



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Serving You

Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis
Pastor Elect

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

January 2011 Worship at Morningside

January 2, 2011

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Sermon: "Grace Upon Grace"

Texts: Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:1-18

Betsy Turner preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

January 9, 2011

Baptism of the Lord

Sermon: "The Wonder of It All"

Texts: Psalm 8; Proverbs 30:18-19;

1 Corinthians 3:16-4:2

Bill Brown preaching

January 16, 2011

Sermon: "A Miracle?"

Text: John 2:1-11

Mary Jane Cornell preaching

January 23, 2011

Sermon: "God is Greater than Our Hearts"

Texts: 1 John 3:18-24; Deuteronomy 6:20-25

Baron Mullis preaching

January 30, 2011

Sermon: "The Essentials"

Texts: Matthew 5:1-12; Micah 6:1-8

Baron Mullis preaching

Dear Friends,

I am generally a pretty confident guy, but there is something about composing my first letter to the Morningside Congregation that has rendered me almost incapable of writing. A new pastor wants his or her first words to be somehow profound – to set a tone for what is to come, or at least to justify the nominating committee's recommendation – and the enormity of that task can render even the most glib preacher mute!



So, in order to break the impasse that is the three deleted paragraphs I've already written, let's start with a definition of our work together pulled out of an old aphorism attributed to H.L. Mencken, "Our responsibility is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." The first time I quoted that in an academic setting, my professor teased me saying, "that's just Johnny Cash theology." I take his point. It is simple to be sure, and there are many nuances and shades to faith that rightfully demand we take a closer look, but at the end of the day, is it not what Jesus suggested we be about?

Your pastor nominating committee didn't use those words, but that is pretty much how they described the work that Morningside is about. As they told me about you, they described for me all of the things you do, all of the work you put into giving the gospel legs and hands, and they described for me how you care for one another, and challenge each other to strive for great things. I can't wait to be with you and to strive alongside you.

You and I are living with a lot of promise right now. I've heard many of the good things you're doing and the promise that you hold for the future, and I know you've heard about what I've done through the years and what I hope to see as well. Our challenge in the months and years ahead is to take all of that promise and turn it into reality so that we're providing comfort to ourselves and to others and always striving for Christ's kingdom.

What a challenge... I am looking forward to sharing it with you!

Shalom,

Baron Mullis

Chris Henry Expresses Thanks to MPC

*"I thank my God every time I remember you..." These words from the Apostle Paul have been echoing in my head this week as I reflect on Dec. 5's meaningful worship and joyful celebration of our time together. The musical "surprise" at the close of the service has been ringing my ears since Timothy Miller greeted me in the back of the Sanctuary. It was truly a treasured moment. I was (and am!) astounded by the Michelle Manuel painting, a gift that will be with me for a lifetime, giving constant witness to our deep connection to one another and to people of faith all over God's world. It is the **perfect** gift. I have been humbled by your cards, notes, and by the memories and words shared at the potluck luncheon. My appreciation for the opportunities Morningside has given me is limitless. I have been privileged to serve alongside you, from the day that Joanna Adams and Carolyn Morton came to interview me at Columbia Seminary to the final celebration. As I said in the sermon that day, I could never have guessed that I would have the chance to be mentored by Joanna, to serve with you all for five and a half years, to be inspired, challenged, called and changed in such profound ways by this community. I am truly grateful.*

Elders on Call for January

Randy Parrish	January 2-8
Sarah Beth Gehl	January 9-15
Bobbie McCrackin	January 16-22
Mary Chapman	January 23-29
David Wingert	January 30-February 5

Deacons on Call for January

Betsy Holland	January 2-8
Jeanne McCarthy	January 9-15
Link Marx	January 16-22
Bill Means	January 23-29
Anna Garcia	January 30-February 5

Transition Team Refocuses Mission as MPC Greet new Pastor

Back in October of 2009, anticipating Joanna's retirement and Chris' role as acting head of staff, the MPC Session appointed a transition team to help the church manage well through these transitions and prepare for a new Senior Pastor.

The Transition Team's new mandate is to guide Morningside's transition to a future in which we realize our next level of possibilities, growth and discipleship. The Team is charged with helping MPC welcome Rev. Mullis and facilitating his transition into the Morningside and Atlanta communities.

With the addition of the PNC members, the Transition Team is now 15 members strong:

Anne Barnette, Kathy Bremer, Ellen Brown, Sarah Brownlee, Martin Dunlap, Anna Garcia, Sarah Beth Gehl, Jennye Guy, Philip Hawkins, Bill Humphries, Ruthlyn Newell, Brad Odom, Michael Perez, Leslie Prince and John Watson.

The Transition Team is charged with:

- Creating a transition plan that includes timely introductions to Morningside's leadership bodies, choir and other groups, including community leaders and entities outside the church.
- Developing a communications plan.

- Partnering with Worship and other MPC ministries on the February installation ceremony and related events.
- Serving as an ongoing sounding board for Rev. Mullis.
- Staying closely attuned to the ideas, concerns and needs of MPC members.

Even as we transition to an exciting future, much remains constant and strong at our Church. As Morningside members, we have so much to be grateful for--remarkable spiritual leadership (past, present, future), worship that is uplifting and challenging, and the strength, love and authenticity of our congregation.

We are in a time of transition and new possibilities. The Transition Team looks forward to serving our new Senior Pastor and Morningside community, in ways that are thoughtful, responsive, positive and energizing. Please let us know what's on your mind—ideas, concerns, needs. Our mission is to help everyone in our community make a joyous transition to the exciting future God intends for Morningside Presbyterian Church.

-- Kathy Bremer

Morningside Milestones

- Morningside continues to grow! In November, we welcomed the birth of Daniel Ryder Woolley to Tish and Charles (and grandmother Charlsie) and our newest members, Amanda and Chris Lewis, Tim Holbrook, Monirah and Gary Womack, and Jeff Raines. Our next new member Sunday is tentatively set for Feb. 13 and a number of visitors have already expressed interest in joining our church family.
- Thanks to the Christmas shoppers who visited the Morningside Made Holiday show and Sale, a total of \$543 was donated to Morningside Presbyterian Preschool. Our crafty crafters will be back for the Spring Fling and are planning an expanded—and earlier!—holiday sale.

New Year Will Open with a Bang, Bang, Bang

Don't let the cold and damp rust your construction skills—or stop you from learning new ones. We've got a couple of opportunities to hammer out those winter blahs and serve our community. First, sign up to volunteer for the eighth annual Decatur Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project Saturday, Jan. 15. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will work on senior citizens' homes in Decatur, making greatly needed repairs and doing yard work that the elderly homeowners have been unable to afford. The MLK Jr. Service Project is sponsored by the Decatur Preservation Alliance in partnership with the City of Decatur and other organizations.

Specific skills are not necessary, but if you're handy at carpentry, home repair, painting, plumbing, gardening,

MPC Supports Intown Collaborative Ministries

Through Sunday, Jan. 9, MPC is collecting food for the Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM) food pantry. Although we tend to think of our neighborhood as economically comfortable, there are a surprising number of homeless and near-homeless people in ZIP Codes 30306 and 30307. Donations of food items such as canned meats, vegetables and various pop top items will help support these neighbors. ICM continues to serve more and more guests each weekend so needs continue to grow, as well. Please leave your donated items in the baskets in MPC's Welcome Center.

Women's Shelter Needs Good Sleepers, Diners, Shoppers

Every year Morningside provides teams of volunteers to spend the night assisting the resident manager at the Shearith Israel Shelter for Women just around the corner on University Ave. We've adjusted our schedule to cover one long week, from Jan. 8 through Jan. 16. Beginning at 6 p.m., duties include serving a meal prepared by the synagogue's volunteers to the residents, eating and visiting with them, watching TV and such, and yes, sleeping. In the early morning, help serve breakfast and be free to go home by 6:45 a.m.

It's not just sleeping! Eating also offers a way to support the women's shelter. Enjoy SIS Dine-Out Day at Every-

Young Adults Serve at Druid Hills Shelter This Month

The MPC Young Adults will get together to provide a meal for the 30 men of the Druid Hills Night Shelter on Sunday, Jan. 9. We'll meet at Druid Hills at 6:30 p.m. to serve and enjoy a meal with the guests until about 7:30 p.m. We're planning to do a taco meal and need volunteers to bring food and serve, so please contact Lisa Harris (Lisa.S.Harris@gmail.com) if you can help.

etc., please let us know. Jack Klotz and Lloyd Prince are co-shepherds for this project.

Then, for 2011, we will join our six-church team two months earlier than usual to build a Habitat for Humanity home for a deserving family here in Atlanta. Please check your February and March calendars and sign up to help a Saturday or two Feb. 19 through April 2. Contact Shepherd Lynsley Tyler at Lynsley@bellsouth.net with any questions. Also, keep an eye out for a Saturday that we will provide lunch to the 50 volunteers. If you can't hammer nails, then sign up to provide a dish.

For the first time, MPC will staff the ICM food pantry which operates out of Druid Hills Methodist Church at Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff Road, on Jan. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a great way to hit the ground running with our Community Outreach in 2011! We need five or six volunteers. Follow the link to ICM from MPC's website under Mission to learn more or volunteer by emailing Nancy Collins: ncollins0209@gmail.com or calling at 770-842-3959.

body's Pizza (Emory location on N. Decatur) anytime during the day on Monday, Jan. 24. Be sure to tell them you're there to support the shelter, so that a percentage of your meal check will go to the shelter.

Once again, we'll collect \$10 gift cards to stores such as Target or CVS for the 13 women staying at Shearith Israel Shelter for Women. Starting on Sunday, Jan. 16, we will collect cards through Sunday, Feb. 6 so that we can give them to the women for Valentines' Day.

A sign-up sheet for overnight volunteers is on the Mission bulletin board in the hall or contact Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) with questions.

Groups' Plans Include Greeting Baron Mullis

A special visitor will turn up at some of our 'small group' meetings early this year—our new pastor, The Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis. Here are some of the venues where we'll have a chance to chat with Baron:

- One Gray Hair, Wednesday, Jan. 19 at noon in Fellowship Hall. We will NOT eat haggis but we will celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns. Our resident Burns expert, Rev. Robert Gray, will bring our program. RSVP to the Brownlees at rsbrownlee1046@att.net please.
- Chancel Choir, Wednesday, Jan. 19. Baron will drop by rehearsal to meet our fabulous musicians.
- Women's Roundtable, Monday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lynn Young ((277 The Prado

NE, 30309), where Baron will be the featured speaker. Contact the church office to RSVP.

- Theology on Tap, Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Greg Morton's (2973 W. Roxboro Rd. NE, 30324). Baron again will be the speaker and the church office is taking reservations. The men will not meet in January due to the holiday.

Sunday, Feb. 6, we will gather after worship in Fellowship Hall for our first congregational lunch of the year. RSVP to church office by Tuesday, Feb. 1 so that we plan the proper amount of food. It's another opportunity to sit at table with our new Senior Pastor! Suggested donation is \$10. Contact Brad Odom at jbradleyodom@gmail.com to volunteer to help with set up, serving or clean up.

Tai Chi Classes to Resume Jan. 12

Stretch out those winter-tight muscles, improve your balance and calm your mind by studying the ancient Chinese art of tai chi. Practice and instruction sessions led by Bob Wells and Doris Williams will meet in Fellowship Hall at 2 p.m. for 10 Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 12. Emphasis will be on mastering the 24 Forms.

For further info or to sign up contact Barbara Ray (barbray@mindspring.com or 404 876.7892). Tuition is \$50 for 10 classes.

Book Group Begins Year 'Cutting for Stone'

Abraham Verghese' novel of conjoined Ethiopian twins, *Cutting for Stone*, is the RHO Readers' first selection for 2011. The eclectic, coed book group meets in the Session Room at 1 p.m. the third Sunday of the month, this time on Jan. 16. Afterwards, the group will go to a nearby Ethiopian restaurant for a late lunch.

The group began an informal collection called "Pennies for Pages" in 2010 and was able to donate \$125 to the

book fund of the Global Village School in Decatur, which works to educate young female refugees from many lands. You're invited to drop in for any or all of the book discussions. A complete list of past and future selections is on the MPC website (go to RHO Readers under the Fellowship tab). To learn more, contact Daisy Ottmann (dazette@bellsouth.net or 404 812.9725).

Join Other Presbyterians for Events Celebrating Growth, Social Action

As MPC continues to support the New Church Development Ministry of our Presbytery, we look forward to the second annual dinner and worship event on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian. We are pleased to once again sponsor a table. Contact Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) by Jan. 26, if you would like one of the 10 seats at the Morningside table.

Plan to join Presbyterians from around the region as we engage with state leaders on important issues like immigration, health care reform, and the budget at the 2011 Presbyterian Day at the Capitol. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 10 at Central Presbyterian Church, across from the capitol. Look for more details and registration in the coming weeks.

Your Session at Work: December 20 Meeting

Session reviewed and reported on the work of all the ministry teams during a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons and newly elected officers, including the fact that we ended the year with 470 members. However, one main purpose of the meeting was to examine the incoming elders and deacons—who were unanimously approved after sharing their favorite biblical passages, interest in Reform Theology and knowledge of church governance, and who will be installed during worship Jan. 2.

The other important action was to approve a budget for 2011. Stewardship chair **Tom Daniel**, Finance team leader **Bobbie McCrackin** and Treasurer **Randy Parrish** presented overviews of our current position. End-of-year contributions brought MPC close to meeting our 2010 financial goals, despite unexpected overruns, especially for property emergencies. Pledges for 2010 fell short of reaching our projected need, even though the total grew by 12 percent over 2010.

As a result, all the ministry teams revisited their individual budgets and offered revisions where possible. For example, newspaper advertising will only support special events, rather than running weekly. Other expenses will be moved “off budget”—using designated funds to support activities that fall into those categories. Examples would be using money donated for Children and Youth Ministries to pay for a seminary intern for kids’ programs and earmarking funds from the Ogram Building Trust for property emergencies. Randy pointed out that while these expedients will allow the church to reach a balanced budget for 2011, we won’t be able to continue this kind of “off-budget” financing for 2012.

In addition, due to unpaid pledges for the *A Time of Promise* capital campaign, Session voted to extend our loans from 10 to 20 years, adding the \$148,000 pledged but not received to the total. The new loan will increase our overall indebtedness and amount of debt service we pay annually. All these considerations will affect our stewardship campaign for 2012.



Elders & deacons send greetings to our Clerk of Session Ruthlyn Newell & say goodbye to the old year & pray we all enjoy a peaceful, happy, & joyous year in 2011

January Birthdays

- 1 Juarlyn Gaitor
- 1 Dale Glendening
- 2 James Klotz
- 3 Joan Long
- 3 Jack McNeill
- 4 Kim Perez
- 4 Meghan Keller
- 4 Jack Klotz

- 5 Ellen Behm
- 6 Suzanne Walker
- 8 Lynn Young
- 9 Ashley Filip
- 10 Shari Tant
- 10 Betsy Holland
- 11 Amelia Smith
- 12 Monirah Womack
- 12 Jane Stack

- 12 John Watson
- 12 Carolyn Morton
- 13 Laura Smith
- 14 Lynn Daniel
- 14 Michael Lampe
- 15 Jim McKelvey
- 19 Tish Woolley
- 20 Christen Anderson
- 20 Jim Caudill

- 20 Jeanne McCarthy
- 21 Nick Bellmann
- 24 Jimmy Cleveland
- 24 Polly Parker
- 28 Melanie McKelvey
- 28 Tim Gargis
- 29 Ashley Myers
- 29 Emily Healy

Confession Study to Prepare for Presbytery Action

Vivid history and crises in church history led to the writing of “confessions,” statements of belief. In February, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will vote on whether to add the Belhar Confession to the Book of Confessions, part of our denomination’s constitution. What are confessions and what do they mean for us as a church?

Join Jack and James Klotz and the Morningside Bible Class on a journey titled “*I Confess! What We Say It Means to be Presbyterian.*” The class meets Sundays in January at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201, and all are welcome. The class will see how scriptural passages inform each of the 11 confessions Presbyterians have accepted to date, then explore what each confession says about the essential tenets of the faith

and how they inform our discussion of current controversial issues that Presbyterians face.

For example, what does it mean to confess “Jesus is Lord”? What were some of the controversies and intrigues behind the early Church’s drafting of the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds? What did Jesus mean by “this is my body” and “do this in remembrance of me”? Why do some Christians baptize infants and some do not? One man’s attempts to answer these questions at the very real risk to his life lie at the heart of the Heidelberg Catechism and the Second Helvetic Confession. Come find out how as we learn about these ageless yet timely texts.

Big Fun Comes Back in January

Kindergarteners through third graders are invited to a Big Fun day where we will explore baptism, complete a mission project and enjoy lunch together. Our Double Digits in grades four through seven are invited to be junior leaders. Contact Melinda Sandkam today if you could prepare lunch for 20 or could volunteer with kids on Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP your child’s attendance to Maggie Adams at magadams@gmail.com by Tuesday, Jan. 18.