



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

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WEB [morningsidepc.org](http://morningsidepc.org)

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## Serving You

### **Reverend Christopher Henry**

Associate Pastor / Acting Head of Staff

404.876.7396 ext. 11

[christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.andrew.henry@gmail.com)

### **Reverend Mary Miller Brueggemann**

Pastoral Assistant 404.876.7396 ext. 14

### **Walter Huff** Organist / Choirmaster

[music@morningsidepc.org](mailto:music@morningsidepc.org)

### **Melinda Sandkam** Program Director

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### **Debbi Loomis** Children's Worship Leader K-1st

[debbiloom@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiloom@yahoo.com)

### **Shavon Starling-Louis** Children's Worship Leader 2nd-3rd

[shavon.starling-louis@students.ctsnet.edu](mailto:shavon.starling-louis@students.ctsnet.edu)

### **Heather Bardole** Children's Worship Leader 4th-7th

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### **Brittney Jaynes** Children's Choir Director, 770.656.3890

### **Anna Best** Office Administrator, 404.876.7396 ext. 10

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### **JoAnn Kearns** Accountant

### **Sarah Tomaka** Preschool Director, 404.685.8758

### **Gus Restrepo** Sexton

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

## December 2010

### Worship at Morningside

December 5, 2010

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "It Matters"

Texts: Romans 13:8-10, Luke 4:16-22

Rev. Christopher Henry preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

December 12, 2010

Third Sunday of Advent

Special Music Sunday

Handel's *Messiah*

(Christmas Portion)

MPC Chancel Choir

December 19, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "There's Method in the Madness"

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Randy Calvo preaching

December 24, 2010

Christmas Eve

4 p.m., Family Friendly Service with

Handbells and Young Liturgists (nursery provided)

8 p.m., Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

(childcare available; doors open at 7:15 p.m.)

December 26, 2010

Sermon: "Blindsided"

Texts: Hebrews 2:10-13; Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

Rev. Kellie Anderson Picallo preaching

## Morningside's Congregation Selects Rev. Baron Mullis

The Rev. Dr. Baron A. Mullis was unanimously approved during a congregational meeting Sunday, Nov. 28, to be receive a call to become Morningside Presbyterian Church's senior pastor and head of staff, effective Jan. 17. He will preach here for the first time Jan. 23.

During the meeting, the congregation also approved the dissolution of MPC's relationship with Assoc. Pastor and Acting Head of Staff Rev. Christopher Henry. Chris leaves us to become senior pastor at Shallowford Presbyterian. We will say goodbye to Chris Sunday, Dec. 5.

Baron comes to us from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, where he currently serves as acting head of staff. One of the highlights of the Pastor Nominating Committee's introduction to our new pastor was a short video during which Baron offered some insight into his theology, his "caring yet decisive" leadership style, and reasons for choosing MPC. You can view the video on our website, [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org).

Baron, a lifelong Presbyterian, originally planned to become an historian. After graduation from the University of North Carolina with a degree in history, he thought he would enter seminary to study church history. Instead, at Princeton Theological Seminary he discovered the many deeper facets of church life. His excellent preaching and other gifts led to his receiving a Lake Fellowship in Parish Ministry. This program helps participants develop their ministerial skills under expert supervision in a large church setting. In Baron's case, Dr. William G. Enright directed his residency at Second Presbyterian in Indianapolis.

Besides hiking and other outdoor activities with his rescue dog Jack, Baron loves to travel. The past two summers he's been in Scotland, first in a pulp-

exchange program at a Glasgow area church and last year on a visit to the Iona Community off the Scottish coast.

One of the things Baron likes most about ministry is the opportunity to "get to know God's people and spend time with them in significant moments in their lives." He was attracted to MPC because of our history and demonstration that we "took worship seriously." He was influenced by the stellar reputations of Joanna Adams and Walter Huff. He says, "Music really is the prayers of the congregation, both sung and offered in worship." During the interview process, Baron met with Chris, Walter and Melinda Sandkam to begin a working relationship.



In May, Baron received his Doctorate in Ministry from Princeton. His dissertation focused on stewardship. Also, while at Trinity, where at different times he was acting head of staff for a total of three years, he was instrumental in establishing and overseeing a school created to serve students with severe learning disabilities. "We all need to be loved, valued and respected.' That is the identity the church must embrace if we are to carry the good news of Jesus Christ into this century, because at the end of the day it's not about whether we got our doctrine right or wrapped our heads around Trinitarian theology. It's about whether we express love, respect and value for God's creations."

The final order of business for the congregational meeting was to dismiss the PNC with thanks—expressed in a hearty round of applause for the work of Martin Dunlap, chair, and Anne Barnette, Ellen Brown, Sarah Brownlee, Jennye Guy, Greg Morton and Michael Perez.

## Morningside Greets New Pastor with New Officers

We the people have spoken, electing new elders and deacons, as well as congregational members of next year's Officer Nominating Committee: Ellen Brown, Bill Means and Leslie Prince.

The Class of 2013 on our diaconate, which works to help new members become more engaged with MPC, are Anna Garcia, a commercial banker at BB&T and wife of Miguel; Jill Jones Klotz is in Handbell Choir with husband Jack and was on our church retreat committee; Link Marx, life-long Presbyterian and patriarch of the Morton family; and Duncan Spears, who attends with his wife Rachel and two daughters and co-owns Eumeanean Construction.

Our new group of elders includes Sue Ballay, who is filling the vacancy of Mardee Rightmyer in the Class of 2011. She's married to Joe and is well-known as the storyteller for preschool Sunday school and on the team that wrote preschool Sunday curriculum. The Class of 2013 includes Mary Chapman, a landscape

architect who has had a large influence on the design of MPC's grounds; Tony Fishpaw who shepherds our involvement with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries with partner Kent Balch; Shannon Harris, a software developer who is an MPC greeter and has been on mission trips with wife Lisa; Brad Odom, who just completed a term as deacon combines leading mission trips to D.C. and Haiti with being district sales manager for West Elm Furniture; Daisy Ottmann, who helps with the church's communications activities; and Randy Parrish, whose family includes wife Tara and two daughters and who has served as our church treasurer for the past eight years.

"Graduating" from the Session after their three-year terms are Chip Edgerton, Carolyn Morton, Leslie Prince, Bill Southwood and David Wingert. Retiring as deacons are Nancy Collins, David Fairleigh, James Klotz and Brad Odom. We thank these MPCers for their dedicated service.

## Morningside Milestones

- We offer our congratulations to Tish and Charles Woolley on the birth of their son Daniel Ryder on November 20. Big sister is Lily Brooks, and grandmother is Charlsie Woolley.
- What a bountiful harvest of babies! We rejoiced in the baptisms Nov. 14 of Nathan Lucas Dowd (son of Robert and Laetitia), Oliver James Loring (son of Jason and Julie) and the twins Jackson Gregory and Addison Carol Shreiber (son and daughter of Fred and Becky).
- We offer congratulations to Dr. Mardee Rightmyer who has accepted the position of Christian education director at Eastminster Presbyterian in Stone Mountain. Unfortunately for us, her new duties necessitated her resignation from Session and will make sightings of her scarce on Sunday mornings here, but she will continue as a member of MPC.
- Our faithful and diligent Clerk of Session, Ruthlyn Newell, is taking a sabbatical to stay at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for radiation therapy treatment. She'll be back with us in mid-January. Our prayers go with her.
- We extend our Christian sympathies to the Wingert family on the death of Sheryl's stepmother Nancy Koch and to the James family on the death of Will's father William.
- The Rev. Sara Hayden will be pulling up stakes along with her husband Chris Henry, moving her office of new church development from MPC to the Presbytery office. We'll miss her, too!
- Member Carol Senf's new book, *Bram Stoker*, will be published this month by the University of Wales Press as the first in its series "Gothic Authors: Critical Revisions." Stoker, who is known for *Dracula*, also wrote a number of short stories, novels, and essays, many of them not Gothic. Carol teaches literature at Georgia Tech and was recently spotted on CNN talking about the current young-adult fascination with vampires.

## Weitnauer, Special Guests Will Lead During Transition

Advent and Christmas, already a time of anticipation and celebration throughout the Christian world, will be even more exciting this season at MPC as we await the installation of Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis.



The Rev. Dr. David Weitnauer will act as moderator of our Session during the transition, and will serve as liturgist and communion celebrant on January 2. Many Morningsiders will remember that Rev. Weitnauer served as Parish Associate here from 2004 to 2006 and had a counseling office here before that.

He's been president of The R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation since 2007. The Dobbs Foundation builds on the legacy of its founder by supporting educational opportunities, improving access to health services, and promoting environmental stewardship. Before that, David served as director and then executive director of the Rockdale Foundation from 1998 to 2007. The Rockdale Foundation's mission is two-fold. Internationally, Rockdale seeks to strengthen microfinance in the Arab world in an effort to support the millions of Arab micro-entrepreneurs who live on less than \$2 a day by offering access to affordable credit. Locally, the Foundation supports the reform of the Atlanta Public Schools.

A graduate of Davidson College, David holds a doctorate

of theology and a master of divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister. In addition to serving in pastoral positions at several Presbyterian congregations, he was a pastoral counselor at the Georgia Association for Pastoral Care from 1990 to 2000. Weitnauer also serves as a trustee of Agnes Scott College, Columbia Theological Seminary and the Southeastern Council of Foundations.

As for worship leadership, after Chris Henry's final sermon and celebration on Dec. 5, we can look forward to our special music Sunday Dec. 12 (see back page for details). Then on Dec. 19 we'll host the Rev. Randy Calvo, director of alumni/ae and church relations, Columbia Theological Seminary and former pastor of Northwest Presbyterian Church, 1997-2007 (where Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann served as Parish Associate) and McDonough Presbyterian Church, 1981-1997.

On Dec. 26, we'll welcome home the Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo, associate for media and education, Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City, and Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, Queens, NY. Kellie is also the daughter of Andy and Nancy Anderson and a daughter of Morningside Presbyterian Church. That Sunday we'll also bid farewell to Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann, our pastoral assistant this past year. Mary has been a vital part of our community leading liturgy, working with the deacons, connecting through pastoral care and working with the Discipleship

## *Adult Education in Advent Focuses on Handel's 'Messiah'*

In December, adults at Morningside Presbyterian church will study the Christmas portion of Handel's 'Messiah' oratorio, led by Elizabeth Rice. Liz has spent her life both teaching music, and singing professionally. Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann will co-lead.

This class will focus both on Handel's music as well as the Biblical texts that make up the libretto. What a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas! Come and join us in Room 201 Sunday mornings at 9:45.

## 'Bible and Brunch' Closes Year with Psalms

Dec. 16 is the last of the Bible and Brunch dates for the year. Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann will lead the group as we study two psalms that are quite different. Psalm 88 is a psalm of lament and not often used in worship. And we will look at Psalm 46 which is familiar and is used in worship in many different settings.

## Shopping Opportunities for You, Our Mission Community

Face it, you still have a lot of shopping to do for special meals and special gifts. Knock out some of your holiday shopping while supporting outreach at MPC. Buy a Morningside cookbook \$10 wrapped in festive dishtowels and ribbons by the elementary age kids who bought these special additions with their offering, or buy Christmas cards for \$15 featuring our sanctuary during a candlelight service.

A wide variety from stocking stuffers in holiday themes to creative jewelry to unique pottery pieces, baked goodies and even paintings form part of the Morningside Made Holiday Show and Sale. We'll be staffing the tables in Fellowship Hall Friday, Dec. 3, from 12:30 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, 12-4 p.m. Friday only, the choices will include custom silver keepsakes from Forever Impressions featuring your child's finger or thumbprints in items ranging from charms to golf tees to ornaments. Orders placed Friday will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Artists are donating 10-100% of their proceeds to Morningside Presbyterian Preschool.

And while you're grocery shopping, please note that Atlanta Community Food Bank has brought the Morningside Presbyterian Church community four large canisters to fill by Sunday, Dec. 12. Our hungry and less-fortunate Atlantans need peanut butter, canned tuna or chicken, beans, soups, stews, pastas, 100 percent fruit juice, macaroni and cheese and whole grain, low sugar cereals.

MPC continues to strengthen its partnership with Intown Collaborative Ministries, serving the hungry and homeless in our community. Shepherds Nancy Collins and Becky Carlisle have details on how you can assist. In 2011, we'll do quarterly collections and then work in the food pantry on a Saturday morning. Our next collection begins Sunday, Dec. 26, and our first sort date will be Jan 8. Sign up to help sort and bring in items such as canned meats, vegetables and various pop-top items.

## *Help MPC Offer Hospitality to Our Holiday Guests*

Free Holiday Babysitting, an outreach to our preschool community as well as our own young parents, returns Monday evening, Dec. 6. We need volunteers to assist with the children. Contact Doug Self today to sign up to help from 4:40-8:15 p.m.

On Dec. 12, our annual Christmas Music service always draws a large crowd both from our membership as well as many visitors. As part of our Evangelism Ministry, we'll offer shuttle rides from offsite parking to the church due to the increased traffic. To do so, we need volunteers to drive and others to direct parking. If you cannot participate yourself but can offer your automobile, we'd be grateful. Doug Self ([doug@jdouglasliving.com](mailto:doug@jdouglasliving.com)) is your contact for this outreach, too.

## Groups Announce December Plans

A timely topic for the Men of Morningside is "The Men of the Pastor Nominating Committee." Talk with the guys who formed part of the search committee after supper at the home of Philip Hawkins (4291 Briarcliff Rd., 30345). The evening starts at 7 p.m.

Friday evening Dec. 10, the MPC Couples Group will celebrate the season at the home of Pat and Jim Antenucci (5420 Trentham Ct., Dunwoody 30338). RSVP to Kathy Bremer ([kdbremer@bellsouth.net](mailto:kdbremer@bellsouth.net)).

On Saturday evening, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. Leslie and Lloyd Prince will welcome the Young Adults to their home (91 Lakeview Dr., 30317) for the annual Young

Adults' Christmas Party. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and bring a \$10 gift, if you would like to participate in the White Elephant Exchange. The Princes will provide heavy hors d'oeuvres, and guests are invited to bring a beverage or dessert item. RSVP to Leslie at [qccleslie@aol.com](mailto:qccleslie@aol.com).

Want to learn more about what's in the Bible—plus form a deeper connection with fellow members? The Small Group Bible Study takes an hour on alternate Wednesdays to learn and socialize at someone's home. Dec. 1 and 15 the topic will be Jesus' birth narrative from the Gospel of Luke. Contact Link Marx ([fmarx25@yahoo.com](mailto:fmarx25@yahoo.com)) to learn more.

## MPC's Advent, Christmas Abound with Worship, Good Cheer

Advent began Nov. 28 and you can already see traces of the season of anticipation around the church. For those of you who like to decorate, the next workday will be Dec. 2, with the final touches put up Dec. 10. If you'd like to help, be in touch with Georgia Marshall ([gkmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:gkmarshall@gmail.com)). Of course, you also can contribute to the floral fund to honor a loved one.

With Dec. 5 being Rev. Chris Henry's last day, the second-through-seventh-grade ice skating outing has moved to Dec. 12. All our young skaters should bring a sack lunch and \$10 to enjoy the ice rink at Centennial Park from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Contact Children's Worship Leaders Shavon Starling-Louis and Heather Bardole to RSVP (and also to volunteer as a driver and chaperone). That same evening, the children's choir families will prepare and serve dinner for the men at the Druid Hills Night Shelter. After joining them for dinner and fellowship, the children will then wish them a blessed Christmas in song. Contact Choir Mom Tamara Nix to participate.

We'll also be saying goodbye to Children's Choir Director Brittney Jaynes the evening of Dec. 12 as she finishes her year and a half with us. Brittney has accepted the position of Associate Director of Music and Director of Youth Choirs at Snellville United Methodist Church. This job carries even more responsibility and experience for Brittney, who has done an impressive job with our two children's choirs and will be very much missed here.

What's new at Christmas? Well, in our pageant we've added three camels, two doves in the rafters and a cow in the stable. We also have some great new backstage helpers as some of our Double Digits join the production crew. But, we will still be sharing the most precious story of all - the birth of the baby Jesus - and singing our favorite Christmas hymns. So, bring your family and friends and join in this Morning-side tradition on Sunday evening, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A soup and chili dinner is served afterwards and then we conclude the evening with caroling led by Walter Huff. Once again, we're collect-

ing coats, gloves, scarves, hats and slippers for the women at the Shearith Israel Shelter. Bring your donated items to the Christmas Pageant/Carol Sing.

And then Christmas itself. For the second year, we'll present an early Christmas Eve service designed for families and featuring our kids as liturgists and musicians, along with the Morningside Handbell Choir. The service begins at 4 p.m. and nursery care will be provided in Room 105. The nursery also will be open during our much-loved traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, beginning at 8 p.m. Christmas Eve, and showcasing Walter Huff and the Chancel Choir.

### December Birthdays

1 Richard Blanchard	13 Tony Menefee
1 Melissa Lawson	13 Linda Sweum
1 Becky Graham	13 Tom Tomaka
1 Olivia Hunter	14 Larry Strickland
2 Cathie Gay	17 Philip Regnault
2 Eleanor Peebles	19 Ellen O'Connor
3 Dawn Bell	20 David Ecton
4 Angie Keller	20 Shannon Lazzaro
6 Tamara Nix	21 Tami Giusto
6 Ted McMahan	22 Margot Bittick
8 Baker Hubbard	23 Ali Howell
9 Derek Matthews	23 Doug Self
10 Caitlin Hudgins	25 Nicholas Lazzaro
10 Taylor Marshall	27 Nancy Anderson
11 Lance Jackson	29 Ken Pramik
11 Wendy Godfrey	30 Eleanor Attwood
12 Sharon Pace	30 Billy Palmer
	30 Annie McNeill



### Elders on Call for December

Doug Self	December 5-11
Art Sweum	December 12-18
Leslie Prince	December 19-25
David Wingert	December 26-January 1

### Deacons on Call for December

Jeanne McCarthy	December 5-11
Bill Smith	December 12-18
Bradley Odom	December 19-25
Brenda Fishpaw	December 26-January 1

# CELEBRATING CHRIS HENRY



See definition 1: Chris welcomed everyone, big and small, to our church.

**Christopher • Andrew • Henry** (*American Midwest*) *person. pl. none*; there is no one like him. 1. Pastor. 2. Preacher. 3. Scholar and theologian. 4. President of Paul’s fan club. 5. Teacher. 6. Leader. 7. Friend. 8. Recipient of love and appreciation from Morningside Presbyterian Church. (adapted from a declaration created by Ruthlyn Newell for the Adult Bible Study Class.)



See definition 2: Along with Pastoral Assistant Mary Miller Brueggemann, Chris led worship services that were joyous, meaningful and thought-provoking.



See definition 4: We’ve studied the prophets and the gospels, but anyone who’s attended one of Chris’ classes knows where his heart lies.

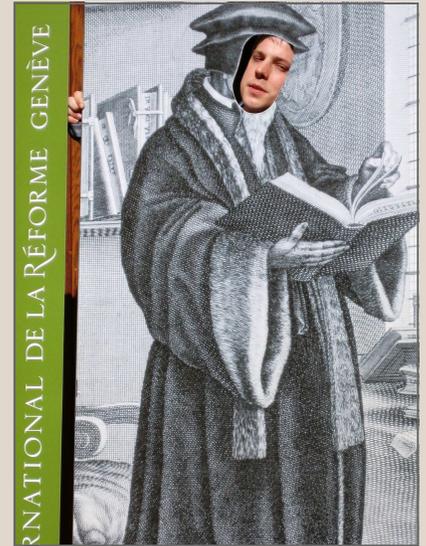


See definition 6: He's revitalized many of our smaller groups, including the Young Adults and the Men of Morningside.

See definition 7: And yet, Chris always seems to have time to share a few moments.



See definition 8: Since April of 2004, Morningside Presbyterian Church has enjoyed the privilege of knowing this remarkable young man as he has transitioned from seminarian to associate pastor to head of staff, from bachelor to newlywed to married man, from 'who's that kid?' to one of Atlanta's better-known Presbyterian ministers. We know the years have many wonderful things in store for Chris and Sara as they leave us to continue to grow their ministries. God speed!



See definition 3: Chris tries on John Calvin's mantle at the International Museum of the Reformation on our church trip to Paris and Geneva.



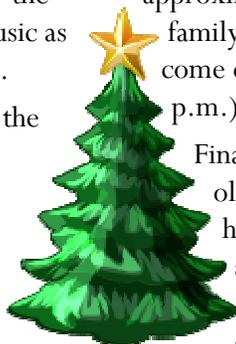
See definition 5: Yes, but Chris is always a student, too. In fact, once in a while he gets 'schooled,' we hear.

## Morningside's Musical Tradition Lifts Songs of Season

You've been waiting for this since last Christmas—the anticipation and glory of Advent and Christmas music as presented at MPC. Here is the complete schedule.

Our Cherub and Treble Choirs will combine with the Chancel Choir in an arrangement of the carol “Do You Hear What I Hear?” during morning worship Sunday, Dec. 5. The Trebles also will perform “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Grant Us Peace), an arrangement based on Pachelbel's “Canon in D.” The Chancel Choir will present a contemporary carol arranged by The King's Singers and selections by Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

Sunday, Dec. 12, will be our annual Special Music Sunday. The MPC Chancel Choir and guest soloists present selections from G.F. Handel's “Messiah” (Christmas Portion). This will serve as the main content of the worship service, with favorites such as “Comfort Ye/Every Valley,” “O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings,” and “For Unto Us a Child is Born.” We present this Handel masterpiece



approximately every five years at MPC. Be sure to invite family and friends. (If you can't sing like our choir, come carol after the Christmas Pageant, Dec. 19, 5 p.m.)

Finally, our Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols returns on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m.—a favorite holiday worship event attended by many from around the city and beyond. Our Chancel Choir, choir alumni, and guest soloists/instrumentalists combine to offer an evening rich with variety, drama, and the beauty of our sanctuary in full candlelight. Musical selections include anthems and solos from the classical literature, carol arrangements, spirituals, and more. If you've never experienced this great Atlanta Christmas Eve tradition, bring those family members from out of town and lift your heart with this beautiful service. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m. and childcare will be available. (A special family-friendly service will be held at 4 p.m.)