



# 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.*

## July 2009 Worship at Morningside

**July 5, 2009**

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

Sermon II: Revelation

Text: Revelation 5:6-14

Christopher Henry preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

**July 12, 2009**

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

Sermon III: Philemon

Text: Philemon 17-18

Joanna Adams preaching

**July 19, 2009**

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

Sermon IV: Hosea

Text: Hosea 6:1-3

Joanna Adams preaching

*New Member Sunday*

**July 26, 2009**

Sermon: "Holy Conversation"

Texts: Psalm 13, Ephesians 3:14-21

Christopher Henry preaching

## Dear Friends,



Highlighted in red on our family calendar is the November weekend on which Al and I will gather with many of our Morningside church friends for what I hope will be the first of many fall retreats for our family of faith. The location alone would be worth the drive. Montreat is a feast for the eyes and a balm for the spirit in any season, but autumn there simply cannot be beat. Located in the softly undulating mountains of western North Carolina, Montreat has been **the** gathering place for southern Presbyterians for generations. Now, this exquisite retreat /resort/conference center attracts more than 35,000 people from across the country each year.

If you want spiritual and physical renewal in the midst of this especially stressful year, then our church retreat is for you and your loved ones. A great planning team has been at work for months, putting in place educational and recreational possibilities, as well as worship experiences with people of all ages in mind. I can promise you that our retreat leader/speaker, the Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell, will challenge, delight, and refresh your spirit. I do not know about you, but I could use some help in figuring how to love with joy, purpose, and clarity in these complex times.

I have been to Montreat many times over the years. (I met the McNeill family there when Jack, now heading off to college, was being carried around in his infant seat!) I love the place and am sure you will as well. All I have to do is to see the swans on Lake Susan and feel the tension in my body melt away. I cannot imagine anything more delightful than being with you in Montreat Nov. 20-22. The cost is modest, and you can hold your place for only \$15 per person. Sign up, and then let's you and I start whittling our sticks for toasting marshmallows on the fire.

Your pastor,

*Joanna*  
Joanna Adams

## Adult Class Will Learn Great Prayers of the Old Testament

July 5 the Morningside Bible Class will begin a six-week series based on Prof. Walter Brueggemann's book, *Great Prayers of the Old Testament*. Each week we will read and discuss two prayers, followed by a conversation about how these words might inform and inspire our own prayer life and our faith. Included are prayers from Abraham, Moses, Hannah, Jeremiah, and many others. As we pray alongside these great pillars of our religious tradition, we will find the distance between their time and ours collapsed and the urgency of their petitions ringing true to our experience. The Morningside Bible Class meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201 and is taught by Assoc. Pastor Chris Henry.

## Joanna Adams Will Share Reflections on 30 Years of Ministry

Morningside's senior pastor, The Rev. Joanna M. Adams, was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament on July 3, 1979. This July 5, the Sunday marking her thirtieth year of ordained ministry, Joanna will offer reflections on the lessons and experiences of three decades of distinguished leadership in the Presbyterian Church and our local, national and international communities. This informal conversation with our pastor will take place in Room 201 following worship. Childcare will be provided.

### Elders on Call for July

Carolyn Morton	July 5-11
Bill Southwood	July 12-18
Sarah Beth Gehl	July 19-25
Anne Barnette	July 26-Aug. 1

### Deacons on Call for July

Shari Tant	July 5-11
Tim Gargis	July 12-18
Bradley Odom	July 19-25
Nan Cunningham	July 26-Aug. 1

## Decorator Showroom Sale Boosts ‘Time of Promise’

An incredibly generous donation from a Morningside member has turned Fellowship Hall into a treasure-house of beautiful and useful furnishings for the home or office. Everything goes on sale July 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with all proceeds going toward retiring some of the \$984,240 outstanding on our loan to complete the *A Time of Promise* capital campaign.

Here’s an opportunity to refresh your décor, save money and benefit the church, as well as a chance to welcome friends and neighbors into our beautiful building. Sale prices begin at 50 percent off retail and payment may be made by cash or personal check.

*A Time of Promise* was launched in 2005 to address major water damage affecting every level of the building, repair our pipe organ, install an elevator and restrooms for greater accessibility and relocate offices for greater security. Members and friends pledged \$1,631,934 for this project, of which all but \$264,068 has been paid in to date.

## Marcy Meredith Will Manage Music Library

As we enjoy the beautiful offerings of the Chancel Choir every Sunday, we rarely think of the ‘backstage’ efforts required to allow our choristers to concentrate on their singing. Did you know their repertoire fills 32 file drawers, several bookcases and numerous ‘leaning towers’ of music? That before each practice, every singer needs a copy of each piece of music they will perform and after worship, all that music has to go back into the files? It’s a task that can easily become overwhelming.

Fortunately, our budget for this year allowed Choirmaster/Organist Walter Huff to hire a part-time assistant, so Marcy Meredith has joined the musical staff as music administrator. Marcy sings with our choir and in special events such as our “Evening of Broadway.” She’s also a member of the Atlanta Opera Chorus. Walter thanks choir member Chris Hawkins for his long-time volunteer help with the music library.

## Morningside Milestones

- Hello, new members! Our most recent ‘joiners’ are Bryan Busch, an architect with three daughters; George (Jr.) and Bonnie Bajorek Daneker, a surgeon and author/business consultant respectively who have three sons; and Charles and Tish Woolley, son and daughter-in-law of Charlise Woolley. He’s a vice-president at Coldroom Systems and she’s an accountant.
- With much regret on both sides, Morningside Presbyterian Preschool Director Martha Hartzell has tendered her resignation in order to deal with family needs. Martha has led the MPP for the past three years as the program has grown in size and programs. She promises to continue to participate in our activities.
- Presbyterian snake-handling? Not exactly, but the Reptile Wrangler did pay a visit to our Vacation Bible School “on board Noah’s Ark” aka Fellowship Hall. Also fun with scales, if not so slithery, was an introduction to our set of handbells. Program Director Melinda Sandkam thanks all the helpers for their gifts of time, supplies, talents and energy.
- Slowly but surely, we’re upgrading the downstairs kitchen. The latest additions are new cabinets, with thanks to Deborah Coleman and Steve Prittie and a crew of installation helpers including Richard Brownlee, Lloyd Prince and John Watson.

## MPC to Meet Common Ground Need for ‘Grounds’

While we continue to support the mission of Common Ground with our ‘Pick-a-Pan’ lunches (the next opportunity is July 12 to serve July 14), throughout July we’ll also be collecting for another need: coffee supplies. We’ll be collecting ground, caffeinated coffee and creamer for this mission.

Common Ground provides daily spiritual, emotional and practical support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

## *Sort-of-Young Members Invited to Come Sort Food*

Our Young(ish) Adult group is taking the lead in providing MPC’s 15 needed volunteers for our next outing sort-ing food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. You can come help even if you’re only young at heart!

Plan to work at the food bank from (9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 18. The group also will lunch at George’s restaurant on Highlands Ave. afterwards. To sign up, reach Anna Garcia at [Garcia.miguel@comcast.net](mailto:Garcia.miguel@comcast.net) or Ashley Filip at [Ashley.filip@gmail.com](mailto:Ashley.filip@gmail.com).

## Global Concerns Back on Schedule

Graciously deferred due to scheduling conflicts, the new Global Missions team welcomes anyone interested in service projects beyond our community to meet after worship July 12 in Room 201. Currently, most of the team members are working toward collecting information on possible missions, both within the United States and overseas. Not all projects imply travel—there are many local service groups such as Villa International with global scope. Richard Brownlee chairs this team.

## *Many Leaves Will Help Clifton Clients Branch Out*

A little tree in the Narthex represents growth for clients of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Each leaf represents something needed to fill “Welcome Home” baskets to give the men as they graduate from the homeless shelter and move into independent living in their own quarters.

Everyone is encouraged to pick a leaf and bring back the requested item by Friday, July 10. Tony Fishpaw is shepherd for this MPC mission and can give more information at [tony@firstfidelityatl.com](mailto:tony@firstfidelityatl.com) or 404 597.5485.

## Preschool Announces Openings for Fall

Yes, school begins again next month! Morningside Presbyterian Preschool still has one opening in the three-year-old class and a few for toddlers. Check the preschool page on our website [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org) or contact Martha Hartzell at 404 685.8758.

### *Morningside Green Space*

Here’s the second in our series of Green Treasure scavenger hunts to play in our community parks:

#3 **Chattahoochee Nature Center** 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, <http://chattnaturecenter.org>

Explore! CNC is known for its hiking trails with their abundance of plant and wildlife. Five wooded trails cover beautiful Georgia Piedmont forest and the rustic River Boardwalk Trail brings visitors up-close and personal with the river that provides drinking water to most of metro Atlanta.

#4 **Seminole Road Landfill** 4203 CleveMont Road, Ellenwood, [www.co.dekalb.ga.us/sanitation/Getting%20Started/Disposal~SeminoleLandfill.htm](http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/sanitation/Getting%20Started/Disposal~SeminoleLandfill.htm)

Learn the steps your garbage goes through from leaving your curb to being converted to electricity – green energy! Tour the green energy facility and the composting operation. See the landfill operation and understand why recycling is so important.

Call SRL Superintendent, Jim Herak 404.244.4995 or Deputy Director, Tracy Hutchinson 404.244.4895 to schedule a tour.

## Session Approves Three Capital Projects

Good management and the diligence of everyone's keeping up with pledges meant the church had receipts ahead of expenses through May. As a result, Session gave the go-ahead to three high-priority projects not in the 2009 budget. The first is removing three potentially dangerous trees; the second is completing the security doors for Morningside Presbyterian Preschool and the third is replacing the air-conditioning system in Fellowship Hall. The air-conditioning project is being funded in part by our grant from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light. The existing system is 20 years old and at the end of its projected life. An up-to-date system should have a positive effect on utility bills. The preschool also will install and upgrade restrooms in their wing this summer. This work is being funded by the preschool.

### *Bremers to Host Brainstorming Evening for New Couples Group*

An open invitation to couples of all kinds and generations within the Morningside Presbyterian Church community has been extended by several MPC couples for an evening of wine, cheese, dessert and brainstorming about ways to engage couples who want to meeting, explore and enhance couple-ness.

Hosted by Joanna and Al Adams, Kathy and Alan Bremer, Mardee Rightmyer and Julie Green and Guerry and Michelle Mashburn, the evening will be July 17 at 7 p.m. at the Bremers' home, 745 Cumberland Road.

Kathy explains, "The only requirement is a desire to invest time and energy in the wonders -- and challenges -- of being a loving couple. The couples group might decide to have dinner together, to watch movies or have speakers, to read a book and discuss the topics, or to present topics ourselves. All of these possibilities are "TBD" -- awaiting your input."

For more info or to RSVP, contact either Kathy at [kdbremer@bellsouth.net](mailto:kdbremer@bellsouth.net) or [office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org).

## Looking for a 'Hot Date'? Check Our Calendar!

As we look for something 'cool' to do during the summer simmer, our Congregational Nurture Ministries Team and others have outings and other opportunities in mind.

- **Every Week:** Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, the ongoing (join at any time) Tai Chi class offers meditation in motion, also benefiting balance and flexibility. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 the Prayer Group spends a half-hour in silent and voluntary prayer for our lives and our world. Also on Thursdays at 7 p.m., Morningside Handbell Choir—looking for a few new members—practices in Fellowship Hall. James Klotz ([james.klotz@flyasa.com](mailto:james.klotz@flyasa.com)) is the director.
- **July 5:** Don't miss the Sunday Forum after worship as Joanna Adams reflects upon and celebrates 30 years of service as an ordained minister.
- **July 12:** Did your beach or hammock reading include the best-selling *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*? Come to the Session Room at 1 p.m. for an informal discussion with the RHO Readers. Daisy Ottmann ([dazette@bellsouth.net](mailto:dazette@bellsouth.net) or 404 812.9725) is the contact.  
**July 21:** Join a congenial group of rubber bridge players at MPC at 7 p.m. for a game night. Betsy Armstrong ([bjarmstrong@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjarmstrong@bellsouth.net) or 770 396.6496) has more information.
- **July 25:** Shakespeare's been 'cool' for more than 400 years! Betsy Holland's organizing an outing to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Georgia Shakespeare Festival. Watch for date confirmation and details.

# Your Session at Work: June 14 Meeting

- **Sarah Brownlee**, MPC member and member of our Presbytery’s Committee for Preparation for Ministry, presented fellow MPC member **Bart Smith** as an inquirer for ministry. After coming to an understanding of the church’s role in supporting Bart and learning more about how he has felt his call to ministry much strengthened since joining Morningside in March, Session unanimously agreed to endorse Bart as an inquirer. Discipleship Ministries Team Leader **Mardee Rightmyer** volunteered to be Bart’s liaison to MPC’s Session and congregation. Bart will serve as liturgist on July 5. He will begin studying at Austin Theological Seminary in the fall.
- On behalf of Children and Youth Ministries, Program Director **Melinda Sandkam** noted that MPC will be holding its first-ever Mission Camp July 27 – 31 for children who have completed first through fifth grades. Registration forms are available in the narthex and on MPC’s website.
- Operations Ministries Team Leader **John Watson** reported that MPC is in the process of upgrading and improving its telecommunications. (The phone line serving the church from the street was installed in 1949!) Replacing that line, upgrading connection speeds and adding inside lines, more security and new functions are among the improvements. Cutover to the new services is planned for July 3 or July 10.
- **Bobbie McCrackin**, member of the Finance Committee, presented on behalf of the newly formed Capital Reserve Task Force that the team identified 10 capital spending priorities not included in the 2009 budget or ongoing in nature and is examining ways to pay for them. Three priorities are considered urgent. Session approved going forward on the three. Please see story on Page 6 for more details.
- **Rev. Chris Henry** reported that the Young Adults group is expanding and planning new events. For example, July 18 the group will be lending muscle to MPCs mission work by sorting food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, led by **Ashley Filip**.
- Worship and the Arts and the Evangelism Ministries are teaming up to bring Brad Sherrill back to MPC for his one-man performance of the Gospel of John, the evening of Sept. 20. Please mark your calendars. **Sarah Beth Gehl**, Congregational Nurture Ministries team leader, noted we plan congregational lunches Sept. 20 and Nov. 8.
- As budgeted for 2009, Choirmaster and Organist **Walter Huff** has hired a part-time assistant, **Marcella ‘Marcy’ Meredith** (see Page 2).

Ruthlyn Newell  
Clerk of Session

## July Birthdays

1 Matthew Caudill	9 Marshall Hunter	20 Collier Maxwell
1 Cindy Humphries	10 Richard Finn	21 Annie Davis
1 Will Grant	10 Steve Prittie	21 Jeb Davis
1 Kelly Lee	10 Caroline Bell	23 Diana Cochran
2 Charles Woolley	11 Roland Behm	25 Mark Johnson
3 Michelle Mashburn	12 Susan Oder	25 Laura Fillyaw
4 Meg Samuels	12 Tom Oder	25 Taylor Morton
5 Linda Langstraat	13 Christine Butz	26 Bill Bell
7 Mac Barnette	13 Blair Myers	26 Nick Bremer
7 Luke Santy	13 Bennett Metz	27 Sue Blouin
7 Gaspari Pellerito	14 Mindee Metz	27 Cameron McIntosh
7 Wendy Ralph	15 Ellen Brown	28 Elizabeth Fairleigh
8 Marlo Kirby	17 Mark Cochran	31 Nathan Burgess
8 Susan Blanchard	17 Kendall Frank	31 Amy Jensen

## **Kids Learn ‘It’s Not All About Me’-- And Sometimes It’s About Calvin**

Did you think that once the Vacation Bible School’s ark sailed, MPC’s kids were done with care of animals for the summer? Not so! Sure to be a memorable part of our church’s first-ever Mission Camp, the week will end with an overnight stay at the Noah’s Ark Animal Rescue Center in Locust Grove.

Mission Camp, for kids who have completed grades one through five, will meet daily July 27-31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for Friday, when the campers will depart at 3 p.m. for the animal shelter and return at noon on Saturday, Aug. 1. Every day the camp program will focus on a different area of need: children, animals, seniors and the hungry. Mission Camp costs \$50 and scholarships are available. See our website or Program Director Melinda Sandkam for more information.

Meanwhile, in the elementary-age Books of the Bible Sunday school class, the youngsters are learning about John Calvin, one of the founders of our religious tradition, in this, the five-hundredth anniversary of his birth. How dull can that be when the class is visited by a bobble-head John Calvin direct from the Museum of the Reformation in Geneva, Switzerland?

The kids are learning that Calvin lived about the same time as Christopher Columbus, Leonardo DaVinci and King Henry VIII. Having placed him in time, they also are studying the map of Europe to see where he lived and preached. As they go, the students are learning a little bit about the idea of denominations and Presbyterian practices.