



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## April 2009 Worship at Morningside

**Palm Sunday, April 5, 11 a.m.**

*Sermon Series: Lenten Pilgrimage*

**Sermon VI: "City Streets"**

**Text: Mark 11: 1-11**

**Chancel Choir—Selections from Rutter's *Requiem***

**Joanna Adams preaching**

**Maundy Thursday/Communion, April 9, 7 p.m.**

**Sermon: "Bread for the Journey"**

**Text: I Corinthians 11: 23-26**

**Joanna Adams preaching**

**Easter Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Missing Easter"**

**Text: Mark 16:1-8**

**Chancel Choir—Music of Brahms and Beethoven**

**Christopher Henry preaching**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 19, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "The Witness of Solidarity"**

**Texts: Acts: 4:32-35; Deuteronomy 10:12-22**

**Sam Adams preaching**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 26, 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Three Cheers for Charles"**

**Texts: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; Psalm 8**

**Joanna Adams preaching**



## Dear Friends,

Recently, I was asked to share with a group of Atlanta Presbytery pastors what I thought are “the key strategies” that have accounted for the tremendous vitality we are experiencing at Morningside Church. The assignment gave me the opportunity to step back and reflect on what a church is supposed to be and why this congregation is going against the grain of decline faced by many mainline Protestant congregations. Here are a few of the ideas that came to mind:

- ◇ The church exists to **tell** the story of God in Christ, to **live** the story of God in Christ, and to share the bread of Christ. The great missionary D.T. Niles once defined Christianity as one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. Around here, a lot of people with spiritual hunger are finding their needs met.
- ◇ The church exists not for its own sake, but for the sake of the world. It's our job to embody **God's** hopes for the world. We are commissioned to be bearers of hope amidst the world's engines of despair, and we take that commission seriously. You can't walk down the hall at Morningside without being confronted with the needs of the world. There are Food Bank barrels, mission posters, collections points for clothes for kids and homeless women and men, opportunities for advocacy being offered everywhere.
- ◇ As the old hymn says, “There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.” Not long ago, a visitor said to me, “I hadn't even gotten to the sanctuary, and yet I felt myself relax and become infused with a peace I hadn't experienced in a long time.”
- ◇ The music and the architecture contribute immensely to the health and wellbeing of our human spirits on a daily basis. They help us look beyond ourselves to God and to the world which is the object of God's love.
- ◇ Leadership has been in the hands of forward-thinking people. We have planned well and moved forward, respecting our traditions while looking to the future, excited about the new things God is doing in our midst.
- ◇ We have been blessed with a miniscule amount of negativity.
- ◇ We are a community of doers, rather than talkers only.
- ◇ We have balanced vision for the future with a conservative fiscal approach.
- ◇ We have relished the advent of a new generation of children and their families.
- ◇ We have worked hard, knowing that the energies and gifts of all of us are needed.
- ◇ We have solved problems one by one so that we are no longer dragged down by minutia.
- ◇ Our staff is exceptional from up and down and all around. We all delight in what we are doing, and it shows.

More than anything else, I attribute the health of Morningside today to the power of hope on our part and to the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit on God's part. God is in our midst, making all things new and filling our hearts with all joy in believing that anything is possible.

Your pastor,

*Joanna*



The Rev. Dr. Samuel Adams

## Guest Scholar to Preach, Teach at MPC Apr. 19

Morningside will hear a noted Old Testament scholar, professor, minister, author—and son of our pastor—in the pulpit and the adult Bible class Sunday, Apr. 19: The Rev. Dr. Samuel Adams.

Dr. Adams teaches Old Testament studies at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. His most recent published monograph is *Wisdom in Translation: Acts and Consequences in Second Temple Instructions*. He specializes in wisdom literature, prophetic books, the Dead Sea scrolls, Egyptology and other ancient Near Eastern subjects.

# Food Can Be Fun with Fellowship Friends

It only takes two. Three are a breeze. Four is for fun. Five might even be overdoing it. But the result is a no-stress fellowship hour - where the main attraction is greeting old friends, making new ones and commenting on the choir and sermon, rather than packing in a gourmet extravaganza.

Coordinated by the Congregational Nurture Team, refreshments after worship long have been one of the guaranteed opportunities to converse with fellow Morningside friends and welcome visitors. As church attendance has grown, however, the number of volunteers has fallen away, possibly intimidated by the thought. Team Leaders Sarah Beth Gehl and Michael Perez say, "Not to worry! All we really ask for is one sweet and one savory item and something cold to drink."

Most recently, the idea of "fellowship friends" has started taking hold. Banding together with two or three others shares the purchasing and work load. Coffee and something tasty left from Coffee & Conversation usually adds some extra. Pop the used glass cups and serving items in the dishwasher and clean up is simple. Watch the Bulletin later this month for opportunities to host hospitality later this spring.

## Morningside Milestones

- Be sure to come to Fellowship Hall after worship Apr. 19 for a special celebration. We'll be honoring Rebekah Diehl, who has served with us in various capacities for more than three years, our Seminary Intern Kevin Weber and Nancy Meehan Yao, who has been children's worship leader this school year. We offer our very best wishes to these inspired and inspiring seminarians as they move forward following their calls.
- To ensure that those with allergies to wheat products are able join in the Lord's Supper, Morningside Presbyterian now offers gluten-free wafers on the communion plates.
- Kudos to Carolyn Morton and her Team's Breakfast Casserole, Muffin, OJ, Fruit and Miscellaneous who whipped up breakfast for 120 to welcome Rosalyn Carter and the pastor members of the Regional Council of Churches to Fellowship Hall for a discussion of mental health issues on Mar. 19.
- Our 12 volunteers are back from what's become an annual mission to help rebuild Pearlinton, MS, recovering from hurricane devastation. The May *Messenger* will carry a full report.
- Thanks to the generosity of the many of us concerned about hunger in these trying times, our registered marchers who were snowed out of actually taking part in the Atlanta Hunger Walk raised enough money to provide 4,434 meals through the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- Our church family welcomes a spring crop of new members! Hugh Bell, Christine Butz, Shannon and Lisa Harris, Ken and Pam Sharpe and Bart Smith all joined by transfer and reaffirmation of faith, while Christine's husband, Shannon Pengelly, professed his faith through baptism.
- We extend our sympathy to the friends and family of our member Beverly Eiden Tatum, who joined the Church Eternal on Mar. 2, after a valiant fight against lung cancer. Born in Moline, IL, Bev was one of our most active volunteers and greeters.

## 'Avast' Opportunity Awaits on 'Treasure Island'

Pirates and mermaids will invade landlocked Atlanta as the Morningside Presbyterian Preschool presents "Treasure Island at MPP Cove," the eighth annual Spring Fling Family Festival. Not only are all children and their parents invited, church members are encouraged to volunteer to ensure smooth sailing.

The event is set for Apr. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parking lots. As usual, the schedule is laden with activities: carnival games, moonwalk, inflatable obstacle course, balloon artist, Ms. Klein's yummy bake sale, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, toddler play area, "Bubble Dude," sand castle art, recycled treasures, and our very own pirate ship. The MPP Grill will offer barnacle burgers, scurvy dogs and Chic-fil-A. Admission is free. Activities and concessions require tickets.

Carol Senf, church and preschool committee member, points out, "This is a wonderful opportunity for those of us who are not currently raising preschoolers to lend a hand to give moms and dads a chance to have some fun with their kids, instead of trying to keep one eye on ticket sales and the other eye on a toddler. If we all pitch in, everyone will be happy as clams."

For the Spring Fling, church member Lynn Daniel has created and hand-made a beautiful child-sized quilt, on display in Fellowship Hall through Apr. 5. A special prize drawing will be held for the quilt, with tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Winner need not be present to win.

Shift times for the 'crew' are 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 - 2 p.m. To sign up (and avoid being shanghaied!) contact Carol at 404 894.7003 or [carol.senf@lcc.gatech.edu](mailto:carol.senf@lcc.gatech.edu) or Kim Perez, [kimperez@yahoo.com](mailto:kimperez@yahoo.com).

MPP also currently is enrolling children for two-week summer camp sessions. To learn more, visit the preschool website at [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org) or call the preschool at 404 685.8758.

## *Hunt Eggs, Sign Up for Ark Adventure April 11*

Registration for Vacation Bible School will begin at the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, Apr. 11. 'All Aboard the Ark' June 22-26 with Noah and the animals welcomes fifth graders down to children who will be three years old by May 31. The daily program runs 8:45 a.m. – noon with a closing program and lunch on Friday. You also can find the registration form on the website.

Register children who will have completed grades two through five this year for Camp Calvin by May 1 and save \$25. Camp week is July 12-17. Contact Children's Team Leader Carolyn Morton ([carolynmorton@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolynmorton@bellsouth.net) or 404 760.9984) to find out more details. And, be sure to also keep July 27-31 for our brand new MPC Mission Camp for children who've completed grades one through five. Campers will have the opportunity for lots of hands on mission work, even field trips, for \$50 for the week. Details soon! Scholarships are available for our summer activities. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam with any questions.

## 'Noah' Needs Your Help to Create Ark

Vacation Bible School plans call for transforming the Fellowship Hall stage into Noah's ark while the other end of the hall becomes the Rainbow Café. In the spirit of tight economic times, we want to save our money for the *Reptile Wrangler* and other such treats, so our set needs donated and borrowed items. For starters, we're seeking rainbow-colored plastic tablecloths for round or rectangular tables – red, orange, yellow, green, blue or purple. As VBS approaches, we'll hunt loans of larger, fairly realistic-looking stuffed animals to populate the ark. We already need expert volunteers: to build a frame for our "cardboard" side of the ark, to lead our bandanna tie-dye project Monday, June 22, and to coordinate the closing day lunch. We've got many other opportunities and needs, so watch for more details or contact Melinda today to let her know how you can help us reach out to more than 75 kids.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. EAC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>2</b> 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<b>3</b> 8 a.m. MPP Movement Class 10:30 a.m. MPP	<b>4</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
<b>5</b> Palm Sunday 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 1 p.m. RHO Readers	<b>6</b> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon  Holy Week	<b>7</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. MLPA Zoning; Theology on Tap  Holy Week	<b>8</b> 2 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew  Holy Week	<b>9</b> Maundy Thursday 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service  Holy Week	<b>10</b> Good Friday  Holy Week	<b>11</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 10:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt  Holy Week
<b>12</b> Easter 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 6 p.m. Druid Hills Shelter Dinner	<b>13</b> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Morningside Lenox Park Association 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>14</b> 6:30 p.m. Preschool Committee; Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>17</b> 8 a.m. MPP Movement Class 10:30 a.m. MPP	<b>18</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 11 a.m. Spring Fling
<b>19</b> 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Guitar Atlanta	<b>20</b> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	<b>21</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Session	<b>22</b> Newsletter Deadline 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	<b>23</b> 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>24</b> 8 a.m. MPP Movement Class 10:30 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Nelson/Finn Wedding Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 p.m. Nelson/Finn Wedding
<b>26</b> Earth Day 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship/New Members 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Sunday Forum	<b>27</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>28</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Weight Watchers	<b>29</b> 2 p.m. Tai Chi 6:15/6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	<b>30</b> 7 p.m. Handbell Choir		

## Holy Week Observations Range from Solemn to Celebratory

Easter. We will observe this season that defines Christianity at Morningside with traditional ceremony and a new twist or two.

Our procession for Palm Sunday for the first time will reflect our care for God's creation, as the greens come from the Eco-Palm project, which encourages growers to use sustainable harvest methods rather than killing the tree. This is a nationwide Presbyterian Church(USA) initiative. We also will enjoy special banners thanks to the design skills of member Lynn Daniels.

Maundy Thursday reflects Jesus' commission to his disciples to spread the gospel throughout the world. Our Maundy Thursday supper Apr. 9 will feature Mediterranean cuisine and be served in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. The worship service following the meal will include communion by intinction passed at each table and the debut of the Morningside Bell Choir. Childcare will be offered. Coordinator Melinda Sandkam asks for volunteers to stay after fellowship hour Apr. 5 to prepare decorations and the kitchen—lunch will be provided. She also needs helpers at 4 p.m. on Apr. 9 for set up and afterwards for cleanup.

Although not part of the religious meaning of the season, Morningside reaches out to the children of our congregation and community with an Easter Egg Hunt every year. The fun-filled scramble will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Apr. 11 – kids through fifth grade should show up by 10:45 a.m. and bring their own collection baskets. Preschoolers will have their own area to scour apart from the elementary-age hunters. Organizers Melisa Prevost ([moprevost1051@yahoo.com](mailto:moprevost1051@yahoo.com)) and Mimi Bittick ([mimi.bittick@gmail.com](mailto:mimi.bittick@gmail.com)) need a warren of 'big bunnies' to fill and hide the eggs, paint faces during the event, ensure the safety of the egg-gatherers and clean up. There's a poster in the Narthex with more information.

As we celebrate on Easter Sunday, Apr. 12, with glorious flowers and wondrous music from our Chancel Choir, we also have two opportunities to share our Christian joy. Since 1946, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing. This special Easter offering supports ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development. Closer to home, Easter Sunday is also our final evening for the season to provide dinner for the 30 clients served by the Druid Hills night shelter. Cook and drop off the food, help serve the meal and visit between 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. or do both. Sign up in the Narthex for this special Easter ministry.

## Morningside Bible Class Welcomes Guest Lecturers

The Morningside Bible Class continues to study the last week of Jesus' life, also known as Holy Week, through the lens of Mark's gospel. Apr. 5 we focus on Good Friday, the most paradoxical and complex day of the Christian year. On Easter Sunday we go with the women to the tomb of Jesus and discover the joy of resurrection yet again. These classes will be taught by Associate Pastor Chris Henry at the regular meeting time and place – 9:45 a.m. in Room 201.

Apr. 19, the class welcomes the Rev. Dr. Samuel Adams, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Prof. Adams will teach and share some of his recent research and writing in Biblical studies and also will preach during worship that morning.

On Apr. 26, the Morningside Bible Class will celebrate Earth Day with members of the Environmental Action Committee plus the Rev. Alan Jenkins, Director of Earth Covenant Ministry, a validated ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta that seeks to integrate the call to care for God's creation into the teaching and ministry of churches. Morningside is a member congregation of Earth Covenant Ministry.

# Spring's Promise Embodies Renewal

Green leaves flourishing from bare branches. Bright blooms poking up from mundane-looking soil. Birdsong cascading from every tree and bush. Spring is the perennial reminder of God's promise of new life. How can we respond to this outpouring of grace? That's the question for Morningside's congregation asked by the Environmental Action Committee.

As Earth Day approaches, the EAC is planning ways to help us all learn how to 'walk the talk.' Sunday school for adults and children on Apr. 26 will offer some ideas. For adults, Alan Jenkins of Earth Covenant Ministry will join Chris Henry and the committee to lead a discussion on what churches can do to lower our impact on the earth. A highlight will be a DVD segment on how one congregation's efforts have paid off. We'll also review MPC's progress to date and where we can go from here. The EAC also will sponsor fellowship hour with munchies from good organic, local and sustainable sources.

In the midst of all our construction under *A Time of Promise*, MPC also applied for and received a grant from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) for power-and-water-saving projects. For instance, grant money allowed us to upgrade the lavatories installed to meet low-flow water standards. Facilities Manager Randy Young has been working with EAC Chair Sarah Tomaka to determine whether higher-payoff projects might be substituted for those listed in the original grant. One possibility would be to provide central air conditioning for the preschool wing. GIPL is willing to consider changing project details, as long as there is identifiable environmental benefit. As we go forward, there may be an opportunity to raise \$2,500 to meet the matching-funds requirement of the grant in addition to funding from *A Time of Promise* if projects are identified beyond the renovated space. One potential source is an innovative Georgia Power credit program that could both raise money for fund-matching and return credit to us as homeowners.

The committee also has discussed with Session and Diaconate members and leaders of teams and committees to consider adding sustainability considerations to all aspects of church life--for example, reducing landfill requirements by using washable dishes, biodegradable cups, recycling paper/plastic/metals, printing two-sided, posting more information online and the like. Another on-going endeavor is the new permanent collection bin in the elevator lobby outside Fellowship Hall for cell phones and printer cartridges, which are actually recycled for cash.



## Morningside Presbyterian Honors Library ‘Angels’

As Morningside’s library has become a multifunctional Learning Center located in the space formerly the pastor’s office, the church paused Mar. 29 during worship to honor two of the most dedicated long-term library volunteers, Betty Blaine and Betty Ray. For years these tireless two worked to access, categorize, shelve and otherwise make sense of a collection acquired over time and in many ways.

In addition, the Discipleship Ministries Team led by Elder Mardee Rightmyer has designated the children’s section as of the Learning Center as The Betty Ray Collection, recognizing Betty’s many years as a children’s educator. New children’s books are being purchased in her honor and an ongoing list will suggest additional titles for tribute gifts to commemorate the children of members and friends.

## Men, Women’s Groups Investigate Boundaries, Music

The Men of Morningside’s monthly “Theology on Tap” gathering will discuss the increasingly blurred boundaries between leisure and work, public space and private space, home and office, Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 7 p.m. at the home of Bryan Davis (2007 Tuxedo Avenue NE, Atlanta, 30307). After a meal, Associate Pastor Chris Henry will describe how Dalton Conley’s just-published book, *Elsewhere, U.S.A.*, offers a prescient examination of how the technological, sociological, and economic changes that have reshaped our world also are reshaping our individual lives. For more information, contact Chris.

At the end of the month, the Women’s Roundtable will hear rescheduled speaker Elise Witt, who missed an earlier meeting due to a conflict with performing at Carnegie Hall. (We forgive her!) Elise is a singer, guitarist, educator and resident artist around the USA, Latin America and Europe. The Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Apr. 27 at the home of Lynn Young (277 The Prado, 30306). Call the church office or email Melinda Sandkam ([msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)) to RSVP.

## Sanctuary Flowers Bloom ‘By Arrangement’

*Fresh floral bouquets in the chancel are a wonderful gift to the church and the glory of God. Members of the Morningside Flower Guild – a mixture of talented designers and willing learners – place arrangements in the Sanctuary only when requested and paid for by members of the congregation. When flowers are not sponsored, greenery or silk arrangements are used. Sponsorship costs are surprisingly modest, about \$75 per bouquet. Members also have banded together to sponsor flowers for special occasions, tributes or memorials. The church office maintains a flower calendar where members can sign up, and contributions are always acknowledged in the Bulletin. After the worship service ends, arrangements may be taken home by sponsors or reassembled to send home to shut-ins and to beautify church spaces during the week.*

### April Birthdays

3 Robert Bartis	13 Greg Johnson	22 William (Liam) Harris	29 Browning Fergus
4 Henry Jonas	13 Brent Mooneyham	23 John Fillyaw	29 Walter Huff
6 Joe Ballay	14 Amy Santy	23 Chip Edgerton	29 Ann Bowers
6 Emma Christopher	16 Bryson Hankinson	23 Jesse Neill	30 David Fairleigh
7 Michael Perez	20 Isabella Perez	24 Rebecca Holmes	30 Marta Ringenberg
9 Austin Davis	20 Georgia Moore	25 Caroline Tanner	
12 Hope Bothwell	21 Frances Adams	26 Ruth Wells	
	22 Sue Ballay	28 Alan Bremer	

# Your Session at Work: March 16 Meeting

- Speaking on behalf of the Morningside Preschool Committee, **Carolyn Morton** and **Melinda Sandkam** presented Morningside Presbyterian Preschool's first-ever strategic plan for Session approval, which was granted. Long-range imperatives adopted by MPP are to deepen the sense of community with the families, the church and neighbors near and far; to improve facilities inside and out; and to strengthen MPP's staff. Of particular note is the goal of both the preschool and the Session to offer scholarships to increase diversity within the MPP student body as well as to better serve our community. Session commended the MPP committee and staff for their excellent efforts.
- The Operations Ministries Team reported completed and ongoing finishing touches on *A Time of Promise* projects. **Jim Armstrong's** brief financial update showed a balance between income and expenses through February. Team leaders were reminded to manage expenses carefully and to that end Church Financial Secretary **Joann Kearns** will begin providing expense reports at the team level.
- **Mardee Rightmyer** said small groups were progressing within the Discipleship Ministries. A Young Adults Group is organizing, The Morningside Family (gay and lesbian members) will meet Apr. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Collins, and **Katie Davis** is chairing the Leadership Development Committee. This group will work to determine who is currently active in the church, what needs are being unmet and who are potential leaders. They will promote training and development to assure the church has leaders for the future. Other Discipleship news includes the Betty Ray Collection for the Learning Center (see story Page 8) and the upcoming Presbyterian Big Tent event coming June 11-13 (watch for details in May).
- Mission Ministries as usual noted a number of service activities. Session approved a request from the Environmental Action Committee to conduct fund-raising activities to match \$2,750 in grant money if necessary (see story Page 7).
- **Leslie Prince**, Evangelism Team co-chair, highlighted the upcoming Spring Fling as an opportunity to support our MPP families by volunteering (story Page 4). Morningside averages between 55 and 75 visitors every Sunday and we want to extend our church's famed hospitality to every one of them.
- To increase connections and to help overcome a severe budget shortfall, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta has instituted the John Calvin Fellowship during this, the five-hundredth anniversary of Calvin's birth. Fellowship membership costs \$500 and is due by June 1. A number of membership events are scheduled for April and May and more information is available on the Presbytery website, which can be accessed through [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org) by going to the News and Events section.

Daisy Ottmann for  
Clerk of Session

## Elders on Call for April

<b>Sarah Beth Gehl</b>	<b>Apr. 5-11</b>
<b>Bobbie McCrackin</b>	<b>Apr. 12-18</b>
<b>Mardee Rightmyer</b>	<b>Apr. 19-25</b>
<b>John Watson</b>	<b>Apr. 26-May 2</b>

## Deacons on Call for April

<b>Nancy Collins</b>	<b>Apr. 5-11</b>
<b>Betsy Holland</b>	<b>Apr. 12-18</b>
<b>Bill Means</b>	<b>Apr. 19-25</b>
<b>James Klotz</b>	<b>Apr. 26-May 2</b>

## Sunday Forums Explore Atlanta's Religious Diversity

As part of a new series of Sunday Forums at Morningside, entitled “Morningside in Conversation with Other Faiths,” our congregation welcomed Ms. Tayyibah Taylor, the editor and publisher of *Azizah Magazine* and a leader in the interfaith community in Atlanta, who shared her perspective as a Muslim-American woman.

We asked Ms. Taylor to respond to this: What is the central question facing the faith community today and what perspective does your tradition offer in responding to it? These questions will be the basis for two more forums—one on Apr. 26 with Rabbi Ron Segal of Temple Sinai and another May 17 with a representative of the Hindu community in Atlanta.

She noted many “candidates” for the central question, including the economic recession, terrorist acts committed in the name of religion, the worldwide ecological crisis, and the continued decline of religious affiliation in the United States. However, Ms. Taylor chose to focus on a deeper, more basic question that is, perhaps, behind all these pressing issues: how, in our time and place, are we to love one another and treat one another with mutual respect? The lack of respect for basic dignity and worth of all people, she explained, stands at the heart of all our many crises. She described the dangerous socialized stereotypes that dehumanize entire groups of people or reduce them to a sound-bite. As an editor and publisher, Ms. Taylor shared her concerns about how we communicate and the sources of our information about “the other.”

With words from the Qur'an and examples from the life and teaching of the Prophet Mohammed, Ms. Taylor argued that all great religions teach this respect and love for one another. This is the contribution that religious people have to make in a world at war and in tumult—the command to love one another, to be compassionate toward one another, to honor all people as children of a loving creator.