



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

TEL 404.876.7396
WEB morningsidepc.org

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Serving You

Dr. Baron Mullis *Pastor*

404.876.7396 ext. 11

baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org

Walter Huff *Organist/Choirmaster*

music@morningsidepc.org

Robert Gray *Assistant to the Minister*

Melinda Sandkam *Program Director*

404.876.7396 ext. 15

msandkam@morningsidepc.org

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

debbiloom@yahoo.com

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

shavon.starling-louis@students.ctsnet.edu

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

hfbardole@gmail.com

Anna Best *Office Administrator*, 404.876.7396 ext. 10

office@morningsidepc.org

J. Daniel Altman, *Music Administrator*

music@morningsidepc.org

Ann Benson *Office Assistant / Wedding Coordinator*

404.876.7396 ext. 20

abenson@morningsidepc.org

Randy Young *Facilities Manager*, 404.876.7396 ext. 13

randyyoung@morningsidepc.org

JoAnn Kearns *Accountant*

kearnsja@gmail.com

Sarah Tomaka *Preschool Director*, 404.685.8758

mpp@morningsidepc.org

Gus Restrepo *Sexton*

April 2011

Worship at Morningside

April 3, 2011

Sermon: "Knowing and Being Known"

Texts: John 4:5-29; Romans 5:1-11

Baron Mullis preaching

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

April 10, 2011

Sermon: "If You Had Been Here..."

Texts: John 11:1-45

Baron Mullis preaching

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

Congregational Meeting following worship

April 17, 2011

Palm Sunday

Sermon: "Keeping the Night Watch"

Texts: Matthew 26:14-16, 36-46; Philippians 2:5-11

Baron Mullis preaching

April 21, 2011

Maundy Thursday

Sermon: "Betrayal"

Texts: John 13:21-32

Baron Mullis preaching

April 24, 2011

Easter

Sermon: "Redemption"

Texts: John 20:1-18

Baron Mullis preaching

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received

Dear Friends,

I have a colleague who is very fond of declaring that even though February is only 28 days long, she is pretty sure that it lasts six weeks.



I know that Lent is only 40 days long (we don't count the Sundays, because the Lord's Day is always a witness to the resurrection) but there are times when I am sure Lent is at least 10 weeks long!

By the time this reaches your home, or your computer, we will have been in Lent for a few weeks. If you've chosen to embrace a discipline such as fasting, it might be wearing on a bit now. If you gave up chocolate or swearing, you might be getting cranky from the lack of cocoa solids in your diet and the money you've placed in the cuss-jar each time you forgot and let one slip might be enough to purchase a small car. Perhaps you embraced a discipline of adding a spiritual practice to your daily life, such as reading scripture daily and meditating on its meaning, or carving out five minutes at a set time each day to pray for things that need praying for, and it might be losing its impact.

Regardless of which, right about the time that Lent is starting to wear on is the minute we need to think about why we observe Lent in the first place. Lent is a season of thinking. It is a season of penitence, of examining our lives and considering our discipleship. It is the time when we take pause from all of the busyness we allow to push us this way and that to remember what discipleship is. Discipleship is the day out, day in practice of following Jesus. Lent is the time we use to take assessment of how we are doing. It's a worthwhile activity.

So, as Lent wears on, as we get more and more anxious for Easter's coming, take a minute, take ten minutes, and think about what it means to follow Jesus. Because there's a week coming when we will be invited to follow him right to the foot of the cross.

Will our disciplines have prepared us?

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Baum".

'Christianity and the Arts'

Discussion Features

Brad Sherrill

Sunday, Apr. 3, we welcome actor Brad Sherrill to speak on "Christianity and Theater" during the 9:45 a.m. adult Sunday class in Room 201. Brad created the one-man performance of 'The Gospel of John' and also 'The Prophets' which he shares with audiences around the world. MPC has hosted two performances of 'The Gospel of John' and Brad joins us for a face-to-face discussion of how he brings these stories from scripture to the stage.

On Apr. 10, we will look at "Christianity and Music" - leader to be announced. And on our final Sunday in this series, Apr. 17, Dr. Carol Senf, MPC member and professor of literature, communication and culture at Georgia Tech will lead us in our exploration of John Donne's Holy Sonnets as we look at "Christianity and Poetry." You can read the sonnets and perhaps also look at "The Cross," "Resurrection, Imperfect" and "Good-Friday, 1613, Riding Westward" all at this site: <http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/donne/donnebib.htm>.

Bible and Brunch Continues Field Trips



In April, all are invited to attend the Bible & Brunch outing on Thursday, April 21, 10-11:30 a.m. We will be visiting The Temple on Peachtree Street for a tour. RSVP to the church office. Plan for a 9:40 departure from MPC or meet at The Temple at 10 a.m. Childcare is provided at MPC from 9:30-11:45 a.m. Those who are interested will go to lunch after the tour.

Youth Need Your Help to go to Heifer Global Experience

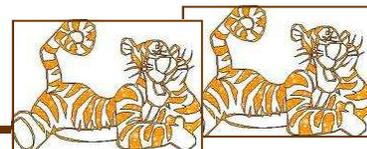
MPC will send a group of our young people and their chaperones to Perryville, AR, June 8-11 for our first youth mission trip in many years. Heifer International's Global Village creates an existence in which nothing – not shelter, food, water nor cooking fuel – can be taken for granted. Our participants will pay their costs to attend with Heifer through fundraising starting Apr. 10. (Some scholarship funds are available as well.) You can support their efforts in many ways:

- Buy a \$10 stock certificate from one of the youths. This will get you a postcard about the trip from that person and also a hot dog lunch at the stockholders meeting on Sunday, June 26, following worship – the youth will share their experiences with you.

- Attend AND bid at the Silent Auction to be held during the next Congregational Lunch, Sunday, May 22. Items will be available for early bidding two weeks before.
- Volunteer to make the hot dog lunch happen on Sunday, June 26.
- Donate an item for the Silent Auction – restaurant certificates, vacation homes, sports tickets, service items.
- Help with the silent auction check-out on Sunday, May 22.

Contact Carolyn Morton carolynmorton@bellsouth.net to offer your assistance.

Bring Little Tigers to MPP's Spring Fling



This year's Morningside Presbyterian Preschool's family festival, the Spring Fling, offers a roaring good time with "Jungle Jam." Saturday, Apr. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There'll be games for all ages, pony rides, a petting zoo, toddler play area, inflatables, face painting and a choo-choo train. Morningside Made Craft Show and Sale returns with more hand-crafted gifts. Mrs. Neff's yummy bake sale and the MPP Grill are back with our very own MPP dads grilling hotdogs and hamburgers.

Spring Fling 2010 resulted in more than \$8000 being generated for MPP to provide extra-curricular activities in science, Spanish, yoga and music. This event is funded exclusively through the generosity of MPP families and MPC members through sponsorships and ticket sales. Consider being a volunteer! Contact Benedetta Johnson at benedettajohnson@yahoo.com.

Morningside Milestones

- Choirmaster/organist Walter Huff will return from his work with the San Diego Opera Apr. 25. To learn more about his doings, visit <http://ariaserious.blogspot.com/2010/11/our-2011-acting-chorus-masters.html>. MPC expresses our gratitude to Sarah and Gene Martin and our Chancel Choir for their dedication and talent in continuing to glorify our worship experience with the beauty of music.
- With dates and times to meet the needs of many different members of the congregation, Lenten Walking continues into the first two weeks of April. Meet at Welcome Center entrance for an hour of exercise beginning at 6:30 p.m. for Monday, Apr. 4, and/or Wednesday, Apr. 13. Contact Melinda Sandkam with any questions.
- We join Tia and Brian Bartis and big brothers Robert and Luke in saluting the birth of Hollis "Brady" Bartis Feb. 23.
- If you missed seeing our Ash Wednesday service on WXIA Channel 11's late news Mar. 9, join our Facebook fans (you can click on the link from our website, www.morningsidepc.org) and watch the video. Doesn't Baron's interview make you glad you're a Morningsider?

Personal Story: MPC's Refugee Partnership Leads to New Friend

It started with a book I read in my book club – *What Is the What* by Dave Eggers. After reading one “Lost Boy” from Sudan’s heartbreaking account of adjusting to life in the US as a refugee, I was overwhelmed with wanting to do something, but I wasn’t sure what. Then, through MPC’s involvement with the Six Star Refugee Partnership, I met Yalda.

For the past year and a half, I have been tutoring 18-year-old Yalda each Monday evening at her home. When Yalda’s family arrived a little over two years ago in Atlanta from Uzbekistan (originally from Afghanistan), Yalda spoke several languages – but not a word of English. Nonetheless, she and her younger sister Malalay were enrolled at Grady High School.

High school was hard enough for those of us who had to overcome bad hair, braces, or unfortunate clothing choices – but imagine overcoming a language barrier in a new country. And what comes so naturally to American-born students – vocabulary, basic spelling and grammar, even US history – is an everyday struggle for Yalda and her sister. They are constantly playing catch-up, and that’s where their Six Star tutors come in.

Six Star, a group of Atlanta churches that helps refugee families resettle in Atlanta, provided the family with tutors to teach them English basics when they arrived, so my role is to help Yalda better understand her day-to-

day homework assignments (thank goodness she needs no help in calculus and chemistry!). I’m also a sounding board for her general questions and observations about life in Atlanta, and in the US. (And, occasionally we end up gossiping about Edward vs. Jacob or Justin Bieber.)

Often Yalda is tired when we meet. She works several nights and on the weekends as a cashier at Publix, to which she walks from her apartment about a mile and a half away. She is one of the two breadwinners in her home (her older brother works two jobs and is hoping to enroll in college soon) since her father passed away shortly after her family arrived in Atlanta, so she feels the weight of responsibility most of us were free from at her age. But Yalda is always smiling, and you would never know it if these worries bring her down.

I’m not a teacher, and there is rarely a night when I don’t have to look something up to explain it clearly. Tutoring has been humbling, challenging, and at times very frustrating because there is so much more Yalda needs than I am able to give. But I hope that the few hours we spend together each Monday will add up to something better for her and her future in the US – and I’m grateful that MPC introduced me to this mission, and to this person who has become so important to me.

-Lisa Harris

Six Star's newest family from Myanmar (Burma) has many needs, including transportation to tutors to help the family learn English. To find out how you can help, contact Betsy Armstrong (jimbetsy3008@yahoo.com) or Holly Campbell (hollycampbell1@gmail.com).

April Birthdays

3 Robert Bartis	9 Cindy Metzler	20 Georgia Moore	27 Hal Nuckols
3 Alan Medearis	12 Hope Bothwell	21 Frances Adams	28 Alan Bremer
4 Henry Jonas	13 Greg Johnson	22 Sue Ballay	29 Browning Fergus
6 Joe Ballay	13 Brent Mooneyham	23 John Fillyaw	29 Walter Huff
6 Emma Christopher	13 Mindy Potter	23 Chip Edgerton	29 Ann Bowers
7 Michael Perez	14 Amy Santy	23 Jesse Neill	30 David Fairleigh
8 Liz Sommerfeld	16 Bryson Hankinson	24 Rebecca Holmes	
9 Austin Davis	20 Sophie Markovic	25 Rebecca Kier	
	20 Thomas Markovic	25 Caroline Tanner	
	20 Isabella Perez	26 Ruth Wells	

Katrina Recovery Project Will Take MPCers to New Orleans

Morningside has helped with recovery work from Hurricane Katrina for three years in Pearlinton, MS. This May, you could be one of our 10 volunteers to travel to New Orleans.

We're going to New Orleans Monday, May 16, through Saturday, May 21, to work with the good folks at St. Charles Presbyterian Church and their RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) project. RHINO was founded in September, 2005, three weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and has continued partnering with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding the city. RHINO seeks to provide meaningful service opportunities in New Orleans for out-of-state volunteers. Since opening its doors, they have welcomed more than 4,000 volunteers and built 17 homes through Habitat.

RHINO charges a flat fee of \$180 per volunteer. This covers many expenses including administrative costs, food, housing, t-shirts, etc. RHINO provides three dinners—two at the church prepared by their (world-renowned) RHINO chefs, and one at the home of a

church member. They also provide groceries for us to prepare our own lunches. Breakfast is on our own but the hotel has two cafeterias. Good news—we will be staying in a local hotel (no tenting!). We will also have an opportunity to tour New Orleans and grab two dinners on our own in the city. To get there, our team will carpool together, with gas paid for by MPC Mission Ministries, departing Monday and returning Saturday.

Contact Shepherd Duncan Spears (duncanspears@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign up for one of the 10 spots. And plan to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, Apr. 10, at 12:30 in Room 201.

Duncan adds, "There is a place for everyone on the RHINO jobsite, whether or not you have prior construction experience. It is difficult to project exactly what we will be doing when our group is scheduled to work with RHINO. Our exact tasks will not be known until closer to our departure but we can expect typical Habitat projects."

Help Intown Collaborative Ministries Two Ways in April

We are once again partnering with the ICM food pantry (located at Druid Hills Methodist Church at Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff Rd.) in two ways. You may bring canned foods (especially meats and vegetables) and pop-top items to the baskets in the Welcome Center Apr. 3-24 to support our homeless and nearly homeless neighbors in the 30306 and 30307 ZIP codes. We also

need eight volunteers to work in the food pantry Saturday, Apr. 9, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact Shepherd Nancy Collins with questions (ncollins0209@gmail.com) or sign up on the Mission bulletin board.

Remember to Spell 'OGHS' on Easter Sunday

This and every Easter Sunday, we join Presbyterians all around the world for a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS benefits global initiatives, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA has already sent much needed funds to assist relief efforts in

Japan and continues to provide help worldwide. Closer to home, OGHS funds organizations such as the Clifton Shelter Ministries. Please consider an Easter gift earmarked to OGHS and be with us as we joyfully proclaim, "Christ is risen indeed!"

Saturday, April 2, Ends Habitat Build

We dedicate the home after finishing up the final details.

Let Lynsley Tyler (lynsley@bellsouth.net) know if you'd like to be part of the team.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes Hit Spot with All Ages



The “early shift” ready to flip!



All these goodies and a clown to boot!



April’s Not All Easter for Our Groups

Don’t miss these gatherings of your usual Morningside groups—or find one to try! * If you’re male, you’re welcome to Theology on Tap at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 5, for dinner and discussion at Ken Sharpe’s (1700 Timberland Rd., 30345). RSVP to the church office.*Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and visitors of MPC to join them for their next gathering on Thursday, Apr. 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Tamara Nix (1732 N. Rock Springs NE Atlanta, 30324). The group is pleased to welcome our new pastor, Baron Mullis, as our special guest. Email Tara Parrish (taraparrish@bellsouth.net) to RSVP and for any other details. *If there are two of you, don’t miss the MPC Couples Group gathering at Anna and Miguel Garcia’s (739 Wildwood Pl., 30324) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 8. Kathy Bremer (kdbremer@bellsouth.net) is your contact.*Have you read T. C. Boyle’s culture-clash novel *The Tortilla Curtain*? There’s still time to pick it up before the next meeting of the RHO Readers, Sunday, Apr. 17, at 12:45 p.m. in the Session Room.

Dance Showcase Helps Boys from Haiti

Your Session cares enough to reschedule our April meeting so its members can attend. Attend what? The Resurrection Dance Theatre of Haiti, appearing Monday, Apr. 18, at 7 p.m. in the chapel at Emory University's Candler Theological Seminary.



The Resurrection Dance Theatre of Haiti

This dance troupe consists of boys who have been rescued from life on the streets in Haiti. They now reside at St. Joseph's Home for Boys, which the MPC community has supported with donations, a pilgrimage, and prayers. Through dance they tell the stories of their experiences--ranging from sharing the history of Haiti, which includes their nation's struggle against slavery, to life lived in both rural and urban settings. The troupe uses the arts to build and express self-esteem, incorporating dance, song, and the visual arts.

Directions from Morningside Church take you to E. Rock Springs and across Briarcliff as it becomes N. Decatur Rd. From there, turn left onto Oxford Rd., take the second left onto Eagle Rd. for 0.9 miles. Take the second right onto Dickey Drive (1531) and park at Peavine Visitors lot. When you exit the lot, cross the street to your left. Pass the first building (Psychology) and the second (Emerson Cherry). Between Emerson Cherry and Candler Theological Seminary is a sidewalk and set of stairs. Walk up stairs. Look to your left. You will see double wooden doors, which will lead you to Brooks Commons. The performance will be in the chapel in Brooks Commons.

Your donations and your presence will add energy and resources to rebuild the St. Joseph's community.

Calvin Center Updates Spring, Summer Plans

Calvin Center is a ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta located 45 minutes south of Atlanta in Hampton, GA. Calvin Center offers a welcoming sanctuary for recreation and Christian nurture. In the month of April alone, it offers a Spring Break Horse Day Camp Apr. 4-8, an Administrators' Day Apr. 19 and a Parent-Child Equestrian Program Apr. 29-30.

Besides summer camping at Calvin, Morningside kids also enjoy the great equestrian program. Our Double Digits go for an afternoon of horseback riding and canoe-

ing on Apr. 10 and the second/third graders follow on May 1 for a trail ride. Seven MPC girls are already registered for a week of horse camp this summer. And, we'll explore an outreach of Calvin Center for two days of Vacation Bible School this summer. Our eldest attendees of VBS will be led by camp counselors for two hours on VBS Tuesday and Thursday here at MPC. It's not just about summer camp at Calvin Center! Visit www.calvincenter.org to explore the many opportunities they provide or pick up a Summer Camp brochure in the Welcome Center.

Your Session at Work: March 21 Meeting

- Program Director **Melinda Sandkam** reported on behalf of the Preschool committee that, as included in the team’s strategic plan, it has begun researching the possibility of setting up infant care and/or a Kindergarten class to complement the preschool.
- **John Watson**, chair of the Facilities committee, reported that a review of the church’s sound system determined the main speaker in the sanctuary is not working properly. The committee decided to repair the speaker and move it to the balcony and to install an upgraded speaker in the sanctuary. The work will be completed by Easter.
- Also, the windows along the front of the church, the front door and both porticos will get a “facelift” in the form of scraping, caulking and painting, according to Watson.
- Treasurer **Randy Parrish** reported that the church has renegotiated its Phase I *A Time of Promise* loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Pro-

- gram. The renegotiated loan has an amortization period of 177 months, extended from the previous 22 months, and significantly reduces the amount MPC must pay monthly out of its operating budget. The Phase I loan covers unpaid TOP pledges.
- The session approved the “Deacon Document” as presented by Diaconate Moderator **Brenda Fishpaw**. It outlines the structure, responsibilities and specific areas of service for MPC’s deacons.
- The session agreed to call a Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Apr. 10 to formally dissolve the position of associate pastor at MPC. It was noted the position could be easily reinstated if or when needed. The change will allow the church to eliminate payment to the Board of Pensions for a vacant position.

Ruthlyn Newell
Clerk of Session

MPC’s Flower Guild Will Focus on Special Occasions

Noting a gratifying upswing in chancel flower arrangements commissioned by church members and friends, Georgia Marshall, chair of MPC’s Flower Guild, realized the group was becoming overwhelmed by its own success. As a result, the Committee for Worship and the Arts has endorsed a change in procedure.

Beginning in May we’ll have in place an economical agreement with a local florist to prepare all sponsored flower tributes. Prices will be in the \$100 to \$150 range. The Flower Guild will continue to be responsible for floral décor for holidays and other special church events and for remaking all bouquets for distribution.

“There’s more to the job than just putting blooms in a vase,” Georgia notes. “The flowers have to be ordered,

picked up during the week, trimmed and hydrated well ahead of making the arrangement, and then the bouquets are disassembled into take-home vases for the sponsors, shut-ins and church offices. We simply don’t have enough members to carry the entire workload week after week.”

She added that floral tributes are still welcomed as a way not only to remember or honor loved ones and events, but also for the beauty fresh flowers bring to our Sanctuary on Sundays. You still will sign up on the bulletin board outside the session room and let the church office know early in the week to include your acknowledgment in the bulletin. Ordering and payment will be directly with the florist.

Elders on Call for April

Philip Hawkins	April 3-9
Jay Myers	April 10-16
Doug Self	April 17-23
Art Sweum	April 24-30

Deacons on Call for April

Betsy Holland	April 3-9
Duncan Spears	April 10-16
Brenda Fishpaw	April 17-23
Duncan Spears	April 24-30

Lent Ends with Journey from Palm Sunday to Easter

The annual Christian pilgrimage from the penitence of Ash Wednesday travels during Holy Week from the triumph of Palm Sunday through the darkness of Good Friday to the joy of the Resurrection on Easter. Here is how we will mark this journey at Morningside Presbyterian this year:

Pick up a palm branch in the Narthex on Sunday, Apr. 17, to wave in worship as we commemorate the entry of Jesus and his disciples into Jerusalem.

On Thursday, Apr. 21, we will hold our annual Maunday Thursday supper and worship service in Fellowship Hall. Our popular Mediterranean meal will be served starting at 6:15 p.m. RSVP to the church office for dinner. Worship includes the Lord's Supper served at your dining table. Childcare will be available at 6 p.m. Contact Brad Odom (jbradleyodom@gmail.com) to help with food preparation and/or cleanup.

On Good Friday, we encourage MPCers to attend the community evening service at Druid Hills Presbyterian

Church. Details will be forthcoming soon. Look for more information in Life@ and the eNews.

The mood lightens Saturday, Apr. 23 when the Easter Egg Hunt—dare we say ‘the running of the eggs’?—delights church and neighborhood kids at 11 a.m. There'll be face-painting, goodies and Vacation Bible School registration. Contact Chair Jennifer James (jennjames@comcast.net) to volunteer to help hide eggs, greet visitors and clean up afterwards.

Come greet Easter Apr. 24 with our 7 a.m. Sunrise Service at the front of the church, followed by a light breakfast. No adult classes will be held this morning. Childcare will be offered for both the sunrise and 11 a.m. worship services and parking assistance will also be offered for the later service. And don't forget to include your gift for One Great Hour of Sharing as you rejoice with us.