



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

TEL 404.876.7396
WEB morningsidepc.org

Inside This Issue

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Inside Morningside
- 4 Children, Youth and Family Ministries
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Discipleship Ministries
- 7 Connections
- 8 Connections
- 9 Session News
- 10 BackWords

Serving You

Reverend Joanna M. Adams *Pastor*
404.876.7396 ext. 11
(Home) 404.347.8656
joannamadams@bellsouth.net

Reverend Christopher Henry *Associate Pastor*
404.876.7396 ext. 14

Reverend Robert Gray *Assistant to the Pastor*

Walter Huff *Organist / Choirmaster*

Melinda Sandkam *Program Director*
404.876.7396 ext. 15

Kevin Weber *Seminary Intern*
404.831.0451

Nancy Meehan Yao *Children's Worship Leader*
904.806.5795

Rebekah Diehl *Youth Program Coordinator*
404.876.7396 ext. 16

Brittney Jaynes *Children's Choir Director*
770.656.3890

Anna Best *Office Administrator*
404.876.7396 ext. 10

Ann Benson *Office Assistant*
404.876.7396 ext. 20

Randy Young *Facilities Manager*
404.876.7396 ext. 13

JoAnn Kearns *Accountant*

Martha Hartzell *Preschool Director*
404.685.8758

Gus Restrepo *Sexton*

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

March 2009 Worship at Morningside

Lenten Pilgrimage

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up," the Gospel of Luke tells us he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (9:51). Thus Jesus embarks on the journey that will end on Golgotha. This Lenten season, we will make the pilgrimage with Jesus to the cross by means of a series of sermons:

Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m.

Sermon I: "Into the Wilderness"

Text: Mark 1: 9-15

Joanna Adams preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.

Sermon II: "The Incident at Capernaum"

Text: Mark 2:1-12

Christopher Henry preaching

Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m.

Sermon III: "Why You Shouldn't Read the

Dow Jones Average"

Text: Mark 6:45-52

Joanna Adams preaching

Sunday, March 22, 11 a.m.

Sermon IV: "Overheard Along the Way"

Text: Mark 10:32-45

Joanna Adams preaching

Sunday, March 29, 11:00 a.m.

Sermon V: "A Place Called Gethsemane"

Text: Mark 14:32-42

Joanna Adams preaching



Dear Friends,

Often we use the term “the work of the church” to describe what happens around Morningside, and, indeed, there is plenty of work to be done. In the midst of our own industriousness, however, we discover again and again deep reservoirs of grace. We come to the glad realization that in our acts of service, sometime menial, sometime glorious, we are actually building up the body of Christ and helping in God’s work of redeeming the world.

Here are a few ways I have experienced grace in my work in recent weeks.

- Elder Carolyn Morton and I had the privilege of standing by Beverly Tatum’s bedside at Hospice Atlanta and serving the Lord’s Supper to her. As we prayed and shared bread and cup, we felt surrounded by all the saints in heaven and in our loving congregation.
- Fifty Morningsiders and assorted friends, armed with shovels and pick-axes, gathered on Valentine’s Day to plant trees and shrubs on our grounds, while a half-dozen or more worked inside to prepare our renovated rooms for *A Time of Promise* Dedication Sunday. Nothing says love like putting your shoulder to the grindstone for your church!
- Sherrill Terry, our beloved, outgoing office administrator, worked for an entire week with incoming office administrator Anna Best, sharing her knowledge and experience and making sure the baton was smoothly passed.
- Several young moms and dads gave their time and energy to put in the flooring and repaint the nursery. Jennifer James had the idea of putting photos of all our babies (there are now 15!) on a bulletin board on the wall. New life emerges in our midst.

I really could write a book or two or three describing the manifestations of the grace of God embodied in our life together.

The First Letter of Peter urges, “Be good stewards of the manifold grace of God, so you can serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” I can tell you from experience – that’s the way it is around here.

Your pastor,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Morningside Presbyterian Welcomes New Administrator

Anyone who has called or stopped by the office recently has noticed a new face and voice behind the desk: Anna Best, our newly hired office administrator.

Anna replaces Sherrill Terry, who acted as our ‘office angel’ for more than three years. As the church—and office activity—has grown, Sherrill decided the time had come to find a less stressful position, but she promises to come back and visit often with her husband, Wade Medlock.

Anna comes to MPC from St. Anne’s Episcopal Church, where she was assistant to the rector. Previously, she spent 15 years in the office at Trinity Presbyterian, working closely with Joanna in setting up the church data system and visitor programs.

Anna and her husband live in Powder Springs. They have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Joanna says, “Our ability to find such a qualified person to take over our office so quickly is nothing short of providential. And our gratitude to Sherrill for her hard work and wonderful spirit are unbounded.”

Scout Project Makes Ravine Walk Feasible Entrance

Thanks to an Eagle Scout project by Chris Simmons, a member of Boy Scout Troop 455 at Haygood Methodist Church, the ravine area in front of our property is not only cleaner and safer, it makes a ‘nature walk’ alternative way to reach the church after parking on Morningside Drive.

Chris will complete the paperwork on his project and meet with the Board of Review this month. Formal approval is expected in April. A senior at Woodward Academy, Chris hopes for an appointment to the Air Force Academy.

MPC’s Session recently renewed the charter for the Boy Scouts of America Venture Crew headquartered at our church. Led by member David Cox, the Venture Crew also has undertaken a number of Eagle projects benefiting MPC. For example, Andrew Wicker’s 2008 project was to repair the sidewalks and Blake Clem created the meditation garden and memorial benches in the south ravine in 2000. Andrew is now a freshman at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Blake earned a degree from Georgia Tech and now works at the Georgia Aquarium.

Elders on Call for March

Leslie Prince	March 1-7
Carolyn Morton	March 8-14
Bill Southwood	March 15-21
David Wingert	March 22-28

Deacons on Call for March

David Fairleigh	March 1-7
Bill Means	March 8-14
Betsy Holland	March 15-21
Shari Tant	March 22-28

Team Organizes to Provide Fun, Education, Mission Opportunities for Children, Youth

‘New and improved’ not only refers to the spruced-up and expanded childcare and children’s education rooms throughout the church, it also refers to the way our Children, Youth and Families Ministry Team is addressing opportunities to make ‘church’ a meaningful experience for young people.

Spring and summer activity planning takes center stage now, but our next Big Fun Day is already on the schedule. Saturday, Mar. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., elementary-age kids—and all their friends—will explore the season of Lent while doing a mission project. There’ll be lunch and playtime, too. RSVP to Melinda Sandkam at msandkam@morningsidepc.org.

Summer, of course, means camp and Morningside Presbyterian will offer not one, not two, but three camp experiences this summer.

Children who will complete second through fifth grade this year and their parents are invited to a dinner on Sunday, Mar. 22, at 5 p.m. to learn about Morningside’s week at Camp Calvin, July 12-17. Calvin Center Program Director Paul Humphreys will be on hand to answer questions about camp at the home of Carolyn, Greg and Taylor Morton.

Calendars ready? OK, first note that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, Apr. 11. That day will also kick off registration for Vacation Bible School for children ranging in age from three years old by May 31 through fifth grade. This year’s adventure will join Noah and the animals aboard the ark the week of June 22-26 from 8:45 a.m. to noon, with lunch and a closing program on the Friday.

There’s even more! For the first time, we’ll offer another week of activities July 27-31—Mission Camp. Kids who’ve completed first through fifth grade will have the opportunity to sign up for lots of hands-on mission work with field trips too for only \$50.

Melinda, Morningside’s program director, points out that many hands are necessary to make all these activities happen. “Your gift may be building, sewing, painting a mural, organizing volunteers, shopping for a bargain, playing the guitar or telling a story to the kids,” she says. “It need not be a long-term commitment—volunteers are needed for a few hours, or a week—to organize something via email or to execute something on a given day.”

To learn more or to become involved, contact Melinda or the ministry Team Leader Carolyn Morton at carolynmornton@bellsouth.net.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Communion; New Member Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Supervised Ministry	2 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	3 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	4 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	5 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	6 8 a.m. MPP Movement 10:30 am MPP	7 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Usher Training and Lunch 1 p.m. RHO Readers 6 p.m. Druid Hills Shelter Dinner	9 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Morningside Lenox Park Assoc. 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	10 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	11 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	12 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	13 Choir Party 8 a.m. MPP Movement 10:30 am MPP	14 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
15 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum 1:15 p.m. Diaconate 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	16 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	18 12 noon One Gray Hair Lunch 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	19 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	20 Newsletter deadline 8 a.m. MPP Movement 10:30 am MPP	21 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 10 a.m. Big Fun
Mission Trip to Pearlinton, Mississippi . Mission Trip to Pearlinton, Mississippi						
22 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship; Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum	23 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	24 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	25 10 a.m. MPP 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew; Chancel Choir	26 10 a.m. Newsletter Production Team 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	27 8 a.m. MPP Movement 10:30 am MPP	28 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
29 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Playground Picnic; Global Concerns	30 7 p.m. Mandolin 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	31 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers				

‘Theology on Tap’ Will Explore Sin This Month

Associate Pastor Chris Henry will lead the Men of Morningside in a discussion entitled: “Whatever Became of Sin?” at the monthly “Theology on Tap” program on Tuesday, Mar. 3 at 7 p.m. at the home of Peter Cobb (1150 St. Charles Place NE, 30306).

After supper, Chris will begin by noting it has been thirty-five years since renowned psychiatrist Karl Menninger wrote a book that bears this title. The past three decades have borne out Dr. Menninger’s observation that use of the language and concept of sin was on the decline in American culture. In our day, “sin-talk” seems restricted to the fundamentalist branch of the Christian church. Rarely is the subject addressed in mainline Protestant congregations. At the beginning of the Lenten season, the Men of Morningside will discuss the reasons for this shift. What does “sin” mean in 21st Century America? Is the term, or the theology behind it, worth recovering? The food will be good and the discussion will be lively! For more information, contact Associate Pastor Chris Henry at Christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com.

Mark’s Gospel Leads Bible Class Through Christ’s Last Week

Throughout the season of Lent, the Morningside Bible Class will study the last week of Jesus’ life, known to the Christian church throughout the world as Holy Week, through the lens of Mark’s gospel. This gospel has often been called a passion narrative with an extended introduction, so intensely does it focus on the events of the week that leads to Jesus’ death outside of Jerusalem.

Beginning Mar. 1 with a study of the Palm Sunday scriptures, each class session will focus on one day in the life of Jesus during his final week in Jerusalem. We will study the fascinating scripture texts and discuss what they mean for us during our Lenten Pilgrimage toward Jerusalem in 2009. Chris Henry teaches The Morningside Bible Class at 9:45am each Sunday morning in Room 201.

What Does ‘Lenten Season’ Mean to You?

The Lenten Season began with Ash Wednesday and spans 40 weekdays ending on the Saturday before Easter. Originating in the church’s fourth century, Lent was the time of preparation for those being baptized, of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil. Since these new members of the faith were to become part of a living faith community, the entire community was called to preparation. This was also a time when those who had become separated from the community would prepare to rejoin the Church. Today, we observe Lent as a time of prayer and preparation before Easter. Sundays, which celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, are not counted in the 40 weekdays of Lent and are called “Sundays **in** Lent.”

Over time some “high church” aspects of Lent are being reclaimed as part of a larger tradition as a means to refocus on spirituality in an ever-more-secular culture. Traditionally, Lent has been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the giving up of indulgences such as meats, alcohol, and sweets. Christians use the season for introspection, self examination and repentance. More recently less emphasis has been placed on fasting and greater focus has been on charitable deeds; helping those with disabilities, providing physical comforts of food and clothing or simply giving financial assistance to charities.

The liturgical color of Lent is purple. Purple symbolizes pain and suffering, both of Jesus as he travels toward his crucifixion and the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But, purple is also the color of royalty and symbolically anticipates the coming resurrection and hope of newness that Easter will bring.



As spring approaches, our newly planted trees and shrubs are beginning to leaf and bloom and generally make our church campus a place of beauty. Gardening Group Chair Beth Baer thanks the more than 50 volunteers who turned out on Valentine's Day to get up close and personal with Georgia clay and pine straw.

'Birds Without Wings' Retells Turkish Tragic History

"Growing up in Central California where many Armenian families settled, I always wondered why my parents mentioned 'starving Armenians' whenever I wouldn't finish eating a meal," recalls Daisy Ottmann, who leads Morningside's RHO Readers book group. "Traveling in Turkey last summer and then reading Louis deBernière's novel *Birds Without Wings* explained the reference in a way that brought the tragedy home."

The informal, welcoming book group will discuss the novel Sunday, Mar. 8, at 1 p.m. in the Session Room. The story tells of the birth of the modern Turkish nation, contrasting the rise of Kemal Atatürk with the effects of World War I and ethnic strife on a tiny, multicultural village. Daisy visited the prototype village and will bring photographs to share, along with Turkish Delight. The author's novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, was made into a film starring Nic Cage and follows some of the characters in their later lives.

For April, the selection is *The Seduction of Water* by Carol Goodman, an entertaining mystery that probes family secrets and the influence of fairy tales. Due to the Easter holiday, the group will meet a week early, on Apr. 5.

Don't Miss!

- Joanna Adams' Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, Mar. 4 at 9:15 a.m. (Room 201). Continuing the study of Luke's Gospel, the topic will be prayer.
- Women's Roundtable, Monday, Mar. 23 at 6:30 p.m. (home of Lynn Young, 277 The Prado, 30306). Artist and co-founder of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Annette Cone-Skelton, will discuss efforts to foster visual arts in our state.

Two Sunday Forums on Schedule for March

Becoming a regular—and popular—institution, Morningside's next two Sunday Forums in the New Morningside Room (201) at 12:15 p.m. will consider two timely topics.

The first, on Mar. 15, will feature an interfaith dialogue. Speakers are still being lined up, but the program is sure to offer provocative insights on how different faith traditions view a right relationship with God.

Elder Bobbie McCrackin, who works at the Federal Reserve Bank here in Atlanta, will discuss financial crises on Mar. 22.

If you have a suggestion for a Sunday Forum topic, contact Adult Education Chair Daisy Ottmann (dazette@bellsouth.net or 404.812.9725).

Hammer Time Approaches as MPC Tackles Next Habitat House

Time to buckle on the tool belt and get ready to swing a hammer as MPC begins work on our 2009 Habitat for Humanity build. The home-construction project to benefit a local low-income family will kick off Saturday, Mar. 28, at 8 a.m. and will continue for seven Saturday weekends, skipping Easter weekend.

As we've done in the past, there will be some 'theme' workdays to help members and friends with similar interests get better acquainted while sharing in a mission project and Morningside also will provide lunch for the work crew composed of several area churches one Saturday. Watch for more info! In the meantime, to stay in the loop, our volunteer coordinator is Lynsley Tyler (lynsley@bellsouth.net or 404.724.0606).

Morningside Milestones

- We all rejoiced in the baptisms of (Linda) Hollis Holmes, daughter of Rebecca and Cha and little sister to Clint on Jan. 25 and of (Harrison) Cash Hackney, son of Robin and Jeff and little brother to William on Feb. 15,
- We had a super-sized Souper Bowl to help the hungry through the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Our generous offerings in the pots amounted to \$402.60, up from \$267.30 last year.
- Thanks to Andy Anderson and his carpentry skills, Morningside will soon have a permanent cabinet to receive year-round donations of clothing to Threads and eco-Phones.
- Best wishes to choir member Christine Butz and her groom Shannon Pengelly, who were married at MPC on Valentine's Day.
- The Presbyterian Investment and Loan's quarterly newsletter featured our *A Time of Promise* project as an example of their financing program in action to support God's church. Copies are available in the Narthex.
- As part of our ongoing efforts to keep everyone at Morningside secure and healthy, MPC has formed a Health Initiative Committee. And one exciting outcome of the committee's formation is that the church is being given a state-of-the-art defibrillator. While we hope we never have to use it, what a comfort to know it is available.

March Birthdays

2 Melinda Sandkam	7 Bryce Gay	14 Guerry Mashburn	22 Brenda Fishpaw
3 Allen (Hap) Howell	7 Miriam McCrackin	14 Jan Strickland	22 Jamie Jones
3 Lacey Berreth	10 Sawyer Barnette	14 Mary Leight	23 Steve Keaveney
3 Linda Jenkins	10 Brian Bartis	14 Finn Bresnahan	23 Hillery McNeill
5 Ann Watson	11 Austin Smith	16 Emily Eaton	25 Todd McDonald
6 Nicole Bellmann	11 Emilie Paille	16 Mary Beth Christopher	27 Carolyn Wingfield
6 Sarah Brownlee	12 Lindsey Howell	17 Nan Payne	
6 Betty Ray	12 Drew Kimball	18 Gail Kitchens	
	12 Ellen Cleveland	20 Aaron Bertrand	
	13 Carolyn Johnson	20 JoAnn Bertrand	



Your Session at Work: February 16 Meeting

- Mark Roberson, moderator of and ambassador for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, visited MPC's Session to share a Presbytery update. He said we are fortunate to have a large, diverse presbytery that includes nine Korean and 10 African-American churches. We are diverse in size as well, with church memberships ranging from 13 to 8,700. Our Presbytery is being forced to suspend \$250,000 in spending this year in case churches fall short of fulfilling their pledges. Among programs affected are campus ministry, youth programs, the Calvin Center, grants and new church development. As a stop-gap measure and on the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, the Presbytery will launch a program called the John Calvin Fellowship, asking 500 Presbyterians to donate \$500 each to join. Ten percent of proceeds will be earmarked for global missions. Roberson also described our denomination's national Big Tent Event to be held in Atlanta June 11 - 13. The Presbytery hopes to see 10 percent of every Atlanta church's membership participate in a gathering at 6 p.m. on Sat., June 13 at Centennial Olympic Park. As we join with Presbyterians from across the country attending the Big Tent Event, this could be the largest gathering of Presbyterians ever. Stay tuned for more details about all the opportunities the Big Tent Event will offer.
- **Rev. Ed Albright**, affiliate member at Morningside, has announced his retirement as executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, effective June 30.
- **Carolyn Morton**, team leader for Children's and Youth Ministries, shared early plans for children's ministries this summer, including a trip to Camp Calvin for a week and a mission camp July 27-31, where each day will offer the children a different service opportunity. Vacation Bible School will round out the children's summer offerings.
- **John Watson**, Operations team leader, gave special thanks to **Mary Chapman** and **Beth Baer** for their leadership in working with Trees Atlanta, which so graciously partnered with us and the William G. Welch family to make the most of the family's memorial gift to MPC through its organization. Please take time to enjoy the beautiful new trees and shrubs adorning MPC's campus following the hard work of more than 50 people Feb. 14.
- Operations Ministries has been asked to determine the best placement of keys and door tools to facilitate securing the church property. Someone on the team will report to Session at the March meeting and conduct a walk-through. Until security concerns are addressed, **Miranda Brownlee** will come to the church each night to ensure lights are out and doors are locked.
- Mission Ministries plans to celebrate Earth Day Apr. 26 during the Sunday school hour, according to Team Leader **Sarah Tomaka**. Keep an ear out for more details.
- Morningside will begin offering gluten-free wafers during communion to complement the bread now offered.
- MPC's Evangelism Ministries hosted Presbytery's Mission Insight conference. According to Evangelism Co-chair **Leslie Prince**, their presentation about how to use technology to make it easier for congregants to pay pledges and make gifts to the church was compelling.
- **Sarah Brownlee** has been able to reserve time for an MPC-wide retreat at Montreat, NC from Nov. 20 – 22. Mark your calendars!

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session

Morningside Green Space

Remember the 3R's for the environment: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Here are tips on the second R: Reuse

Last month we offered some tips to help you reduce your impact on the earth. This time around we're talking about "reusing". It's evident that reusing what we already own makes environmental sense, but in today's economic climate it also makes "cents". Despite what the advertising world would want you to think, reusing products and fixing them instead of tossing them in the trash positively impacts our home, the office, schools and churches. Here are just a few ideas.

- Garage and yard sales are great ways to reuse products.
- Consider switching to reusables from disposable items such as food and beverage containers, pens, razors, diapers, towels, shopping bags.
- The donations we feature at Morningside, especially for Intown Community Assistance, Shearith Israel and Our House are tangible ways to share with our neighbors.
- You would be amazed at what our creative preschool and Sunday School teachers can do with reusable "found" art items – bottle caps, toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, applesauce cups, just to name a few.
- There are many places to shop online that feature used products, such as eBay, Craigslist, Recycler's World. You can join forces with neighbors, co-workers and friends by purchasing infrequently used items such as garden tools but also lawn mowers, ladders, etc.
- Here's a favorite way to reuse: the Public Library. The library has books, of course, music, DVDs of both movies and TV shows, magazines and books-on-tape.

Reusing is the ultimate way to share!