



# MorningsideMessenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Inside This Issue

- 1 **Worship**
- 2 **From Your Morningside Staff**
- 3 **Inside Morningside**
- 4 **Children, Youth & Families Ministries**
- 5 **Calendar**
- 6 **Connections**
- 7 **Discipleship Ministries**
- 8 **BackWords**

## Serving You

### **Reverend Christopher Henry**

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

## August 2010

### Worship at Morningside

#### August 1, 2010

Sermon: "This I Believe"

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2

Christopher Henry and Morningside Members preaching

#### August 8, 2010

Sermon: "Crumbs from the Table"

Text: Matthew 15:21-28

Christopher Henry preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

#### August 15, 2010

"Burning Questions for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Christians" Sermon Series

Sermon #1: "Can Christians be Spiritual but not Religious?"

Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christopher Henry preaching

#### August 22, 2010

"Burning Questions for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Christians" Sermon Series

Sermon #2: "Who Will be Saved? A Theology of World Religions"

Text: John 3:1-21

Christopher Henry preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

#### August 29, 2010

*New Member Sunday*

"Burning Questions for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Christians" Sermon Series

Sermon #3: "Whose Side is God On? A Theology of Politics"

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Christopher Henry preaching

Every year the summer seems shorter and shorter. Does anyone remember when summer was three full months – June, July and August? Not anymore! School starts in August and we are well underway when we reach Labor Day. Summer itself is very full here at Morningside Presbyterian Church, moving from Vacation Bible School to Mission Camp to Sunday School Kick Off in a flash.

So, we are already at that time of year, when I update the lists of each age group in preparation for all the kids that will “move up” to the next class. This exercise also triggers long-term planning as we review the needs of our congregation each year. In the past, we have carved out a second/third grade group, furnished new rooms, hired additional staff, ordered extra curriculum and recruited more volunteers. But, this year, in the midst of this planning for the future, I’ve realized that in many ways, we are already there.

Of course, we will continue to adapt and expand to meet the needs of our congregation every year. But, it is a very exhilarating realization to see a snapshot of our programs and how many children are involved. My Disney calendar picture today was from “Meet the Robinsons”. In this space age movie, they gave a nod to Disney World’s Tomorrowland, but they called it *Todayland*. The future is here.

In June as we traveled “Around the World in 5 Days” during Vacation Bible School, the fourth-thru-sixth-graders (better known here as the Double Digits) led not only group time, but prepared the Bible story skits and led music with Ms Brittney with the four-year-olds. This same group is exploring each aspect of the worship service with the “Worship for Life” curriculum on Sunday mornings. They have even written the Call to Worship used on July 4 and the Affirmation of Faith for Aug. 1.

At the newly formed “youth” committee meeting, there were actually more Double Digit representatives than adults. After a little foosball and ping pong (the Double Digits highly recommend starting all meetings this way), they gave some serious thought to what they would like to do for their monthly activities this

fall. Top among the options were making sandwiches for those in need and mulching trees for Trees Atlanta.

These kids get it! As we begin our second “It’s Not All About Me” mission camp, these kids already have made reaching out to others a big part of their lives. Mission projects will continue to be an important part of our Double Digit opportunities here. So will leadership and learning, and of course fun! Our youth can lead at Big Fun days when we explore our sacraments and church seasons. The sixth graders can choose to be stage hands or coordinators of angels or sheep for the Christmas Pageant. Ice skating and a Hawks game are on the schedule. And, the Double Digits will attend worship on communion Sundays.

I hope you will keep the endeavors of our youth in your prayers. There may not be a dozen teenagers at MPC – yet, but, they are growing up fast. Chaperone an outing, lead a mission project, sit with them during worship, be a confirmation mentor next school year, show them what living their faith is all about. As we embark on another school year, join me in celebrating the fact that our response to the kid in the backseat asking “are we there yet?” is “yes, we are already there!”



Melinda Sandkam

Program Director



### Open Call

Start hunting up those clippings, tapes and memories of Walter Huff’s 20 years with the music program at MPC so we can incorporate them into the weekend of celebration for Walter, Oct. 16-17.

## PNC Offers Status Report on Search Process

The Presbyterian process of calling a pastor can lead to many questions like “what has the committee been doing, what’s taking so long!”

After the committee (Anne Barnette, Ellen Brown, Jennye Guy, Sarah Brownlee, Michael Perez and Greg Morton, plus myself) was elected last fall, our first piece of work was taking your feedback through listening sessions to create our Church Information Form (or CIF) – approved by the Session and the Presbytery on Feb. 15. The information from the listening sessions remains a constant resource for us as we consider candidates.

Since we posted our CIF on the Leadership Connection website through the Presbyterian Church (USA) website, it’s been viewed over 1,000 times. We have received Pastor Information Forms (PIFs, essentially both a resume and an application) through the website and directly to the PNC. The committee does not rely only on people approaching us; we actively reach out to those who’ve been recommended. We have consulted with friends of this congregation, as well as knowledgeable and well-respected leaders within our presbytery and denomination, for additional people to consider. We are excited about the level of interest in this call, and the quality of the candidates who are applying.

While we continue to encourage additional PIFs and names from the congregation, we’ve started winnowing the field and requested audio sermons and made visits to churches of potential candidates. In addition, we’ve had preliminary, one-on-one conversations with several candidates. You may have noticed that PNC members have been absent from church several Sundays this summer – and that will continue in the coming weeks. Please continue to keep the PNC in your prayers, both for safety during times of travel and for guidance and direction as we discern God’s will for the future pastor of our congregation.

We are progressing steadily within the average time-frame of a PNC, which is 12-18 months. The committee is dedicated, focused and full of energy in this process. We recognize the low key, quiet process of a PNC can seem rather awkward given the limited amount of information the PNC can provide until the new pastor is called. I can assure you that we are being guided by the spirit – opening every meeting with scripture reading, devotional and prayer – keeping our hearts and minds open to the will of God.

--Martin Dunlap, PNC

## Morningside Milestones

- Don’t forget to get casual! August 1 is Dress-Casual-and-Walk-to-Church Sunday.
- With the world turning digital, snapping and downloading photos has become a breeze. MPC wants to do a better job of capturing, sharing and preserving our photo history. If you’re interested in being part of the photography, editing and archiving team, please let Melinda Sandkam know.
- O happy day! Rejoice with Linda and Art Sweum as they observe their fiftieth wedding anniversary Aug. 20. They plan a trip to Niagara Falls on the Canadian side to celebrate. As Linda’s sister Ann Benson says, “If there were ever two people more suited to one another and soul mates I would have to name them.”
- We extend our thanks and best wishes to our Music Administrator Marcy Meredith who will be leaving us to pursue graduate studies in Florida. Walter and the choir have greatly benefited from your diligence.
- Our newest members, Billy and Anna Palmer and Liz Sommerfeld aren’t alone in joining MPC: they’ve brought among them five new youngsters to our church plus one pending. Welcome to the family!
- We extend our Christian sympathy to families whose loved ones recently joined the Church Eternal: Kathy Bremer’s father Gordon Day, Nathan Burgess’ father Darrell Burgess, Gloria joiner’s sister, Catherine Van Hall, Vickie Hunter’s grandmother and Ann Brady’s cousin.

## Sunday School Kickoff Spotlights World of Children

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 18 or 30 – no matter what day you start school, the end of summer is near. As school begins in Atlanta, students also are heading off to school around the world. Whether at the St. Joseph's Home for Boys in Haiti, Thornwell Home and School in Clinton, SC, or the preschoolers at Our House in Decatur, children from three to 18 are finishing up their summer reading, digging out their backpacks and brushing off their uniforms.

At Morningside, we kick off our Sunday school year on Sunday, Aug. 15, at 9:45 a.m. on the front lawn of the church. There will be a light breakfast and fun activities up until 11 a.m. worship. We will then dedicate the school year during the worship service before heading off to children's worship in our spruced-up classrooms. There is a workday to prepare these rooms on Sunday, Aug. 1, 12:30-2 p.m. Eat dessert first at the ice cream social after worship and then come to Room 001 for a quick sandwich and your assignment. Children are welcome to either help clean or to enjoy the playground. RSVP to Jill Davis at [jsamail@yahoo.com](mailto:jsamail@yahoo.com) so that we know how much food to prepare. Join us for this fun-filled morning that will include singing, Bible stories, games and more.

Children and grown-ups alike will have a chance to connect with students near and far throughout the fall. On Aug. 15, the annual offering for Thornwell Home and School will be taken up during worship. Kids attending mission camp have decorated the offering envelopes, created posters and bulletin inserts and prepared the Minute Message. Thornwell is a Presbyterian outreach serving at least 100 children, toddlers through teens each year. Some stay for only a few months; others grow up at Thornwell. Your generous gifts support many, many basic needs including clothes, food and housing, school supplies and activity fees.

In the weeks leading up to our Haiti Pilgrimage, MPC will be filling suitcases with items for the boys at St. Joseph's. Fifteen MPC members will journey to Port-au-Prince Oct. 9-15 to help the school rebuild from the earthquake. We hope to send along 15 second suitcases, so watch for lists of requested items. We will also learn about many of the boys who call St. Joseph's their home and will be keeping them in our prayers as they grow and learn.

Morningside has been a long-time partner of Our House, a preschool for children facing homelessness. We will once again work with Morningside Presbyterian Preschool to fill a Mitten Tree in the month of October. Also, be sure to put the Our House fundraiser on your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 23. Led by Tara Parrish, many MPC members are working on this year's event.

We're also busy getting ready for another school year with our own children. If you are unable to come help with the Aug. 1 workday, but could help with a special project for an hour in the first weeks of August, contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam. Shepherds are working hard to line up volunteers for each age group. We always strive to grow the lists to cover 12 weeks, so that volunteers are only serving once a quarter. If you could help out once in a while, contact shepherds Heather Regnault (infant child-care), Jennifer James (toddlers/twos), and Robin Hackney (threes, fours and fives). Lele Ruby is moving up with her son to lead the kindergarten-first grade group, while Maggie Adams has said yes to being our first-ever Big Fun shepherd. Caroline Tanner continues with the second/third graders and Carolyn Morton as Youth Programs Chair coordinates volunteers to work with our fourth-seventh graders.

Volunteers for children ages three years through seventh grade will be asked to attend one of two volunteer training opportunities. RSVP to your shepherd for either Sunday, Aug. 22, 12:30-2 p.m. or Wednesday, Aug. 25, 6-7:30, both in Room 201. Lunch or dinner will be provided. It's important for both new and returning volunteers to make one of these dates in order to review safety and curriculum related items. Each session will begin with general information and then move to more age specific orientations.

A great team of writers (Sue Ballay, Gail Kitchens, Georgia Marshall, Emilie Paille and Mardee Rightmyer) have created the 'God Loves Me' curriculum for the preschool kids in the past year. They will continue to prepare ready-to-teach kits for each Sunday. Elementary-age kids will continue with the Presbyterian "We Believe" curriculum. Second/third graders will again have a quarterly activity outside of Sunday mornings, while our older Double Digits will meet monthly for fun, mission and learning. The Double Digits will also continue to attend worship once a month.

## New Service Opportunities Arise from Spring 'Pilgrimage'

Our mission trip to The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC, in spring gave our participants new ideas for service to our community. As a result, Shirley Adair is leading a Bread for the Journey bag-lunch project and Jack Klotz and Lloyd Prince investigated ways to assist older citizens who are able to live in their own homes but have trouble managing simple maintenance and yard work.

Shirley's project will begin after worship Sunday, Aug. 8, in the Fellowship Hall as volunteers fill bags with non-perishable lunch items to be given to the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as they leave the shelter for their day's 'journey.' This mission will continue throughout the year with more ways to help the hungry and homeless.

HOMES ( Home Owner Maintenance and Enhancement for Seniors) coordinates volunteers for in-home repair services. MPC is signed up to work with HOMES Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All tools will be provided.

Helping the elderly with maintenance and upkeep enables people to stay in their homes. Many seniors have fewer opportunities for social contact and enjoy our fellowship as well. All you need do is sign up on the bulletin boards in the hallway at church or you can call Lloyd Prince (404-840-2710) or Jack Klotz (678-428-6255) with questions or to confirm.

## Digital Directory Will Help Us Know Our Pew Neighbors

Your ability to match MPC member names and faces will be enhanced and encouraged this fall as we launch a new digital church directory. The directory will be available in a password-protected section on our church website.

You'll soon have an opportunity to sign up for a five-minute photo sitting after worship on Sept. 12, 19 or 26 in Fellowship Hall. Program Director Melinda Sandkam is seeking volunteers to work behind the cameras on those September Sundays.

## Groups Post Dates for Final Summer Season Events

Despite the weather, the calendar says fall activities start in August, beginning with back-to-school. But MPC's fellowship groups will enjoy one more relaxed month. Here's what's ahead:

- The next MPC Couples date night is Friday, Aug. 13. Plan to meet at dba Barbecue in Virginia-Highlands at 7 p.m.
- Experience one of Atlanta's hidden treasures -- the Starlight Six Drive-in Theater on Moreland Avenue -- with the Young Adults on Saturday, Aug. 14. We'll enjoy a picnic dinner together before the movie starts. More details when the movie schedule is available. To RSVP, contact Lisa Harris at [Lisa.S.Harris@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.S.Harris@gmail.com).
- Rather swim? Members of MPC's Bible class are planning a pool party at the home of Robert

Hicks, a friend of Morningside and a neighbor of Philip Hawkins Saturday, Aug. 14, starting at 4 p.m. At 6:30, share a meal together. Robert lives at 2332 Bry-Mar Drive, Atlanta, 30345, where there is plenty of parking available. Just bring a side dish or dessert to share, your swimsuit, and a towel! RSVP to Philip Hawkins ([ph\\_atlganatv@hotmail.com](mailto:ph_atlganatv@hotmail.com)) so enough of the main dish can be planned.

- How would your life change if you caused a fatal accident? That's the question the main character must face in the novel *Blame* by Michelle Huneven. Come discuss the book with our co-ed RHO Readers on Aug. 15 at 1 p.m. in the Session Room.

## Adults Offered ‘Menu’ for Every Taste for Fall

Look for a new “menu” brochure offering servings of various sizes and flavors to whet your appetite to grow and deepen your faith through study. You can choose “courses” for Sunday mornings or weekdays. In addition to the Bible studies led by our staff, we’ve attracted some specialists in theology, psychology, sociology and other disciplines to teach short-term classes.

Adult studies officially begin Aug. 15, but for Aug. 1, Rev. Chris Henry will report and wrap-up events at the recent PC(USA) General Assembly, our denomination’s biennial conference, and on Aug. 8, the focus will be “Favorite Biblical Books/Passages.” The only adult class on Aug. 15 will feature sociologist Dr. John Brueggeman in Room 201 speaking on topics from his new book, *Free, Rich and Miserable: The Failure of Success in America*.

“A Solitary Man: The Conflicted Life of King David” will be the Bible class study Aug. 22 through Sept. 28.

Topics for the Life of Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century class will be “Working to Live or Living to Work?” on Aug. 22 and “Technology and Us, or Do You Give a Tweet?” on Aug. 29. Both classes begin at 9:45 a.m. The Bible class meets in Room 201 and the Life of Faith discussions will be in the Session Room.

Later in the fall, the Bible class will revisit the prophets. There’ll also be a series on sharing faith with children and another on questions Christians ask, such as “What does baptism really accomplish?” A new feature will be Sunday lunch discussions with Chris about the day’s sermon topic. For Advent, everyone will come together as we relate the Advent story to Handel’s “Messiah” oratorio.

Weekday and evening groups including Theology on Tap, a new Bible and Brunch series and the small group study will resume in September.

## Fall Sermon Series Will Consider ‘Burning Questions’

This fall we’ll consider five of the most pressing questions that contemporary Christians face. The hope is that we might build a stronger and deeper faith, the kind that comes from struggling to understand how God speaks

even in the complex world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The series begins Aug. 15, takes a one-Sunday break over Labor Day weekend, and continues through Sept. 19.

## Presbytery Fall Leadership Event Includes Worship, Workshops

Energetic, wide-ranging and inspiring, our presbytery’s annual fall leadership event offers a day of workshops Saturday, Aug. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church (3003 Howell Mill Rd., 30327). Opening with worship and a dialogue sermon preached by Revs. Sara Hayden and Billy Honor and music provided by the participants attending the choir seminar, morning and afternoon workshops are offered in a wide range of topics.

leadership positions, as well as workshops for personal enrichment-- all will find topics of interest. Cost for this event is \$20 and includes lunch. The registration deadline is Aug. 10, so sign up soon. For more information, go to [www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org](http://www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org) and click on the link to the booklet with further information. There you will find a list of sessions offered, as well as a registration form. For more information, contact Chris Henry.

Sunday school teachers, parents, youth leaders, Bible study leaders, choral members and those in church

### Elders on Call for August

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Jay Myers     | August 1-7            |
| Doug Self     | August 8-14           |
| Arthur Sweum  | August 15-21          |
| Tba           | August 22-28          |
| Chip Edgerton | August 29-September 4 |

### Deacons on Call for August

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Bill Means      | August 1-7            |
| Brenda Fishpaw  | August 8-14           |
| Bill Smith      | August 15-21          |
| Jeanne McCarthy | August 22-28          |
| Betsy Holland   | August 29-September 4 |

## It's Not Too Late— Sign Up to Set Headcount for MPC Fall Retreat

Now's the time to put your name in to attend our second annual retreat to William Black Lodge in Montreat, NC, Nov. 19-21. Final payment isn't due until Oct. 31, but we must arrange for lodging and meals ASAP. Pick up a registration form online or in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Sarah Brownlee, [rsbrownlee1046@att.net](mailto:rsbrownlee1046@att.net).



## August Birthdays

3 Bill Southwood  
4 Julia Jarratt  
5 Shannon Harris  
5 Nancy Coomes  
5 Sandy Jones  
5 Pete Mounts  
6 Lucy Grant  
8 John McNeill  
12 Annie Kimball  
12 Jake Jones  
13 Jennye Guy  
13 Charlie Menefee  
13 Robert Gray  
15 Emma Lawson  
16 Cathy Keaveney  
16 Jackie Cleveland  
17 Katie Davis  
18 Nancy Lane



19 Mimi Bittick  
19 Nick Lazzaro  
20 Caroline Parrish  
22 Shawn Holaway  
22 Bill Means  
22 Sarah Chatel  
24 Bryan Busch  
25 Bonnie Daneker  
26 Nowell Berreth  
27 Debbie Fox  
28 Becky Medearis  
29 Cha Holmes  
29 Randy Parrish  
30 Jill Klotz  
30 Elizabeth Rice  
31 Scott Bremer  
31 Charlsie Woolley  
31 Robin Boren  
31 Dale Ray