



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Serving You

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

June 2009 Worship at Morningside

June 7, 2009

Sermon: "Twice Born Christians"

Text: John 3:1-17

Joanna Adams preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

New Member Sunday

June 14, 2009

Sermon: "Miracle Grow"

Texts: Psalm 92:1-4, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

Joanna Adams preaching

June 21, 2009

Sermon: "The Forgiving Child"

Text: Luke 15:11-32

The Rev. Dr. P.C. Enniss preaching

Father's Day

June 28, 2009

Sermon Series: *Four of the Strangest Books in the Bible*

I: "Ezekiel"

Text: Ezekiel 3:1-11

Christopher Henry preaching

Dear Friends,

Summer offers an opportune time to set aside our usual schedules and try something a little different. Chris Henry and I have decided to do just that for the next few Sundays. Beginning June 28, he and I will preach a sermon series entitled, ***Four of the Strangest Books in the Bible***. The schedule is as follows:

June 28	Chris Henry: <i>Ezekiel</i>
July 5	Chris Henry: <i>Revelation</i>
July 12	Joanna Adams: <i>Philemon</i>
July 19	Joanna Adams: <i>Hosea</i>

Our hope is that in exploring the unusual terrain of these somewhat exotic Biblical books, we will be enlightened in fresh ways, encouraged to think thoughts we have not thought before, and, as always, enabled to grow in faith and love. See you in worship this summer!





Dear Friends,

Not long ago, I dialed the cell phone number of a friend who lives in Baton Rouge. When she answered, I asked her where she was. "I'm at the zoo standing in front of a couple of giraffes who seem to be really enjoying the day. I am enjoying it as well."

As summer begins, I want to encourage us all to find ways of delighting in the day. Few of us are likely to have encounters with giraffes, but there are butterflies and begonias everywhere.

A long look at the evening sky when the stars are out is more than enough to restore my soul at the end of a long week. On one recent night, when I was up at our little place in North Georgia, I couldn't sleep. I got up and looked out the window. The full moon was so bright that the meadow looked as if it had been covered with soft, shining silver. The sight brought to mind a favorite verse from the eighth Psalm: *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

I believe that summer is God's way of telling us to take a break, relax, and allow a sense of wonder to re-enter our lives. Because of our challenging economic times, many of us are cutting back on vacations to far-flung, exotic places, but all of us can, to borrow words from the poet, "laugh and drink from the deep blue cup of the sky, join the jubilant song of the great stars sweeping by..." (John Masefield)

Two Morningside friends recently gave me an engraving of a great rule to live by: *Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God.* To that, let's all say Amen!

Your pastor,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna".

Joanna Adams

Trinity's Theologian Will Preach at Morningside PC

Morningside will welcome a special guest from across town June 21 as the Rev. P.C. 'Buddy' Enniss will lead worship for us that Sunday. His topic will be "The Forgiving Child" appropriate for Father's Day.

Rev. Enniss has served as Trinity Presbyterian's part-time Theologian in Residence since 1997 and served as Interim Senior Pastor during 2001-2002. His experience includes 22 years as a pastor in the Atlanta area, serving as senior minister of Central Presbyterian Church from 1976 to 1989, and as founding pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church in Decatur from 1958 to 1967.



Buddy has also served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in New York City, and as senior pastor at the Reformed Church of Bronxville, New York; First Presbyterian in Tallahassee, Florida; and Meadowview Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

A graduate of Davidson College, Buddy holds Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and an honorary doctorate from Davidson College.

Finance Team Notes Tight Management for Tight Times

Our church's financial condition as of the end of April remains healthy. We continue to run a tight budget in these challenging times, with expenditures so far being held below budget on a year-to-date basis.

Our total budget for 2009 is \$728,161, and through April we'd spent \$231,515. However, this year – like every year – we face some surprises, such as the need to remove three risky trees, and we have many capital needs not included in projects under *A Time of Promise*.

To maintain our financial status, we encourage everyone to keep up their pledges over the summer vacation months. Paying your pledge through direct deposit or on-line bill pay can facilitate this.

Bobbie McCrackin
Finance Team

Morningside Milestones

- In this season of graduations, we especially salute Kellie Anderson Picallo, daughter of Nancy and Andy Anderson, who has passed her ordination exams at Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Also, hooray for our high school grads Scott Bremer (son of Kathy and Alan) and Jack McNeill (son of John and Hillery), who are off to University of New Hampshire and Vanderbilt, respectively, in the fall.
- Weddings, too, are in the air. Our recent brides and grooms are Shanon Hall and Nathan Burgess (May 2) and Christen Anderson and Freddie Blathok (May 16). We wish these newlyweds a lifetime of peace, understanding and joy.
- Speaking of joy, we baptized young Alexander Regnault, son of Phil and Heather and baby brother of Sophia on May 17, and Will Prevost, son of Matt and Melisa Prevost and baby brother of Alex and Caroline on May 24. We welcome these little ones to our Christian family.
- Morningside also welcomes our newest members: Kyle Adams (no relation to Joanna and Al, but who attended Trinity Presbyterian before her family moved to our neighborhood), Ibby Bailey (mom of Laura Fillyaw and a dedicated Golden Retriever rescuer), Mary McCracken (a landscape architect with a seven-year-old daughter named Katy), Dawn Pile (who likes to write when not busy as an administrator at Trinity School), and Wendy Ralph (who moved here from Des Moines and who attended the church Joanna co-pastored in Chicago).
- (Hard) hats off to the more than 40 Morningside members and friends who participated in our sixth Habitat House build in the past five years. Volunteer coordinator Lynsley Tyler was thrilled to have trouble finding slots for all the Morningsiders to fill. The final workday and dedication ceremonies May 16 proved that even steady rain can't douse our helping spirit.
- Thank you for gifts totaling \$420 for Presbyterian Homes on Mothers' Day. Our next special collection will be for the children's ministries of Thornwell Homes in August.
- Prayers and cards, please! Ruthlyn Newell, our Clerk of Session, is recovering from major abdominal surgery and Sandra Crawford, former leader of our Children's Choir, is possibly facing a course of radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Both would love to hear from you.

Theology on Tap Will Explore Prosperity Gospel

Following a Bible class study of economics and the formation of a weekly ‘economic survival’ support group, the Men of Morningside will share perspectives on theologies of prosperity and wealth in the current religious landscape for the June 2 meeting of “Theology on Tap.” Lloyd Prince (91 Lakeview Drive NE, Atlanta, 30317) will host the meal at 7 p.m., followed by discussion.

Associate Pastor Chris Henry will lead the talk about Prosperity Theology and its influence on American Protestantism in recent decades. The belief that God desires material prosperity for those who have faith has grown increasingly popular in recent years, and several of our area’s largest churches are leading centers of this theology. For more information about the Men of Morningside, contact Chris.

Men of Morningside Plan Escape to North Georgia

For the second year, the Men of Morningside will spend a Saturday together in the beautiful Georgia mountains. On June 27, the group will meet at the church and travel together to Suches, GA. The ‘escape’ will be hosted by John Hawkins and John Watson at the wonderful cabin of John and Ann Watson, *Suches It Is*, less than two hours from Midtown but a “world away” on the Appalachian Trail. A good portion of the day will be reserved as free time to enjoy the setting and do some hiking, fishing, and nature-appreciating.

The day also will include a conversation led by Rev. Chris Henry on “Listening to Our Lives: Hearing the Call of God.” To RSVP for this meaningful and memorable outing, contact Chris by Sunday, June 14.

Morningside Bible Class Reads Letter to Hebrews

Throughout June, the Morningside Bible Class will study one of the strangest and most fascinating books of the New Testament - the epistle to the Hebrews. Though some phrases are among the most well-known and often-quoted passages of the Bible, most contemporary Christians know little about the book as a whole, or its elaborate theological arguments.

Hebrews is unlike any other letter in the New Testament and reads so much more like a sermon that many scholars understand it as an example of early Christian preaching. Perhaps most significantly, the author of this “sermon” addresses a real and urgent pastoral problem that is astonishingly contemporary: his congregation is weary and unsure of itself. To encourage and admonish his audience, the author turns to the examples of ancestors in the faith and the story of Jesus Christ. The result is a magnificent proclamation that may ring true in the church today. Come to discuss and learn more about this interesting New Testament book during the month of June. The Morningside Bible Class meets each Sunday at 9:45am in Room 201 and is taught by Associate Pastor Chris Henry.

Interfaith Speakers Offer Views on Today’s Issues

MPC hosted three Sunday Forums in which we asked representatives of the Muslim, Jewish and Hindu faith traditions to respond to the question “What is the greatest issue faced by religious communities today?”

Unsurprisingly, we heard three different answers. Tayyibah Taylor’s perspective as a Muslim-American woman centered on how, in our time and place, are we to love one another and treat each other with mutual respect? Rabbi Ron Segal of Temple Sinai asked whether our religious establishments are truly relevant in today’s world. Our final speaker, Vedantist Gillian Renault, said for the Hindu community the question was, “How do we get beyond fundamentalism? Or, the thought that ‘my religion is the only true way.’” The series offered a positive way to hear first-hand the experiences, beliefs and concerns of other faith traditions, highlighting both differences and common threads.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	2 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. MLPA; Theology on Tap	3 2 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	4 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Youth Concert 7:30 p.m. MLPA	5	6 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
7 New Member Sunday 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Lunch & Learn	8 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon; MLPA	9 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Preschool Committee; Weight Watchers	10 2 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	11 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir; Lydia Circle; ICA Board	12	13 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers
14 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 1 p.m. RHO Readers	15 10:30 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	16 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	17 12 noon 1 Gray Hair Luncheon 2 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	18 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	19 Newsletter deadline	20 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 5 p.m. Young Adult Gathering
21 Father's Day 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. VBS Setup	22 8:45 a.m. VBS 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	23 8:45 a.m. VBS 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	24 8:45 a.m. VBS 2 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Venture Crew	25 8:45 a.m. VBS 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group	26 8:45 a.m. VBS	27 9:30 a.m. Weight Watchers 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary
28 9:45 a.m. Church School Classes 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12 noon Playground Picnic	29 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. Nicotine Anon	30 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers				

MPC Posts Lots of Wants, Needs, Opportunities

So, you think Morningside gets quiet once school is out, the Habitat House is built and people start trekking off on vacation? Think again! Here are some specific activities to keep you busy:

- **June 7:** Pick-a-Pan to feed the 40 guests at Common Ground and bring it back by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, **June 9**, filled with the requested dish.
- **June 11:** Lydia's Circle, our new younger-women's social/service group, meets at the home of Carrie Branon (786 San Antonio Dr., 30306) at 7 p.m. Bring an hors d'oeuvre or beverage. RSVP to Tara Parish at taraparrish@bellsouth.net.
- **June 11-13:** Presbyterian Church (USA) Big Tent Event. See the story on our back page.
- **June 14:** Is torture a valid tool for America to use against suspected enemies? A recent poll suggests Christians are most in favor of using torture techniques. Come to the Sunday Forum at 12:15 p.m. in Room 201 to hear Revs. Joanna Adams and Chris Henry tackle this troubling topic.
- **June 22-26:** Volunteer people - and large stuffed animals! – are critical to the success of this year's Vacation bible School, "All Aboard the Ark!" Whether you can help before, after, or during VBS, you're both wanted and needed. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam or see the display on the bulletin boards for more details. Drop off your stuffed friends (labeled so you'll get them back) on the stage in Fellowship Hall.
- **June 28:** Bring a dish to share to the Playground Picnic at the picnic tables on our grounds after worship. Paper products and beverages are on us! Contact Robin Hackney with any questions.
- **Looking ahead:** July will bring a sorting day at Atlanta Food Bank, another Pick-a-Pan Sunday, dinner for the guests at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries and our very first Mission Camp for kids – another great way to spend a day of fun and service with both field trips and projects here at the church.



Morningside Green Space

Whether you're out with the kids, family or friends, here's a Green Treasure scavenger hunt to play as you enjoy our nearby parks. See what you can learn! We'll have more for you next month.

#1 Oakhurst Community Garden

435 Oakview Road, Decatur, www.oakhurstgarden.org

What life do you see in the pond? What kind of recycled materials are used in the Adobe House? What is the name of the Adobe House? Count the wheelchair beds. How many roosters are in the garden? Take your picture with a chicken.

#2 Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor's Center

1750 Mt. Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, www.gastateparks.org/info/sweetwater

Walk on the roof of the building. Notice how rainwater is harvested. Take a picture of the vegetative roof. Count the solar panels in the smaller bank. Go inside the building and count the number of flush handles in the bathroom.

June Birthdays

1 Anna Best	10 Carrie Brandon	14 Grace Lazzaro	23 Elaine Tomkinson
1 Lisa Harris	10 Jeff O'Connor	14 Lynsley Tyler	25 Rik Elliot
1 Jill Davis	10 David Bothwell	16 Quinn Jarratt	25 Keith Blount
1 Athalie White	10 Mike Woods	17 Carol Southwood	26 Kent Balch
2 Mary Johnson	10 Sandra Crawford	17 Martin Dunlap	27 Patty Mosley
5 Clint Kehoe	10 Sarah Tomaka	18 Grace Gay	28 Andy Anderson
6 Dana Zahnle	11 Joan Adams	18 Ken Sharpe	28 Mary McCracken
8 Bill Humphries	11 Derek Metz	20 Caroline Prevost	29 Jackson Adams
8 Kyle Behm	11 Anne Barnette	20 John Keller	29 Dawn Pile
8 Bill McClure, Sr.	13 Kathy Bremer	21 Valerie Baginski	29 Lloyd Prince
9 Ben Samuels	14 Roy Simpson	22 John Hawkins	29 Bart Engram
	14 Bill Crawford	23 Lois Baldwin	30 Jake Frank

Your Session at Work: May 18 Meeting

- Session welcomed two members of the congregation who brought proposals for consideration. **Richard Brownlee** shared wonderful stories and photos found among MPC’s boxes and drawers full of historical material. Session approved development of a plan to catalog and organize all the church’s ‘stories’ for use by ministries and the congregation. Richard wants volunteers for this team!
- **Marshall Hunter** presented Morningside Presbyterian Preschool’s plans for renovating, adding and improving access to bathrooms in the preschool wing. Although MPP will bear the expense, the proposal required Session approval, which Session granted with thanks. Work will begin after Vacation Bible School and should not disrupt any church functions.
- For the Operations Ministries Team, **John Watson** commended the Information Technology Team led by **Derek Matthews** for work to save money and improve telecommunications services, including adding a high-speed T1 line and secure data backup. The Communications Committee is setting a process for refreshing photos on our web site. The Human Resources Committee intends to present revisions to the Employee Handbook for the June meeting. On the downside, three of our trees have been designated “extreme risk” and we are seeking permits to remove them before they cause damage.
- See Page 3 for news from the Finance Committee. The Session agreed to form a task force to look at capital needs including refurbishing the parlor and street signage. The task force report is due by the August meeting.
- The Advocacy Committee within the Mission Ministries Team recently considered ways to bring advocacy to MPC, including Sunday forums, legislative updates and a possible mayoral candidate event. **Sarah Beth Gehl** leads this effort.
- The Flower Guild led by **Georgia Marshall** revised guidelines to sponsor flowers for Sunday or special services. The church office is responsible for maintaining the flower calendar and gift acknowledgements in the weekly bulletin. The Flower Guild will discuss the desired arrangement with the donor and select, condition and arrange the bouquets. Two arrangements cost a minimum of \$125 and sharing the sponsorship with others is encouraged. After worship, flowers are rearranged into take-home bouquets for the givers and others in the congregation.
- **Emilie Paille** will leave soon for a one-month teaching and learning trip to Liberia on behalf of Mercer University, which will include 10 students, four master teachers and three professors. Emilie and the others will teach daily in a 100-year-old Baptist school for 500 students from kindergarten through high school, then will teach teachers and do improvement projects in the afternoons and evenings. We wish her well and look forward to a full report on this interesting and troubled country upon her safe return.

Daisy Ottmann for
Clerk of Session

Elders on Call for June

Sarah Tomaka	June 7-13
Van Crisco	June 14-20
Chip Edgerton	June 21-27
Michael Perez	June 28-July 4

Deacons on Call for June

Collier Maxwell/Brad Odom	June 7-13
Collier Maxwell	June 14-20
Brad Odom	June 21-27
Bill Means	June 28-July 4

Presbyterians Invite Us All into Big Tent

A first-of-its-kind event combining 10 national Presbyterian conferences under one roof and one theme (“And the Word became flesh”) is coming to Atlanta’s Hyatt Regency June 11-13. The Big Tent has been called “a denominational happening” and “a big Presbyterian family reunion.”

One highlight will be a celebration at Centennial Olympic Park on Saturday, June 13, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta has asked each church to ‘tithe’ members to come out for the event to make it “the largest gathering of Presbyterians in history.”

The 10 conferences, with plenary sessions and workshops, address evangelism, ‘healthy ministry,’ multicultural churches, elders, new immigrant ministries, social justice, communications, peacemaking, racial ethnic convocation, and stewardship. Worship, meals, and children and youth programs are also planned. The full three-day program costs \$335; there are also single-day options.

The organizers describe the Big Tent as “celebratory, diverse and participatory.” There will be common worship services and shared meals, an exhibit hall and several workshop sessions open to all.

The Big Tent also needs volunteer hosts and ushers. There are diverse jobs, ranging from stuffing registration packets to airport greeting to on-site registration to ushering and serving communion for worship services. Volunteer orientation will be held Sunday, June 7, at 3:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian. You can find the volunteer sign-up form on our website and in the Narthex at church.

To learn more, or register for the conference, go to pcusa.org/bigtent. David York is Morningside’s coordinator for the Big Tent event and can provide more details.