hundred thirty-five members translate into approximately 200 'households': families, partnerships, single people who are able and likely to make a pledge. During our annual stewardship season in late 2007, our 200 or so households made 135 pledges to support the church's ministry in 2008. The chart below gives a snapshot of how Morningside's households made their faith pledge decisions for this year.

Annual Pledge	No. of Households
Greater than \$7,500	13
\$5,001 - \$7,500	14
\$4,001 - \$5,000	9
\$3,001 - \$4,000	16
\$2,001 - \$3,000	20
\$1,001 - \$2,000	37
Less than \$1,000	26
Total Pledges	135

As a community, we have really two challenges.

First is the challenge to improve the proportion of pledging households from 68 percent. Some families are reluctant to pledge because they fear unforeseen circumstances may inhibit their ability to keep their

promises. It is important to remember pledges may be amended at any time. There is no penalty in heaven or on earth! Concern for unforeseen circumstances should not stand in the way of this faith discipline. By the way, pledges may be amended down or up.

The second is to challenge those with greater resources to make greater commitments. In most churches (and Morningside is probably no exception), there are remarkable disciples who stretch to sacrificial limits (the widow's mite – Praise God!). The real challenge is the one which Jesus issued: "To whom much is given, much is expected." Perhaps this is a good note on which to conclude this discussion...until next month.

Bill Humphries

Chair, Stewardship and Commitment

'Giving Matters: A Theology of Stewardship' on Tap for October

The Men of Morningside's monthly "Theology on Tap" program of good food and lively discussion meets Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at the home of Todd McDonald (835 Rowland Street, Clarkston, 30021). Associate Pastor Chris Henry will lead an exploration of "Giving Matters: A Theology of Stewardship." In the gospels, Jesus speaks more about money than any other topic except the kingdom of God. We will discuss why the topic gets so much attention in scripture and what wisdom and guidance we might find there for forming our own theology of financial stewardship. For more information, contact Associate Pastor Chris Henry at christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	2 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	3	4 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Guitar Atlanta
5 World Communion 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Communion; Congregational Meeting 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 1:30-4 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	6 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	7 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Tai Chi 7 p.m. Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	8 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	9 6 p.m. Preschool 7 p.m. Finance Committee	10	11 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 5 p.m. Family Gathering at Myers' home
12 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum 1:30 p.m. RHO Readers 6:30 Clifton Dinner at Peachtree PC	13 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Morningside Lenox Park Assoc. 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	14 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	15 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	16	17 Newsletter deadline	18 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Funderball
19 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Baptism 12 noon Fellowship; AIDS Walk 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	20 9 a.m. Children's Christian Education 6 p.m. Human Resources 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	21 6:30 p.m. Preschool Committee; Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	22 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	23 10 a.m. Newsletter Production Team 6 p.m. Preschool Open House	24	25 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
26 Reformation Sunday 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Children's Choir; Commission Choirs 12 noon Fellowship; 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum	27 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	29 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	30	31 	

Opportunities Abound for Fun with Fellow Morningsiders

As the Session and an Implementation Task Force go to work to bring all our ideas for our emerging Vision 2012 strategic plan to reality for Morningside, one recurring theme is already taking shape. Our members and friends have asked for more and different ways to get to know each other outside the limited time available before and after worship. Sometimes called the ‘small group initiative,’ this phrase actually encompasses a true smorgasbord of old and new activities for almost every interest.

Here are some of the October happenings not already covered under Moving in Mission or elsewhere in this issue of *Morningside Messenger*.

Tai Chi originated as a martial art, but has also been called ‘meditation in motion,’ as well as a proven method to reduce stress, increase energy and improve balance and flexibility. Bob Wells and Doris Williams are starting a Tuesday evening Tai Chi class in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$100 for eight weeks, with half going to the church. Call the office to sign up.

If your kids are the right age for elementary school, you’re welcome to “Munch with the Myers,” a social gathering for parents at the home of Kelly and Jay Myers, 949 Plymouth Rd. NE, Saturday, Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. For a copy of the e-vite or more details, e-mail Kelly at myerskelly@bellsouth.net.

October’s selection for RHO Readers is Leif Enger’s *Peace Like a River*. Join the discussion group at 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room after the Sunday Forum Oct. 12.

Young men in grades one through five—and their sisters!—who’d like to get started in camping, hiking, archery and other fun and educational aspects of Scouting are invited to join a newly formed Cub Scout Pack that meets at Rock Spring Presbyterian on Friday evenings. Contact member Rhonda McIntosh (rimcin@bellsouth.net or 404 876.2303) to find out more.

We’re still putting up Halloween decorations but believe it or not, it’s time to begin preparations for our spectacular Christmas Pageant, which will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. The pageant is not only a fun drama experience, but also a time for children to share more deeply in the story of the birth of Christ. In order to make this a special time for all involved, we ask that you sign your child up by Sunday, Nov. 2. Watch for more information in the month of October or contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam with any questions. (We also welcome volunteer support for this event and would love to hear from you today.)

This month, two Sunday Forums related to the travels of members of our congregation and staff this summer will be presented in Room 107 after worship, at 2:15 p.m. Grab a cup of punch and a treat and come join the discussion, which will end at 1 p.m. On Oct. 12, Daisy Ottmann will talk about “Christianity on the Rocks: The Churches of Cappadocia,” highlighting some of the deep Christian connections in the Muslim nation of Turkey. Next, in celebration of Reformation Sunday, on Oct. 26 Joanna Adams and Chris Henry will reflect on the great legacy of Calvinism and share some memories and observation that have grown out of our trip to Geneva this summer.

The Young Adults plan another trivia night in October and, of course, the Women’s Bible Study, the Women’s Roundtable and other scheduled events continue. Truly, something for everyone at Morningside! Check out our website www.morningsidepc.org for last-minute updates.



The Easiest Mission? You Can Serve Homeless Women in Your Sleep!

Shearith Israel Synagogue, here in our Morningside neighborhood, provides a cold weather shelter for women. This winter season will be the shelter's twenty-sixth year, and we continue to celebrate our long-term partnership.

Morningside's role has been to donate needed items, provide volunteers in two-hour shifts on Christmas Day, and provide "sleepers" (who spend one night at the shelter). In February, our children make valentines which we deliver to the women along with gift cards to local drug and grocery stores.

What do "sleepers" do? They arrive at the shelter between 6:15 and 6:30 on the selected evening, serve (and share) dinner which has been prepared and delivered by other volunteers (Shearith Israel keeps a kosher kitchen), help clean up after the meal; talk with the shelter residents; sleep; put breakfast foods out for residents, and depart for home or work (6:15 – 6:30 a.m.). This year, Morningside Presbyterian is responsible for providing sleepers for Dec. 1 – 6 and Feb. 6 – 14. Pick one of these nights to serve! A resident manager is always on site, and works with sleepers to make each night run smoothly. All of the women are screened prior to joining the shelter, and the same

women are there each night. New residents come to the shelter only when there's a vacancy. There's room for 13 residents who have beds, lockers for their belongings, a hot meal at night, breakfast in the mornings, educational programs, support while they are there, and assistance when they're ready to leave the shelter.

For more information, contact Jeanne McCarthy (Jeanne_mccarthy@bellsouth.net) or Emilie Paille (Emilie_paille@bellsouth.net) or visit the Shearith Israel website. Male volunteers are welcome accompanied by a female; several Morningside couples have volunteered in the past. Watch for announcements during the fall and winter to donate items requested by the shelter.

Shearith Israel Shelter offers you the opportunity to give of yourself. The simple acts of listening, of serving a meal or of giving your presence will bless you in ways you cannot imagine. You may be sleepy the morning after, but you won't be sorry. You'll receive so much. Please join us this season.

Emilie Paille
Shearith Israel Shelter Shepherd

Buy, Cook, Eat, Sort or Walk – Many Mission Choices at MPC

- The mitten tree stretches its colorful branches at the preschool entrance, in expectation of little mittens, hats and scarves before the first frost. Pick up an extra pair to hang on the tree by Oct. 24 for a needy child at the Our House community in Decatur.
- Men attending the Common Ground program at AIDS Atlanta Faith & Health welcome your delicious dishes. Attendance has grown to 45 so we'll set out a few more empty pans. Return those pans filled with the requested dishes by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14.
- If you would like to *eat* to support outreach, join the MPC table at the annual dinner for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on Sunday, Oct. 12. Contact Melinda Sandkam today if you would like us to hold a seat for you. This year the dinner will be at Peachtree Presbyterian and starts at 6 p.m. Come out to support the men who "graduate."
- A dozen Morningsiders will sort food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m. until noon. Those who wish to are welcome to gather for lunch afterwards. Sign up in the Narthex.
- Support AIDS Atlanta by walking or supporting those who do Sunday, Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. Contact Keith Blount at bkeithblount@gmail.com for more information.

'Giving Gathering' Promises Evening of Fun for MPP Parents

The beloved Shel Silverstein children's classic *The Giving Tree* provides the theme and inspiration for a new outreach event for families of children who attend Morningside Presbyterian Preschool.

The Giving Gathering will be held here at Morningside the evening of Nov. 10. Mimi Bittick, the event chair for MPC, is working now to recruit volunteers from the church to help ahead of time or the night of the gathering. While the purpose of the event is to have fun, we also want to help our preschool families feel welcome and a part of our community. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Mimi at mimi.bittick@gmail.com.

Also on the calendar for the preschool is the annual Funderball, set for the Warren City Club on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. The event features hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a silent auction to raise additional funds for needed capital improvements. For

more information about the evening's activities and contribution levels, call the preschool office at 404-685.8758.

New Shepherds Named

The Mission Committee announces five new sets of shepherds for our community relationship this fall. Nancy Collins and Becky Carlisle will shepherd Intown Community Assistance. Brenda Fishpaw, Kent Balch and Tony Fishpaw are the new shepherds for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, and Julie Green and Mardee Rightmyer are the new shepherds for the Druid Hills Men's Shelter. Keith Blount and David York are heading up the AIDS Walk, and Dawn Bell and Martha Jondle are the shepherds for Our House. Don't hesitate to contact any of our shepherds to ask for more details or to let them know you want to help. Details for each mission effort at MPC can be found on the website or contact Mission Chair Carolyn Morton.

MORNINGSIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: Angel costumes for our Christmas Pageant. Let Melinda Sandkam (404 876.7396 Ext. 15) know if you can sew up one angel outfit. Pattern provided!

Wanted: Host for fellowship coffee hour one Sunday this fall. Signup sheet and helpful how-to's are in the Narthex.

Wanted: All sorts of volunteers for The Giving Gathering, Nov. 10 (see story above). Contact Mimi Bittick, chair for the event, at mimi.bittick@gmail.com.

Wanted: Meals on Wheels driver to take lunches from First Presbyterian Church to several homes in the Morningside neighborhood. Work about one hour on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Respond to

Sarah Brownlee at 404 876.3572 or rsbrownlee@joimail.com.

Wanted: Host/organizers for small-group gatherings. Examples: Coffee-klatches; field trips to the High Museum, a concert or a movie; a study group; a Night of Knitting—you name it! Deepen your relationship with a congenial group of Morningsiders. Talk it over with Melinda.

Wanted: Your Time & Talent Survey. There's a role for everyone in our church and community. If you haven't filled out this door-opening survey yet, pick up a copy in the Narthex or download it from our website (www.morningsidepc.org), fill it out and turn it in to the office or via the collection plate.

Your Session at Work: September 15 Meeting

- **Jim Armstrong**, Finance Committee chair, reported that he and his team have been working with all committee chairs and have received initial input for the church's 2009 budget from virtually all committees. Treasurer **Randy Parrish** reviewed MPC's August financials, summarily declaring them "unremarkable." In the world of finance, unremarkable is a good thing.
- Construction for *A Time of Promise* continues apace. The parking lot at the preschool end of the building has been resurfaced and striped and new concrete sidewalks have been poured. Elevator and new entrance progress is on schedule, with completion set for November.
- **Carolyn Morton**, co-chair of the *A Time of Promise* Design Committee, reported we have received many generous gifts and donations for the Wine & Design fundraiser. Some supporters have chosen to sponsor furnishing specific spaces, such as the choir room, according to Carolyn. She noted that all out-of-pocket expenses and food for the event are being donated, so that every penny raised goes toward furnishings and decoration.
- **Joanna Adams** reported that Morningside has 392 members as of Sept. 15, 2008. **Chip Edgerton**, chair of the Community and Evangelism Committee, reported that we are seeing an increase in repeat visitors in recent months. Committee members in the Narthex after worship help answer visitors' questions and encourage them to join us for coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. All members are reminded to wear their name tags during worship and at coffee hour, and to reach out to visitors and introduce themselves.
- **Bill Humphries**, chairman of the Stewardship and Commitment Committee, reported work on this year's campaign has begun in earnest. The committee has increased its ranks and established three task forces: promotion and publicity; annual luncheon; and leadership giving. Stewardship Sunday will be Nov. 9.
- The Children's Christian Education Committee, chaired by **Emilie Paille**, will begin Sept. 29 a series of quarterly "train the trainer" meetings to help volunteer teachers better understand the curriculum and to share teaching tools. **Melinda Sandkam** noted that we very much need volunteers to teach Youth Sunday school classes. Please let her know if you can help.

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session



Elders on Call for October

Jim Armstrong	Oct. 5-11
Lynn Hogue	Oct. 12-18
Daisy Ottmann	Oct. 19-25
Emilie Paille	Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Deacons on Call for October

Randy Brookins	Oct. 5-11
Bradley Odom	Oct. 12-18
Sarah Mercer Chatel	Oct. 19-25
Holly Campbell	Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Excitement Builds As Construction Takes Shape

Morningside Presbyterian Church is within weeks of being able to claim we've kept our promise. It's possible to stand in the main parking lot or look out the windows of Fellowship Hall and get a good sense of the shape of our new entrance, the position of the elevator shaft and the totally accessible passageway leading to Fellowship Hall.



Outlines of patio and new entrance

The committee members who planned and executed the *A Time of Promise* capital campaign to restore and improve our church infrastructure are working on plans to celebrate this accomplishment.

MPC Birthday Luncheon Features Special Speaker

The Rev. Doug Oldenburg, past moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly and former President of Columbia Theological Seminary, will be MPC's special guest and featured speaker at a congregational luncheon Sunday, Nov. 2, following worship. The event commemorates Morningside's eighty-third birthday. Details to follow!