



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.

May 2010 Worship at Morningside

May 2, 2010

Sermon: "Where God Lives"

Text: Revelation 21:1-6

Christopher Henry preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

May 9, 2010

Sermon: "Restraining God"

Text: Acts 11:1-18

Christopher Henry preaching

May 16, 2010

Sermon: "Don't Go to Church!"

Text: Acts 1:6-14

Christopher Henry preaching

May 23, 2010

Pentecost

Sermon: "The Most Beautiful Shining Fire"

Text: Acts 8:14-25

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Evans preaching

Congregational Lunch

May 30, 2010

Christopher Henry preaching

Sermon: "Does Theology Matter?"

Text: Romans 10:14-17

Dear Friends,

Decades ago, a motto emerged at the national level of the Presbyterian Church that made its way into numerous denominational publications and, subsequently, into sermons, lesson plans, and mission statements of many Presbyterian congregations. The motto was, "To be Presbyterian is to be ecumenical," and it reflected our longstanding commitment to the unity of the church in its many diverse forms. To be ecumenical means being in dialogue and cooperation with Baptist churches, Methodist churches, Episcopal churches, Catholic churches, and dozens of other denominations. It means accentuating the essentials of Christian faith and practice that we all hold in common. It means being open to the presence of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in churches very different from our own.

In many ways, the Presbyterian Church was ahead of the curve on the importance of ecumenical dialogue and openness. What was once forward thinking is now imperative. Take, for example, Morningside Presbyterian, where many of our new members come from non-Presbyterian faith backgrounds. For a more dramatic illustration, note the rapid growth of non-denominational congregations that seek to move beyond any affiliation with a particular tradition, and thereby attract people from all backgrounds. There is also a generational shift taking place, as younger Christians report little knowledge of, interest in, or concern about the denomination of their congregation. Certainly, a congregation in the heart of Atlanta in 2010 must be ecumenical in its outreach and its appeal.

Still, there is much to be gained by maintaining and even strengthening our denominational ties. Presbyterians share a deep and rich theological tradition that binds us together; *one that has a powerful message for the world in which we live*. The hallmark and centerpiece of our theology is a strong and uncompromising belief in the sovereignty of God. Put another way, Presbyterians believe that God is God and we are not. This means we have a healthy skepticism about

too much power being placed in the hands of any human being or institution. It also means that we seek to honor and worship God in every part of our lives, because we believe that God is active not only in the church, but also in the world. In every sector of society, there are Presbyterians living out the call to worship God with the gifts and skills that they have been given. Ours is a denomination known for its commitment to mission that enriches the lives of others, especially those in greatest need. Further, Presbyterians have always placed a strong emphasis on the value of education as a part of our faith journey. Believing that we worship God with our minds as well as our hearts, Presbyterians tend to appreciate the intellectual side of Christian faith and, at our best, embrace questions and doubts as opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we will welcome as our distinguished guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Tom Evans, new Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (the governing body of which our congregation is a member). I have gotten to know Tom in recent months and have been impressed by his commitment to servant leadership and to building relationships with the diverse fellowships that make up this Presbytery and the broader Atlanta community. I hope you'll plan to come to worship on May 23 and welcome Tom Evans to Morningside, as we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church and our ties to Presbyterians in this area and beyond.

Most importantly, whatever road you have taken to get here, please know that God has led you to Morningside Presbyterian Church, and that there are many reasons to be glad you are a Presbyterian.

See you in church,




Retreat, Mission Trip Teams Looking Ahead to Fall

Whether or not you experienced our “Gift to Be Simple” retreat in November, if you have ideas about what makes a great retreat, the planning committee would like to hear from you. They’re meeting Monday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Session Room as they approach a final decision on the dates and location for this year’s version.

Planning chairs Betsy Armstrong and Sarah Brownlee say we especially need volunteers with design/advertising skills and others to manage reservations,

speakers, activities and worship. Contact either of them with any questions or suggestions.

Duncan Spears heads up the fall adult mission trip, which will be more project oriented than was our spring trip to Washington, DC. If you can wield a hammer or install siding, let Duncan know! On May 16, our spring trip attendees will present a showcase after worship in Fellowship Hall of their outreach efforts and how to find similar opportunities in our community.

MPC Financial Community Reports Church Condition ‘Sound’

Morningside Treasurer Randy Parrish reported to the Session this month that “despite a difficult economic environment, Morningside ended the first quarter of 2010 in sound financial condition.” As the data below shows, receipts continue to lag expectations, but careful expense control enables us to stay within our budgeted deficit (recall that a substantial surplus from 2009 helps offset the deficit).

Period Ending March 31	YTD Actual	YTD Budget *
Receipts	\$160,266.96	\$176,345.00
Expenditures	\$177,037.75	\$191,441.75

* 2010 budgeted expenditures exceed receipts. Balance is by application of 2009 surplus.

This month serves as a good example of how one-time payments sometimes cause expenditures to outpace receipts (what accountants call “timing differences”). It highlights the importance for all of us to keep our pledge payments current throughout the year. Quite a few of our members have initiated automatic payments of their pledges by using their bank’s online bill paying services. If this appeals to you, please let us know so that we can assure that the process works smoothly for you.

As always, we rejoice in the joyful generosity of Morningside members and the commitments to ministry and mission it enables us to fulfill. And, please feel free to contact me with questions and comments (bill48@bellsouth.net).

Bill Humphries, Finance Committee

Morningside Milestones

- Help wanted! We have a wonderful group of talented photographers in our church family, but we want more shutterbugs to memorialize all our activities, events and smiling faces. We also need someone to manage our photo process and organize our archives. Melinda Sandkam is the person to contact to join the photo crew or manage the process.
- A spring bounty of new members cropped up in April: Alan and Robin Boren, Robert Dowd, Juarlyn Gaiter, Shawn and Mary Hardy Holaway, Jeff and Kira Hullinger and Fred and Becky Schrieber are our newest members. In addition, we baptized Charlie, son of Dave and Andrea Arnold, and Ava Boren, Alan and Robin’s daughter. Welcome all!

McMahan Honored for 100 Hours of Habitat Work

MPC member and Habitat for Humanity volunteer—extraordinary Ted McMahan was recognized recently for more than 100 hours of service to the Atlanta Habitat organization in the past year. He's now joined the ranks of skilled supervisors. He specializes in overseeing work on porches and ramps and siding installation while other skilled supervisors may take a crew through roof installation or other areas.

If you've ever volunteered for a Habitat build, you know what expertise the building supervisors lend to even the most klutzy newbie. If you've never volunteered, you should seriously consider donating your time any Saturday now through May 22. May 1, May 8 and May 22 have been designated Dads', Young Adults', and Women's Build Days respectively, but slots are available for anyone even on these days. We also need to provide lunches two Saturdays for the 50-plus volun-

teers—another opportunity if construction isn't your thing. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Lynsley Tyler.

MPC supports Habitat homes through monetary donations as well as by working alongside members from other churches and the family who will own the home. It's fascinating to see the home take shape from raising the walls, through installing the roof and siding to installing trim, painting and landscaping.

Another Habitat project is the ReStore, where you can donate or purchase furniture or help run the store. Last year, the ReStore sold enough to finance construction of eight new homes. The ReStore sells new and gently used appliances, home furnishings and home-improvement goods donated by manufacturers, retailers and individuals. The homeowner for our current build has been a frequent volunteer at the ReStore.

May Missions Spotlight Older Adults

As the annual celebration of Mothers' Day brings memories of our own homes and families, we at Morningside Presbyterian also pause to serve older adults who may have outlived their resources and lack a strong family network of support.

During worship on May 9, we take up our annual Mothers' Day offering to benefit the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia during worship. This is one of only five church-wide collections annually. Presbyterian Homes provides senior living communities.

We also kick off our annual collection of goods for Calvin Court, one of the Presbyterian Homes located here in Atlanta. Their food pantry provides canned goods and staples to many residents who approach the end of the month without sufficient food and supplies. We'll have a collection basket in the Welcome Center through May 30. There are lists of specific requests—including items they already have in sufficient quantities—posted on the Welcome Center baskets and on our MPC website.

Presbyterians 'Kosher' at Shearith Shelter!

One of our most interfaith outreach activities is our partnership with Shearith Israel Synagogue in serving the residents of their women's shelter, a mission for homeless women. In April, MPC volunteers were invited to an appreciation celebration as the shelter has completed its 27th season.

Leading our contingent are coordinators Emilie Paille and Jeanne McCarthy and our shepherds Amy DeBaets and Brian Mills, plus a number of volunteers who've gone beyond sleeping at the shelter to being present to keep the place open during snow days and giving shoes to a resident whose own fell apart. We've also provided volunteers for two-hour shifts on Thanksgiving and

Christmas and collect \$10 gift cards for the residents for Valentine's Day.

Emilie and Jeanne exemplify how we grow in our relationships with outreach programs. They acted as our MPC shepherds, recruiting volunteers for two years, and then became coordinators with Shearith as they came to love the program more and more. When they 'graduated' to coordinators, they opened the door to newer members Amy and Brian to step in as shepherds. As the shelter readies to reopen in the fall, we'll sit down with their director to talk through possibilities for becoming even more involved.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Habitat Build 1 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers
2 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion (Cherub & Treble Choirs combine with Chancel Choir) 12 noon Fellowship; Year End Children's Choir Picnic 12:15 p.m. Deacon's Mtg. 2 p.m. Harmony Rehearsal 4 p.m. PNC Meeting	3 6:30 p.m. Church Retreat Meeting 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	4 6:30 p.m. Earth Covenant Ministry; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	5 7 p.m. Tai Chi; Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	6 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	7	Habitat Build 8 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers
9 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 4 p.m. PNC Meeting	10 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	11 9:30 a.m. Presbytery Meeting (Good Shepherd Presby.) 10 a.m. Common Ground 6:30 p.m. Preschool Committee; Weight Watchers	12 7 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	13 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir; Trinity Presbyterian Forum	14 7 p.m. Couples Group	Habitat Build 15 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers
16 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 1 p.m. RHO Readers 2 p.m. Harmony Rehearsal 4 p.m. PNC Meeting; Children's Education Meeting	17 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	18 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	19 12 noon 1 Gray Hair Luncheon 7 p.m. Tai Chi; Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	20 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	21 11 a.m. MPP Graduation	Habitat Build 22 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries
23 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Congregational Lunch 4 p.m. PNC Meeting 5 p.m. Harmony Concert	24 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	25 6:30 p.m. Community Outreach Committee; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Walter Huff Rehearsal	26 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir; Venture Crew	27 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	28	29 8:15 a.m. Weight Watchers
30 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship	31 Church Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day					



Musicians Will Bring ‘Harmony’ to MPC Sanctuary

The young singers of Harmony, Atlanta’s International Youth Chorus, invite us all to their alumni reunion concert, Sunday, May 23, at 5 p.m. in our Sanctuary. In musical styles ranging from classical to jazz and spirituals to rounds, they’ll sing in Zulu, Swahili, Spanish, Turkish, English, Hebrew, German, Japanese and French.

The chorus, 100 culturally diverse singers ranging in age from six to 18, rehearses at Morningside on Sunday afternoons. Their songs praise God, peace, love, joy and hope and include songs about dinosaurs, nightingales and rattlesnakes. Family- and child-friendly, the concert features flute, oboe, double bass, piano and percussion as well as some choral movement and signing in American Sign Language.

Where to Be, What to Do in the month of May

Here’s a roundup of meetings and events on our schedule so far:

- May 4: Men of Morningside get together at 7 p.m. at the home of Todd McDonald (835 Rowland St., Clarkston, 30021) for Theology on Tap’s after-dinner discussion of “The Pursuit of Happiness.”
- May 5: Tai chi classes continue at 7 p.m.—sometimes on the patio! Questions? Check with Barbara Ray. Also at 7, at the home of Greg and Carolyn Morton (2973 W. Roxboro, 30324), the Small Group Bible Study considers Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Come join a fun and thoughtful discussion. Link Marx leads the group.
- May 6: Come for the final discussion of the early church in Acts as the Women’s Bible Study meets at 9 a.m. for coffee, followed by the discussion at 9:15. Childcare available.
- May 6: Learn to ring handbells and chimes! Beginners’ sessions start at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall every Thursday—regular rehearsals are 7:30-8:30. Refer questions to director James Klotz.
- May 14: Where will our MPC Couples Group meet tonight? Watch your email and the Bulletin for details, but for sure it will be at 7 p.m. and all couples are welcome. Kathy Bremer is your contact.
- May 15: Get together at the Varsity for the traditional “whaddleyahave?” at 5:30 p.m., then we’ll all go together to the Georgia Tech/University of Miami baseball game. Good fun for the family and group tickets are only \$3. Marshall Hunter and Richard Brownlee are in charge.
- May 16: Enjoy *Three Cups of Tea* (as written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin) with the RHO Readers book group at 1 p.m. in the Session Room. Daisy Ottmann leads the group.
- May 18: You’re going to eat anyway, so why not benefit the Morningside Preschool while you’re at it? It’s MPP night at El Taco and a portion of the proceeds go to our school.
- May 23: Our next congregational lunch after worship celebrates Pentecost. Here’s a chance to meet our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Tom Evans, who will preach that day. RSVP to the church office to assure enough food for all. Suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$5 children. If you can help set up, serve, or clean up, contact Brad Odom (bradleyodom@aol.com).



May Birthdays

2 Rachel Spears
4 Jennifer James
5 Alex Prevost
5 Tish Craddock
6 Shannon Pengelly
6 Brian Rouse
6 Matt Prevost
6 Ian Bresnahan
6 Jennifer Pittman

7 Hollis Holmes
7 Fred Schreiber
7 Kate Keaveney
9 Ward Howell
9 David York
10 JoAnn Kearns
10 Sheryl Wingert
11 Trent Kean
11 Bob Wells
12 Haden Holaway
12 Laura Edgerton
12 Glenn Small, Jr.
14 Jay Myers

14 Mardee Rightmyer
14 Sarah Beth Gehl
15 Harrison James
15 Nancy Frampton
16 Brian Buchanan
16 Bryan Smith
17 Clay Haskins
17 Sam Tomaka
18 Rosemary Wells
19 Randy Brookins
20 Anthony Cochran
21 Lauren Fairleigh
22 Jeff Hackney

22 Pearl Weathers
23 Michelle Berreth
24 Todd Brawner
25 Van Jensen
26 Breck Kean
27 Alan Penrod
28 Daisy Ottmann
30 Carole Jacobsen
31 Kate Parrish
31 Katy Means

Your Session at Work: April 19 Meeting

- **Carolyn Morton**, team leader for Children and Youth Ministries, noted that the excellent liturgist serving at worship Apr. 18 was **Alicia Wilson**, the Children’s Worship Leader working at Morningside through the summer.
- Commitment Ministries Team Leader **Tom Daniel** reported that the team had had its first meeting Apr. 14 to prepare for the 2010 stewardship campaign. Fifteen members participated.
- **Jay Myers**, Mission Ministries team leader, said that Morningside collected \$2,200 for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter. He noted that One Great Hour of Sharing is one of our church’s five special offerings. The organization supports the work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- During discussion about Worship and the Arts Ministries, **Rev. Chris Henry** noted that 434 people celebrated Easter at Morningside, counting both the sunrise service (which drew 74 worshippers) and the 11 a.m. service.
- Chris also noted that the new executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, **Tom Evans**, will preach at MPC May 23, Pentecost. Tom came to Atlanta in February, having previously served as Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, headquartered in Birmingham. In this position, he was co-founder of the Alabama Faith Council working with churches of 25 traditions, as well as fostering collaborative work between the two other presbyteries in Alabama. Rev. Dr. Evans, a graduate of The College of William and Mary, holds both



Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Wendy, a librarian, have two children, Liz and Matthew. Liz is a freshman at the University of Alabama and Matthew, an avid reader, is currently in fourth grade.

- In addition, Chris said he feels honored to be invited to preach on Day 1, a radio station that has set as its mission to be the voice of the mainline Protestant churches. His sermon will air July 11.

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session

Elders on Call for May

Chip Edgerton	May 2-8
Sarah Beth Gehl	May 9-15
Leslie Prince	May 16-22
Bill Southwood	May 23-29
Doug Self	May 30-June 5

Deacons on Call for May

James Klotz	May 2-8
Van Jensen	May 9-15
Jeanne McCarthy	May 16-22
Betsy Holland	May 23-29
Bill Means	May 30-June 5

Registration in Full Swing for Kids' Summer Camps

May is the month to sign up your youngsters for camp activities for preschoolers and up.

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool offers week-long summer camps in eight sessions from June 7-18 and June 28 – Aug. 6. Go to the preschool website at mpp@morningsidepr.org for details and registration materials or contact Preschool Director Sarah Tomaka.

'Around the World in 5 Days' invites kids four years old through fifth grade to set off, passport and suitcase in hand, to learn to share God's love with all our neighbors, wherever they may live. Our travel-themed Vacation Bible School runs June 21-25, 8:45 a.m. to noon. Registration and volunteer forms are available on the bulletin board across from the Nursery and on our website. The \$25 cost includes snacks and a T-shirt, and scholarships are available. Contact Program Di-

rector Melinda Sandkam with questions and for how you can help the travelers along their way.

It's also time to sign up for our second mission camp, "It's Not All About Me!" Each day explores a different outreach theme: children, seniors, the environment and hunger, Monday- Thursday, July 26-29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, July 30, the campers meet at 3 p.m. for a Safari Adventure at Noah's Ark Animal Shelter with an overnight stay that will bring them home at noon on Saturday.

All field trips, snacks, lunches, a T-shirt and the Noah's Ark stay are included in the \$100 fee (scholarships available). Registration forms will be ready May 2 at church and on the website. Volunteer opportunities abound, so come help our kids do hands-on work and show them that it's not all about you, either.

