



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.

September 2009 Worship at Morningside

September 6, 2009

Sermon: "Church and the iPod Generation"

Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 20:7-12

Christopher Henry preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

September 13, 2009

Sermon: "At Odds with the World"

Texts: Matthew 5:1-11; Romans 12:1-8

Joanna Adams preaching

New Member Sunday

September 20, 2009

Sermon: "Should There be a Clock in the Sanctuary?"

Texts: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Mark 1:14-20

Joanna Adams preaching

Congregational Lunch

September 27, 2009

Sermon: "It Takes a Community"

Texts: Romans 16:1-16; Numbers 11:24-30

Christopher Henry preaching



Dear Friends,

There are moments in the life of institutions that hold particular promise. As fall begins, our congregation finds itself at such a moment. After what has been for me an especially rich and meaningful ministry at Morningside, I am preparing to retire at the end of the year. At the same time, Chris Henry is preparing to take the helm as Acting Head of Staff in January, 2010.

These next few months will be full of opportunities to celebrate the wondrous things God has done these past five years in our midst. Fall 2009 will also be a time of preparing for change. At its August meeting, the Session approved the establishment of a Transition Team, which has been given the following tasks –

- Initiate and implement a visioning / dreaming process involving the entire congregation. The goal is to discover what kind of faith community you want to be or, more accurately, what kind of faith community is God calling Morningside to be in the next 5-10 years.
- Solicit nominations from the congregation of church members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Based on those nominations, the Transition Team will put a slate of candidates together to be presented to the congregation at a called meeting after worship on Nov. 8, 2009. At that same meeting, the congregation will also elect new classes of elders and deacons, elect a new standing Officer Nominating Committee, act on my request for the dissolution of my pastoral relationship with MPC, effective Jan. 31, 2010, and make changes in Chris' terms of call, reflecting his new responsibilities. He will remain Associate Pastor as he serves as Acting Head of Staff.
- Serve as a resource committee / "Kitchen Cabinet" for Chris, for the duration of the search.

Members of the 10-person Transition Team are Kathy Bremer, Sarah Brownlee, Anna Garcia, Sarah Beth Gehl, Bill Humphries, Ruthlyn Newell, Brad Odom, Michael Perez, Leslie Prince and John Watson. Michael Perez will chair the team.

When it has been elected, the Pastor Nominating Committee will put together the Church Information Form and be ready to begin the search process Jan. 11, 2010.

Just as a great orchestra can play when the conductor steps down, this great church will keep growing in faith, love and service under Chris' leadership and the leadership of the new Senior Pastor. I am convinced of that! As of today, only God knows who that person will be, but let's begin now to pray for him or her, to pray that God's will be done, to pray that we remain true to our glad calling to bear witness to the light of Christ every day and every way that we can.

Blessings and love,

Your pastor,

Joanna Adams

P.S. Renowned preacher **Barbara Brown Taylor** will preach at the 11 a.m. service on Nov. 8, 2009, and after the congregational meeting, there will be a luncheon celebrating Morningside's eighty-fourth birthday. Mark your calendars!

Children's Choir(s) Plan New Season of Song

Wonderful growth in the number of children singing in Morningside Presbyterian's music program has led to the formation of not one but two choir groups: "Cherub Choir" for the younger singers (preschool through first grade), and "Treble Choir" for the older kids. The children's choirs are open to new participants pre-kindergarten and up, and both will perform during worship services several times a year.

Treble Choir orientation and kick off will be Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Parents and choir members both are invited for this first rehearsal and important information session. A similar event for the Cherub Choir and their parents will be Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the regular Treble Choir rehearsal.

Both choirs are led by Brittney Jaynes and Organist/Choirmaster Walter Huff. Jill Davis serves as "choir mom," responsible for coordinating communications and events with choir parents.

Finances Experience 'Summer Wilt'

Dear Friends,

Morningside Presbyterian has been blessed during these past two years of economic downturn by your continued support via your tithes, pledges, and offerings. It has only been in the past two months that revenues have dipped.

Some of this slowdown in receipts is due to our usual tendency to travel during the summer. Now would be a great time for all of us to review our pledges and catch up if necessary, and to be as generous with our gifts as our personal and family budgets will allow.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Morningside and its ministries.

Bobbie McCrackin

For the Finance Committee

Morningside Milestones

- A load of best wishes to our adventurous member Miranda Brownlee who has moved to Washington, DC, where she's looking for employment with an international and/or mission twist. Miranda is leaving a hole in our peacekeeping mission, our children's ministries and our handbell choir, as well as in the hearts of her parents, Sarah and Richard.
- Happy birthday to Lillian Jane Kimball (July 31), joining parents Andrew and Susan and big sister Annie.
- Have you noticed the fabulous growth in numbers of our youngest Morningsiders? If so, please listen up: we REALLY need four to six more volunteers EACH to help out with classes for our three -and four-year olds. See Melinda Sandkam to find out more about this vital opportunity.
- Some people deserve warm thank-you's: Joe and Sue Ballay for the gift of more children's choir robes, and the Workday Wonderworkers— David Cox and the Venture Crew, Philip Hawkins, Todd Jones, Georgia Marshall, Ted McMahan, Randy Parrish, Lloyd Prince (and friends), Melinda Sandkam, and Bryan Smith.
- Welcome Tyler Brock, our new children's worship leader and youth activities coordinator. A senior at Georgia State, Tyler's worked three summers at Camp Calvin. He and member Link Marx have as their initial goal preparing our fourth through sixth graders to join Sunday adult worship once a month.

Morningside Adults Study Bible's 'Most Important Book'

Throughout the fall, the Morningside Bible Class is traveling together through what is arguably the most important and influential book of the Bible. The impact of Paul's letter to the Romans on the development of Christian theology and practice is impossible to overstate, even though Paul's intention was never to write a systematic theology. Reading Romans has been a formative and life-changing experience for many of our tradition's greatest minds, including Calvin, who first wrote a commentary on the letter in 1539 at the age of thirty. Almost four hundred years later, in 1919, at 32, Karl Barth completed the first edition of his landmark commentary on the letter. Both theologians remained spellbound by Romans throughout their lives, writing thousands of pages reflecting on the letter.

We will explore the ways in which this ancient letter has spoken to the church through the centuries and continues to speak in our time. We will read the letter to better understand our theological roots and to inspire us to deeper faith. If you have never attended a Morningside Bible Class series on a particular book of the Bible, this is the place to start! The Morningside Bible Class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201 and is taught by Associate Pastor Chris Henry.

Members of the Morningside Bible Class will gather for lunch and socializing following worship Sept. 27 at the home of Sarah and Richard Brownlee 1046 Bellevue Ave. NE, 30306). All are welcome, but if you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Sarah, Richard, or Chris Henry.

Special Session Will Explore Concepts of Afterlife

On Sept. 13, Morningside Elder Mardee Rightmyer will lead a one-session study of "Heaven and Hell" during the usual 9:45 a.m. slot in Room 201.

The New Testament provides a variety of images for the afterlife, usually described using these familiar terms. But what is heaven? And what is hell? Mardee will teach this mini-session looking at scripture, common misconceptions in interpretation, and words of hope and assurance for the life to come.

Morningside Men Open with Cookout and Calvin

The Men of Morningside will kick off the third year of monthly "Theology on Tap" programs Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. at the home of John Keller (3117 West Roxboro Rd. NE, 30324) with an "end of summer" cookout.

Associate Pastor Chris Henry's discussion topic will be "Calvin's Long Shadow." On the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth, his legacy endures, influencing the fields of theology, economics, science, and politics. In recent months, much has been written about this giant of the Reformation and founder of our church's theological tradition. His writings and ideas helped to usher in the age of early modernity, though his personal life remains a mystery. Come learn more about this father of the Reformed Tradition!

Women's Study Season Will Ask 'Most Important Questions'

Rev. Joanna Adams popular monthly Wednesday Women's Bible Study returns Sept. 9, 9:15-10:30 a.m. Come at 9 a.m. for coffee and pastries followed by a discussion of Luke 10:25: "What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?" All women—neighbors, members, visitors and their friends—are welcome and childcare is provided in Room 105.

MPC Co-hosts Atlanta Mayoral Candidates

Who's best qualified to lead this fascinating and challenging city? What are the major issues? What are the candidates' views and platforms? Here's a chance to hear the leading contenders in a mayoral forum sponsored by several in-town churches including Morningside Presbyterian at Druid Hills Presbyterian (1026 Ponce de Leon Ave.), Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m.

WABE's Dennis O'Hayer will moderate the group of candidates, including City Council President Lisa Borders, Council Member Mary Norwood, State Senator Kasim Reed and Jesse Spikes. For more information, your source is MPC Advocacy Committee member Shelley Senterfitt at ssenterfitt@skfamilylaw.com or 404 483.7325.

Young Adults Will Visit Oakland Cemetery

The final resting places of many Atlanta luminaries including Margaret Mitchell and Bobby Jones, historic markers and charming gardens highlight Oakland Cemetery. MPC's Young Adults will tour them all with a guide on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 4 p.m.

Afterwards, they'll cross the street for supper and a great view of the skyline from the rooftop deck at Six Feet Under at about 5:30 p.m. The \$10 tour sticker (\$5 with student ID) will save you \$5 at the restaurant. Go to www.oaklandcemetery.com for directions and parking info. RSVP to Lisa Harris at Lisa.S.Harris@gmail.com or 770 568.2714.

Morningside Young Adults have also established a Google Group to stay in touch about upcoming events and reach other members. To join, go to <http://groups.google.com/group/morningside-young-adults>.

Hubba-hubba! Check Out These September Shorts!

- ☐ Elementary –age kids come out for Big Fun Day, Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. with a fun lesson, mission project and playground time after lunch.
- ☐ Read *Never Let Me Go* by English author Kazuo Ishigawa and join the RHO Readers at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, in the Session Room to talk over the book's astonishing view of an alternative form of health care.
- ☐ One Gray Hair is all you need to come for lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at noon in Fellowship Hall. Program Director Melinda Sandkam will share memories from her trip to Bali. RSVP to Sarah Brownlee (404 876.3572).
- ☐ Chat and chew after worship Sunday, Sept. 20, as Lynn Daniels and Athalie White spearhead our first Congregational Lunch of the season. RSVP to the church office. And, as always, donations accepted.
- ☐ While the weather's still great, come outdoors for a Playground Picnic Sept. 27 after worship. Bring a dish to share; beverages and paper products provided. Tia and Brian Bartis host this event.

September Birthdays

1 Leslie Brenner	6 David Cox	15 Sophia Regnault	24 Hugh Bell
1 Karen Cox	7 Emy Riley	15 Al Adams	24 Jan McMahan
1 Chris Henry	8 Roxanne Sullivan	16 Ruthlyn Newell	25 Vickie Hunter
2 Andrea Arnold	9 Chad Johnson	18 Evan Bresnahan	25 Daniel White
3 Natalie Johnson	9 Barbara Jones	20 Shirley Adair	25 Bobbie McCrackin
3 Holly Campbell	10 Brooke Lampe	20 Ken Sapp	26 Lele Ruby
4 Jennifer Jones	10 Trenton Tunnell III	22 Jim Walker	26 Greg Morton
4 Paulette Esco	10 Betsy Armstrong	22 Julia Taylor	27 Spencer Adams
4 Emily Dixon Taylor	12 Bryan Davis	23 Maggie McIntosh	
5 Gloria Joiner	15 Mark Keaveney	24 Braxton Jarratt	



Your Session at Work: August 17 Meeting

- **Rev. Joanna Adams** thanked Program Director **Melinda Sandkam** and all the volunteers who helped her for the wonderful event Aug. 16 where children crossed the bridge to the next school year to kick off this year's Sunday school program.
- Team leader for Operations Ministries, **John Watson**, reported that he and Facilities Manager **Randy Young** are tracking monies spent on facilities to identify trends and will report their findings to Session next month. John expressed his appreciation for all the volunteers who helped on the church's recent two work days. He singled out **David Cox and the Venture Crew** as being especially helpful. John noted that he and Randy would meet with an independent mechanical engineer for recommendations on whether MPC should replace or revitalize its boiler.
- On behalf of the Environment Action Committee, **Sarah Tomaka** reported that MPC recycles paper diligently. As a result, the church and preschool generate large recycling volumes and needs to consider having the recycled paper picked up once a month. Operations Ministries Team Leader John Watson will work with Pratt Recycling and report next month on bin placement.
- For Evangelism Ministries, co-team leader **Leslie Prince** noted that Brad Sherrill will present "The Gospel of John" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, in the Sanctuary. For more information, see Page 8.
- **Sarah Beth Gehl**, co-team leader for Congregational Nurture Ministries, said there would be a congregational lunch following worship Sept. 20, as well as Nov. 8. MPC's retreat to Montreat, N.C. is now fully subscribed.
- Acclaimed theologian, writer, teacher and Episcopal priest **Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor** will preach at MPC Nov.8 in tribute to Joanna.
- Session discussed plans for transition in the coming months, including formation of a pastor nominating committee and work to envision MPC five years from now. Read more in Joanna's letter on Page 2.
- The session will be working on ways to make it easier for more members to participate in MPC's four annual special offerings. Session is also changing its approach to devotionals, which open every meeting, to include more readings from scripture and a personal statement of belief.

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session

Elders on Call for September

Lynn Hogue	Sept. 6-12
Daisy Ottmann	Sept. 13-19
Emilie Paille	Sept. 20-26
Michael Perez	Sept. 27-Oct. 3

Deacons on Call for September

Betsy Holland	Sept. 6-12
James Klotz	Sept. 13-19
Nancy Collins	Sept. 20-26
David Fairleigh	Sept. 27-Oct. 3

Gospel Performance Will Nourish ‘Mind, Heart, Soul’

Noted Atlanta actor Brad Sherrill has made performance of the entire Gospel of John his hallmark since July 2000. He has performed the book more than 500 times, all over the United States and other parts of the English-speaking world. And, on Sept. 20, he returns to Morningside Presbyterian with this stirring production.

Brad says, “My mission first and foremost in presenting John is to deepen my relationship with Christ. Secondly, by drawing on my own faith in the Word and by utilizing the gifts God has given me in my work as a professional actor, I hope to continue bringing John’s entire Gospel to vivid life in performance.”



Brad Sherrill at Sea of Galilee

The Sunday evening performance at MPC begins at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will be Brad’s second appearance here, the first having been in March, 2003.

Brad has acted professionally in Atlanta since 1983 with virtually every theater company, including Georgia Shakespeare where he has appeared in 45 productions over 20 seasons. He was named the city’s Best Dramatic Actor by *Atlanta Magazine* in 2000 and Best Actor by *Creative Loafing* in 2001.

Supporting the production are director Scott Cowart and technical director Mark Hickman. To learn more, visit the website www.gospelofjohn.com. The Gospel of John will be presented free of charge; however, attendees may volunteer an offering. Child care will be provided.