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## November 2008 Worship at Morningside

**Sunday, Nov. 2, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "On a Prayer and a Shoestring"**

**Text: Philippians 4:10-20**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

**Sunday, Nov. 9, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Giving As Celebration"**

**Text: Isaiah 25:1, 6-10**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

*The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.*

**Sunday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "A Peculiar People"**

**Text: Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Matthew 5:13-20**

**Christopher Henry preaching**

**Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Hail to the Shepherd"**

**Text: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

**First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon Series - "The Advent of the Messiah,  
As Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John"**

**Sermon I: "The Christmas Story**

**According to Matthew"**

**Text: Matthew 1:1-25**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

**Reverend Joanna M. Adams** *Pastor*  
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**Reverend Robert Gray** *Assistant to the Pastor*  
Walter Huff *Organist / Choirmaster*  
**Melinda Sandkam** *Program Director*  
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## Dear Friends,

My very first impression of Morningside Presbyterian Church was that this is a congregation that knows how to celebrate. I came to worship here for the first time on Palm Sunday of 2005 and was met in the parking lot by a gathering parade of people waving palm branches and singing together as we entered the sanctuary in joyful praise of God. What an introduction!

In the three-and-a-half years since that day, we have added banners to the parade as well as dozens of children. But the capacity for celebration still lies at the very heart of who we are as a congregation. I am reminded of this every Sunday morning as we enter the sanctuary in songs led by our magnificent choir and as I listen to the laughter that fills that space as we greet one another and pass the peace of Christ. I am reminded of this when we gather as a community for fellowship around a table, or to serve the community beyond our walls, or to discuss the important issues of our day. We are a congregation that knows how to celebrate the goodness of God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength.

This fall, we at Morningside are quite literally *celebrating* stewardship season. From the outside this may sound unusual, but here it makes perfect sense. As followers of Christ and people of the resurrection, we are well suited for celebration. The earliest Christians treated each Sunday morning as a mini-Easter, an opportunity to celebrate the new life that they had been given in Jesus Christ.

So it is at Morningside, where there is so much new life (and so many new lives) in our midst. This is cause for both great joy and for increased commitment as our congregational needs change and grow. It is a time that calls for us to give to the mission and ministry of our church in a spirit of celebration for all God is doing among and through us.

These are promising and hopeful days that challenge us to catch a glimpse of God's vision for Morningside and to give generously in support of that vision. Now is the time...so, let the celebration begin!

See you in worship,

*CH*

Chris Henry

## *Big Secret 'Astonishes' Joanna*



The Rev. Dr. Joanna M. Adams is rarely shocked during worship, but she was totally—in her word—"astonished" by the combination celebration on Oct. 19 of her birthday and fourth anniversary at MPC. Four hundred of us proved we could keep a secret! She was honored with flowers, a special reception, and brief speeches of appreciation from representatives of the congregation and staff. Here, Clerk of Session Ruthlyn Newell shares a resolution from the Session noting Joanna's abundant gifts and many contributions to our church life together.

# Music at Morningside Will Have New ‘Ring’

Remember “Ring-a-ding-ding”? “One ringydingy, two ringydingies...”? Well, now we’re talking about something entirely new as an addition to our music ministry, the magic of softly chiming bells—handbells, to be precise.

Morningside now has received a set of handbells, and we’re recruiting members for a handbell choir to learn this instrument and to play at various times throughout

the year. James Klotz, who’s leading the effort (dare we call him the ringleader?), says being in a bell choir is a great way to learn to read music, yet offers interesting challenges for more experienced musicians. The bell choir will rehearse weekly at a time most convenient to the players. If you’re interested, pick up an information sheet in the Narthex or e-mail James at [james.klotz@flyusa.com](mailto:james.klotz@flyusa.com).

## *Men’s Meeting Changes Dates, Women’s Roundtable Meets Author*

So as not to interfere with voting, The Men of Morningside will shift Theology on Tap to Monday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the home of David York (3460 Kingsboro Rd. NE #835, 30326). After supper (rumor says spaghetti), the discussion will concern “Understanding Christian Fundamentalism.” The dramatic rise and high visibility of movements such as Jerry Falwell’s “Moral Majority” and Pat Robertson’s “Christian Coalition” have delighted some Christians and deeply troubled others. We will look at the history and theology behind this social and political movement and share our own impressions. For more information, or

to RSVP, contact Associate Pastor Chris Henry at [christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com). Meeting on first Tuesdays resumes Dec. 2.

On Nov. 24, chef and food writer Virginia Willis will lead the Women’s Roundtable through an evening of the culinary arts. Her cookbook *Bon Appetit, Ya’ll: Recipes and Stories from Three Generations of Southern Cooking* is going into its third printing. The gathering at the home of Lynn Young (277 The Prado NE, 30309) runs 6:30-8:45 p.m. Let Program Director Melinda Sandkam know if you would like to be added to the Roundtable e-mail list.

## **Morningside Milestones**

- Morningside has not only been invited to participate in Habitat for Humanity Atlanta’s 1000-house milestone, we’re able to do so thanks to an anonymous gift that also will benefit Intown Community Assistance, Six Star Refugee Partnership and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. MPC’s sole workday will be Sunday, Nov. 16, and our four representatives will be stalwarts from previous builds: Chip Edgerton, Bill Humphries, Ted McMahan and Lloyd Prince.
- More recognition: Morningside Presbyterian was named Supporting Church of the Year with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. MPC provides volunteers led by Shepherds Kent Balch, Brenda Fishpaw and Tony Fishpaw to assist men working to overcome homelessness. Newly elected Elder Leslie Prince chairs the Clifton board.
- Oh, babies! Phil and Heather Regnault and their daughter Sophie welcomed baby Alexander William to the family Oct. 15. Oct. 19, young John Harrison Riley, son of Emy and Dylan, was baptized in the Sanctuary during worship.
- Welcome to our new adult members, who joined in October: Carrie Branom, Brandon Griggs, Whitney Maloy and Carolyn and Chad Andrew Johnson.

## Dreaming Dreams, Seeing Visions, Giving as Celebration!

Our third and final thought in this series on pledging coincides with our annual campaign. It's time to take a hard look at the nitty-gritty. Our church has grown by leaps and bounds as newcomers feel God's call to worship and serve among us. You can see it (and hear it – just listen to the shouts and laughter of children each week!). As a congregation we have committed to nurture that growth—which means staffing, resources for education and fellowship, greater support for the needs around us, and fulfilling our commitment to make our building secure and accessible to all.

This year anything less than a minimum 20 percent budget increase will prevent us from keeping promises we have already made. Foremost among those commitments are to increase our Associate Pastor's call (and compensation) from part- to full-time and to offer much-deserved pay increases to our marvelous staff. We've stepped up to challenges in our community such as the health and wellness initiative at Clifton. Our building gets maximum use and therefore needs greater care. In Biblical parlance, we older folk are dreaming dreams and our younger siblings are seeing visions.

Uncertainty abounds in today's economic environment. To commit to do more requires faith. Have faith! If your circumstances change after you pledge and you must amend (or even suspend) giving, there is absolutely no shame in doing so. If your fortunes improve, why not step up to celebrate God's goodness to you?

In this series we defined pledging as a deeply spiritual individual decision as well as a responsible fiscal discipline for us as a church. As Leslie Prince said in her recent Minute Message, "Pledging = Planning". Then we looked at MPC's pledging track record. We noted two challenges. First, we need more than today's 56 percent of member households to pledge. Why not dream of 100 percent participation? We'd not only know what to anticipate, but we'd have that fantastic

feeling that everyone is pulling together. Second, we challenge those who can to stretch and give more. We are by no means a wealthy congregation, but still our giving patterns do not represent our demographics.

This stewardship season our theme is "giving as celebration." How appropriate! We are so excited about what Morningside is doing for us and those around us. What better way to celebrate than to give ... and then to give some more.

**Bill Humphries**

Stewardship Chair

### ***Birthday Luncheon Features Oldenburg***

On Nov. 2, Morningside will welcome The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Oldenburg as our speaker at a congregational luncheon marking our eighty-third anniversary as a congregation as well as our season of "Giving as Celebration." His talk is entitled "Point-Counterpoint."

In his distinguished career, Doug has served numerous churches as pastor, was president of Columbia Theological Seminary for 15 years, and was elected moderator of the General Assembly in 1998. Since retiring in 2001, he has directed the "Advocates for Ministry" program, encouraging outstanding students to consider pastoral ministry.



Please contact the office 404.876.7396 x 10 or [office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org) to reserve a seat for the luncheon and talk.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>2</b> Daylight Saving Time ends 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Communion 12 noon MPC's 83rd Birthday lunch	<b>3</b> 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>4</b> Preschool closed - Parent-Teacher Conferences 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	<b>5</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>6</b> 6:30 p.m. Walking group 7 p.m. Handbell practice 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<b>7</b> 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Morningside Preschool hosts Our House Preschool	<b>8</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>9</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Infant baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Officer training & lunch 1:30 p.m. RHO Readers 6 p.m. Druid Hills Night Shelter Dinner	<b>10</b> 5:30 p.m. Giving Gathering 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon; Morningside Lenox Park Assoc.	<b>11</b> 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	<b>12</b> 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>13</b> 6 p.m. Intown Community Assistance Board meeting; Shearith Israel gathering 6:30 p.m. Six-Star Board meeting; Walking group 7 p.m. Handbell practice	<b>14</b> Newsletter deadline Food Drive begins	<b>15</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 10 a.m. Big Fun
	Preschool Book Fair	Preschool Book Fair	Preschool Book Fair	Preschool Book Fair	Book Fair ends	
<b>16</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta 1001st Habitat Build	<b>17</b> 6 p.m. Human Resources 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	<b>19</b> 12 noon One Gray Hair lunch 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>20</b> 10 a.m. Newsletter Production Team 6:30 p.m. Walking group 7 p.m. Handbell practice	<b>21</b> 6 p.m. McGrew /O'Connor wedding rehearsal	<b>22</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 6 p.m. McGrew /O'Connor wedding
<b>23</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship <hr/> <b>30</b> Advent begins 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship	<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>25</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers; Tai Chi	<b>26</b> Preschool closed 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	<b>27</b> Office & Preschool closed <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 	<b>28</b> Preschool closed	<b>29</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers

## ***Pageant Practices To Begin Before Thanksgiving***

It's become an MPC holiday highlight--don't miss out on being part of the annual MPC Christmas Pageant, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 starring children three years old through fifth grade, members and friends alike. Program Director Melinda Sandkam says, "We ask that you sign your child up by Sunday, Nov. 2 so that we can finish the script, make sure we have enough costumes and be ready for our first practice on Nov. 23."

Most rehearsals will occur during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday school hour, but the final practice is on stage the morning of Saturday, Dec. 20. Melinda adds, "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. We need lots of volunteer support.

Whether you can sew an angel costume or help build props, come help us share this special holiday message with our community. Call me!"

## **Sunday Forum Reminds It's Not Season of Plenty for All; November Focuses on Needs of Homeless, Hungry, Seniors**

On Sunday, Nov. 16, we welcome founder and Executive Director of the Atlanta Community Food Bank Bill Bolling for our afternoon Sunday Forum. As we all struggle with rising grocery costs, come find out how it is affecting service to the hungry. Sunday Forums invite everyone to Room 107 after worship, finishing by 1 p.m. Also, on Friday, Nov. 14, the ACFB will drop off six large canisters to fill with food items desperately needed to help supply the many Atlanta organizations that support those fighting hunger. Help us fill those cans by bringing in the requested items around the Thanksgiving holiday.

The women's shelter at Shearith Israel will open this month and Morningside looks forward to once again providing sleepers to assist staff from 6 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. each night the first week of December. To find out what it is all about, join shepherds Emilie Paille and Jeanne McCarthy at their home at 1411 Northview at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13. Volunteers new and returning are invited to celebrate this outreach.

Also during November, we're collecting \$10 CVS cards to assist with prescriptions for low-income seniors. The next time that you are at the drug store, pick up a card and bring it in by Nov. 30 to go into holiday gift bags.

We'd also like a batch of your favorite holiday baked goods the week of Dec. 1 for the annual luncheon for the Adopt-a-Grandparent program.

We will continue our partnership with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries of providing a meal for the 30 residents six times a year – sign up to help on Saturday, Nov. 22. If you are interested in becoming involved in this vital outreach, contact one of our shepherds: Kent Balch [email@kentbalch.com](mailto:email@kentbalch.com) 404.872.6654, Brenda Fishpaw [brenda@kentbalch.com](mailto:brenda@kentbalch.com) 770.279.2210 or Tony Fishpaw [Fishpaw@kentbalch.com](mailto:Fishpaw@kentbalch.com) 404.872.6654.

## ***Sunday Morning Bible Study Posts Changes for Season***

Morningside's Bible Class continues its series on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and its enduring message to modern day Christians through Nov. 16. This class is taught by Associate Pastor Chris Henry and meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 107. On Nov. 23, Seminary Intern Kevin Weber will teach a special class marking Christ the King Sunday. Who is Jesus? Shepherd-rabbi-king-lord? Come learn as we look at biblical and confessional declarations of Christ. Chris will return Nov. 30 to begin a new series titled "Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love: An Advent Study."

# Your Session at Work: October 20 Meeting

- Get out your hard hats. **Kathy Bremer**, chair of MPC's capital campaign, *A Time of Promise*, said a tour of the new construction is planned for Sunday, Nov. 23. Although you won't really need a hard hat, we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to see our great new space. Stay tuned for more details.
- Carolyn Morton**, co-chair of the *A Time of Promise* design committee, reported that the Wine & Design fundraiser was very successful, garnering more than \$7,000 in donations as well as other gifts.
- With the church's strategic plan, Vision 2012, in mind, the Session formed an Implementation Task Force composed of **Joanna Adams, Chris Henry, Melinda Sandkam, Michael Perez, David Wingert** and **Ruthlyn Newell**. The Session approved the task force's recommendations for a new organization model. The new model includes eight team ministries. Next the task force will recruit the team leaders, who must currently serve on Session, and complete the details of how the new model will work. The Session plans to have the new organization structure in place by January 2009.
- In his report, Finance Chair **Jim Armstrong** wrote that church expenses to date total 75 percent of this year's budget, just what you would hope for in the first three-quarters of the year.
- The Session unanimously approved MPC's *Building Use Policy for Scheduling Church and Non-Church Events*. If you're interested in knowing more about the policy, please call the church office.
- On behalf of the Mission Committee, **Melinda Sandkam** presented options for special congregation-wide offerings for the Session's consideration. The Session unanimously approved four special offerings to be collected during worship: One Great Hour of Sharing; Mother's Day Offering to Presby-

terian Homes; Thornwell Home for Children; and a Peacemaking Offering. The committee will continue its other works and seek resources for those endeavors as well.

- Morningside is the proud recipient of a grant from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, reported **Sarah Tomaka**, chair of the Environmental Action Committee. The grant will help us improve the energy efficiency of our church.

Ruthlyn Newell  
Clerk of Session

## Elders on Call for November

<b>Emilie Paille</b>	<b>Nov. 2-8</b>
<b>Sarah Tomaka</b>	<b>Nov. 9-15</b>
<b>Jim Armstrong</b>	<b>Nov. 16-22</b>
<b>Chip Edgerton</b>	<b>Nov. 23-29</b>
<b>Lucy Enniss</b>	<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 5</b>

## Deacons on Call for November

<b>James Klotz</b>	<b>Nov. 2-8</b>
<b>Randy Brookins</b>	<b>Nov. 9-15</b>
<b>Collier Maxwell</b>	<b>Nov. 16-22</b>
<b>Sarah Mercer Chatel</b>	<b>Nov. 23-29</b>
<b>Shari Tant</b>	<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 5</b>

## November Birthdays

1 Gabe Couret	10 Mac Young	27 Laura Marshall
1 Barbara Brooks	11 Amy DeBaets	27 Loretta
3 Ann Benson	11 Grace Howard	Pinkston
4 Will James	15 Joseph Cochran	26 Jack Perez
4 Tara Parrish	15 Rhonda	28 Tony Fishpaw
5 Pamela Wilson	McIntosh	28 Bret Adams
6 Mac Frampton	17 Art Sweum	28 Richard
6 Samuel Wingert	20 Anne Menefee	Brownlee
6 Lindy Menefee	20 Robert	28 Mark Neill
7 John Moore III	McIntosh	29 Leslie Prince
8 Kelly Myers	21 Nell Roberts	
10 Maria Ragland	22 Clint Holmes	
	23 Sherry Walls	
	24 Geneva Bourne	
	24 Bradley Odom	



## ***More Than Just a Party—It's a ‘Giving Gathering’***

Morningside kicks off the holiday “giving season” by giving a party. All ages, especially families, are invited for food, fun and entertainment Monday, Nov. 10, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Our special guests will be families from Morningside Presbyterian Preschool, and the event coincides with the Preschool’s annual Book Fair. In fact, the classic children’s tale *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein provided the theme. Preschool teacher Ms. Heather will read the story as part of the evening’s activities.

Simple but yummy dinner fare will include mac’n’cheese and a special, locally grown/organic salad prepared by the Environmental Action Committee—plus, Alon’s Bakery is contributing desserts. And it’s all free!

Attendees will be able to shop at the book fair for their own needs as well as to buy a book to donate to the kids’ shelter at Our House. Youngsters will be encour-

aged to bring a can of food for the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Event chair Mimi Bittick is looking for helpers for set up, serving, clean up and welcoming our guests that evening. She can be reached at [mimi.bittick@gmail.com](mailto:mimi.bittick@gmail.com).



### **Help Ms. Cathy Crack the Code**

Our next Big Fun day will be led by Ms. Cathy on Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. here at Morningside. As we study the church year, which begins with Advent, we’ll explore the story through Christian symbols.

Elementary-age kids (and their friends) are invited to put on their sleuthing hats for this fun day of learning, mission work and games. RSVP to Program Director [Melinda Sandkam](#) by Monday, Nov. 10.