



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### May 2011

#### Worship at Morningside

#### May 1, 2011

Sermon: "Nothing But Good News"

Text: John 20:19-31

Baron Mullis preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

#### May 8, 2011

Sermon: "For All Who Are Far Away"

Text: Acts 2:14a; 36-41

Baron Mullis preaching

*Mother's Day Offering will be received.*

#### May 15, 2011

Sermon: "Sheep? Strangers? Gates?"

Text: John 10:1-10

Baron Mullis preaching

*The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.*

#### May 22, 2011

Sermon: "Greater Things"

Text: John 14:1-14

Bart Smith preaching

*Congregational Lunch with Silent Auction*

#### May 29, 2011

Sermon: "An Unkown God"

Text: Acts 17:22-31

Baron Mullis preaching

## Dear Friends,

There is an old clergy joke about congregational feedback to sermons that goes something like this: A pastor was preaching up a storm one Sunday morning and the amen pew was in rare form, shouting “Hallelujah!” and “Amen!” and “Preach it, Brother!” As the pastor began to hit closer and closer to home, the “amens” became fewer and further in between. As the sermon reached its climax and the pastor began to step on some very tender toes with his sermon, one dedicated member of the amen corner leaned over to his neighbor and was heard saying to her, “well, he’s done quit preachin’ and gone to meddlin’.”

So with that introduction, let me risk meddlin’.

What do you bring to worship? By that I mean, what is your attitude when you enter church? Are you an active participant or a passive worshipper? Do you expect to *get* something from church or do you expect to *give* something at church? Do you sing the hymns? Do you recite the creeds? Do you think deliberately during confession? Do you come prepared to make some offering, even if it is symbolic of year-end giving? Do you make a note or two on the bulletin to help you remember something of the service so that it shapes your week to come?

But perhaps more importantly, what is your attitude when you leave worship? I want to suggest that worship, by definition, is active not passive. That means that worship is more than just what we do on Sundays. The word *worship* derived from an old English root that essentially means to ascribe worth, or to praise. Our reason for meeting to worship, if we’re true to our roots, is to actively ascribe worth to God, to praise *actively*. Because Morningside is a Presbyterian church and our tradition is very *Word* centered, I do a lot of talking in church, and the choir does a lot of singing, and that’s the way proclamation works in Presbyterian worship. We take study seriously. We take preparation seriously. These are good things. But there can be a temptation to be passive when we gather to worship because of the way it is structured.

Here’s where I meddle: each of us has personal responsibility to ourselves and to God to see that worship remains active by response to the Word through action



either through Morningside’s programs or in the larger community in our *living*. Worship is not confined to 11 a.m. on Sunday morning – that’s when we congregate and seek instruction and (one hopes) inspiration. Worship, however, extends to all of life. What we do on Sunday morning prepares us for *all the rest of life*. If we are taking worship seriously, it is an active part of our lives far beyond the hour (or hour and five on communion Sundays!) that we congregate.

Based on what I see at Morningside, I suspect you already know this, but I was thinking about it and thought you might want to think on it too.

Shalom,

## May Birthdays

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Rachel Spears            | 16 Bryan Smith      |
| 4 Jennifer James           | 17 Clay Haskins     |
| 5 Alex Prevost             | 17 Donna Boren      |
| 5 Tish Craddock            | 17 Sam Tomaka       |
| 6 Shannon Pengelly         | 18 Rosemary Wells   |
| 6 Brian Rouse              | 19 Randy Brookins   |
| 6 Matt Prevost             | 20 Anthony Cochran  |
| 6 Ian Bresnahan            | 21 Lauren Fairleigh |
| 6 Jennifer Pittman-Sanders | 22 Jeff Hackney     |
| 7 Hollis Holmes            | 22 Pearl Weathers   |
| 7 Fred Schreiber           | 23 Oliver Loring    |
| 7 Kate Keaveney            | 23 Michelle Berreth |
| 9 Daniel Easton            | 24 Madelyn Millard  |
| 9 Ward Howell              | 24 Todd Brawner     |
| 9 David York               | 25 Van Jensen       |
| 10 JoAnn Kearns            | 26 Breck Kean       |
| 10 Sheryl Wingert          | 27 Alan Penrod      |
| 11 Trent Kean              | 28 Daisy Ottmann    |
| 11 Bob Wells               | 31 Kate Parrish     |
| 12 Haden Holaway           | 31 Thomas Jackson   |
| 12 Laura Edgerton          | 31 Katy Means       |
| 12 Glenn Small, Jr.        |                     |
| 14 Jay Myers               |                     |
| 14 Mardee Rightmyer        |                     |
| 14 Sarah Beth Gehl         |                     |
| 15 Harrison James          |                     |
| 15 Nancy Frampton          |                     |
| 16 Brian Buchanan          |                     |



## Registration Deadlines Approach for Summer Fun

Send in your child's registration for Vacation Bible School (June 20-24) and/or Mission Camp (July 25-29) before summer starts. All registration forms can be found on the MPC website ([www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org)) under Education for Children.

There is also aftercare available the week of VBS from noon-5 p.m. (forms also on website). The VBS registration deadline is Sunday, May 29, so that we may make final plans for volunteers, supplies and t-shirts. This year's theme is "Adventures Through the Wardrobe," so look for the big lion Aslan everywhere.

If you register for Mission Camp by Sunday, June 5, the fee is \$100. After June 5, the fee will be \$125. This includes an overnight stay at the Len Foote Hike Inn during the week. Mission Camp offers a service opportunity in a different aspect of society each day, with lots of time for fun, too.

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool also has remaining openings for some of its summer camp programs. Call or email Preschool Director Sarah Tomaka (404.685.8758, [mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)) to learn more.

## Something's Afoot with Walking Group

Fast walkers and casual strollers—and strollers with strollers—can all continue working off those chocolate Easter bunnies by meeting up at the Welcome Center Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings for an hour of group exercise.

Tuesday walks will begin at 9 a.m. and Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. Melinda Sandkam is recruiting leaders for a

few of the dates, so if you're interested or have questions be in touch with her. The final walk of the season will be May 26, and if this activity remains popular, we'll start up again in the fall.

## Morningside Milestones

- Our congregation voted to eliminate the open position of Assistant Pastor—a move that will save us from continuing to pay into the retirement fund for an unfilled position. When we do decide to call an associate, it will be a simple matter to re-establish the title.
- An English 'war bride,' Joan Long had been a member at Morningside PC since 1953. Residing for some years now with her daughter Mary Clendenen and family in Loganville, Joan died Saturday, Apr. 9, at home. Our condolences to all her family.
- Another of our senior members, Ruth Wells, celebrated her century mark on Apr. 26. Her 100 years will be honored in church on Sunday, May 1.
- On the other end of the age spectrum, we welcome Brooks Thomas Riley to the world. Born to Dylan and Emy, he joined big brother Harrison on Mar. 31. The Rileys will be leaving us to move to Nashville, and we wish them happiness in their new home.
- Mary Caroline 'Molly' Branon was baptized into God's family Apr. 10. She's the daughter of Brendan and Carrie and little sister of Cate.
- And yet another milestone for two of our families: we'll recognize our graduating seniors Annie McNeill and Lindy Menefee during worship May 8. And wish them well as they go on to new challenges and rewards in college and beyond.

## *Personal Story: Habitat Becomes Morningside Habit*

Seven Saturdays each spring, a group of approximately 40 individuals give half of their weekend to do something truly remarkable. They build a house. Morningside Presbyterian has been partnering with four other area churches for many years now for our Habitat for Humanity Spring Build. Our church partners are First Pres., Northwest Pres., Haygood UMC, and Sacred Heart Catholic. Through the years, friendships have formed with volunteers from these congregations. We know who is good with the electric saw, who is a meticulous painter, who is afraid to get on the roof...the list goes on.

While each of us gets something special out of making affordable homeownership a reality, we really receive more than we give—the sense of accomplishing one good thing when nothing else really went right that week or perhaps even a slightly less cynical view of the world. These little accomplishments don't often make the news, but they are central to building stronger communities.

Three years ago, we built a Habitat home on a blighted corner in the West End. The toll of the recent eco-

nomie meltdown hit this neighborhood hard. There are quite a number of boarded up homes on this corner. I recently drove through the neighborhood. Morningside has built two homes on this corner in recent years and other organizations have built four more. Now I see the signs of community here—kids riding their bikes, grills in the backyard, plants on the porch, and neighbors talking to each other. Did this solve the entire problems of the city? No. But on this one corner, a community is bouncing back.

Another such transformation happened this spring near Lakewood. Our Habitat homebuyer for 2011 is a hard-working woman in her 50's. She works at Kroger and her soon-to-be husband works a tough third-shift job. Both of them showed up every Saturday to work with us on their new home. The looks of true joy as they discussed plans for a vegetable garden made me think that they really got it—a place to call home. Atlanta Habitat's slogan is "Building a Better Atlanta-One Home At A Time." I couldn't have said it better myself.

Lynsley Tyler

*(Lynsley has served as MPC's Habitat for Humanity volunteer coordinator for the past several years.)*

## *Remember Older Adults on this Mother's Day*

This Mother's Day you can make a difference in the lives of many senior adults living at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. They are mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, teachers and friends, who have given of themselves for decades. Now it is our turn to make a difference in their lives by giving generously to the Mother's Day Offering.

The *Caring Hands Fund* benefits the most vulnerable residents. Monies are used largely to bridge the \$4 million

gap between Medicare reimbursement and the actual cost of the high quality of care that Presbyterian Homes provide for their health services residents. *Caring Hands* donations also allow in-home services to help residents in independent apartment homes maintain their independence. Please consider a special gift marked "Mother's Day Offering" on May 8.

## *MPC Invites Us to Lunch and Munch*

Families from the children's choirs will picnic after both the Treble and Cherub choirs sing during worship May 15. Our final Congregational Lunch until the fall will be after worship May 22 in Fellowship Hall, with the added attraction of the finale of our youth-trip silent auction. Donations accepted for the great food, and contact Brad Odom if you can help with lunch setup, serving and cleanup. Contact Anna Garcia ([garcia.miguel@comcast.net](mailto:garcia.miguel@comcast.net)) if you could host a fellowship hour in the next few months. Looking for a fun theme day? Pick a holiday weekend, invite a few friends to join you to spread out the work and celebrate with your Morningside family – Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day are all waiting to be hosted by a fun-loving group.

## Shearith Israel Shelter Benefits from Business, Arts

MPC member Brian Rouse once again kept in mind outreaches that MPC works with when submitting proposals for outreach projects at his company, BB&T. In its third year, the BB&T Lighthouse Project is an all-hands-on-deck community service effort held throughout the BB&T footprint. Teams of employees volunteer time away from work to partner with organizations that help those people most in need of assistance.

Last year Clifton Sanctuary Ministries was one of the beneficiaries and this year Shearith Israel Shelter for Women will get new blinds, shelving and an air-conditioning unit for the office and new sheets, pillows and more for the residents. Remember this: If your company does outreach work, keep in mind all the com-

munity programs that MPC partners with the next time they ask, "Who should we support?"

Speaking of support, you can enjoy an evening of theater while also financially supporting Shearith Israel's mission to homeless women. Anton Chekov's classic "The Seagull" presented by Fabrefaction Theater (999 Brady Ave., Midtown West) will be staged Saturday, May 14, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m. with tickets at \$20. Or, make a night of it by including dinner Saturday at 6:30 p.m. for a total of \$40 or a tea reception on Sunday at 2 p.m. for another \$5. You can pay for your tickets through Melinda Sandkam, and she is also the go-to person for questions and to organize an MPC group to go together.

## Namaste! Hindu Temple Will Welcome Bible & Brunch Bunch

The final stop on the Bible & Brunch tour of houses of different faiths will be Thursday, May 19, as we travel to a Hindu temple in Riverdale. This religion of one god but many avatars is little-known in the U.S. Our group

will depart the church at 9:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided at MPC from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and those who are interested will go to lunch afterwards.

## Lydia Will Visit Garden; LGBT Group Sets Meeting

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, May 12, at 7 p.m. at The Atlanta Botanical Garden. The group will socialize and enjoy Cocktails in the Garden, a fun Thursday evening event at the ABG. Email Tara Parrish ([taraparrish@bellsouth.net](mailto:taraparrish@bellsouth.net)) to RSVP and for any other details.

Planning to start meeting regularly again, LGBT & Friends will gather at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at the

home of Nancy Collins (4040 N. Ivy Rd., 30329). This group is open to all MPC members and friends who support full inclusion within the church. As MPC continues to grow and evolve, the group provides an excellent opportunity for both established and new members alike to build connections and friendships within our faith community. RSVP if you are interested in attending this or future events by contacting Peter C. Dickson (404.839.1281, [peter.dickson@comcast.net](mailto:peter.dickson@comcast.net)).



### Our May Collection Box Wants...

- 4/24 - 5/8 Canned Foods  
(Venture Crew for ICM)
- 5/9 - 5/29 Canned Foods  
(for Calvin Court Senior Homes)
- 5/8 - 5/22 Summer Clothing  
(for Six Star Refugee Partnership)

### Elder on Call

- May 1-7  
Anne Barnette
- May 8-14  
Sarah Beth Gehl
- May 15-21  
Jill Davis
- May 22-28  
John Watson
- May 29-June 4  
Shannon Harris

### Deacon on Call

- May 1-7  
Bill Means
- May 8-14  
Link Marx
- May 15-21  
Anna Garcia
- May 22-28  
Tim Gargis
- May 29-June 4  
Bill Smith

## Your Session at Work: April 11 Meeting

- **Carolyn Morton** came before Session representing the Human Resources Committee, with a request for permission to begin searching for a youth leader. This part-time position, approximately 15 hours per week, would lead youth worship, relate to our youth one-on-one and plan and execute monthly fellowship activities, as well as service projects, trips and the like for our growing number of kids 12 and up. Because this position is not included in the 2011 budget, HR recommends splitting the estimated cost for this year between designated gifts and a Presbytery grant—40 percent from MPC and 60 percent from our Presbytery. In future years, MPC's portion would grow and would be included in our budgeting process. Money for this year, estimated at \$10,000, would be raised before hiring. Session approved the plan.
  - Looking forward to summer, **Jill Davis**, team leader for Children, Youth and Families Ministries, moved Session accept the curricula recommended by the Children's Education Committee for the coming term. The three class groups will be combined into two during vacation time. Our kindergarten-through-second-graders will use the Awesome Adventures class material and the third-through-seventh-graders will learn from Worship for Life. Session passed the proposal.
  - Jill also reported that four kids and two chaperones are signed up for the Heifer International trip in June and fundraising via stock sales will continue. We have some exciting donations for the silent auc-
- tion after worship May 22. She also noted we'll recognize graduating seniors **Annie McNeill** and **Lindy Menefee** in worship May 8.
- **John Watson** announced that the Operations Ministries will have completed all the sanctuary speaker repairs and upgrades prior to Easter. However, the proposed scraping and repainting of all the front windows will be postponed until our preschool is out for its summer break. Due to a new Georgia law, any school building built before 1978 must have repainting done by a "lead-paint-certified contractor." Our painter is getting this certification to assure all preparation, cleanup and disposal of lead-painted surfaces follows proper procedures. Since this delayed the project anyway, Session suggested waiting until school is out to further protect our youngsters.
  - Session was reminded that we now have a 'one-stop shop' for anything anyone wants to have announced, a new [communications@morningsidepc.org](mailto:communications@morningsidepc.org) mailbox. Items should go to this mailbox rather than the church office.
  - Board of Deacons Moderator **Brenda Fishpaw** reported that in order to encourage members to become more active within the church the Deacons are planning a Time and Talent Fair during fellowship hour, subsequently set for June 5. Elders and committee chairs will showcase their ministries and opportunities for everyone to become active in church programs.

Daisy Ottmann for  
Clerk of Session

## Baron Will Tackle Question of Good Preaching

We all know good preaching when we hear it, but what makes it good? You'll have a more informed opinion if you attend the Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings throughout May as our pastor Baron Mullis will lead a discussion on the forms and functions of sermons, using examples from five preaching luminaries.

Outstanding 20<sup>th</sup> Century preachers cited include the Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Campolo, the Rev. Prof. Peter Gomes, the Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, and the Rev. Dr. Fleming Rutledge. The five-week series meets in Room 201 at 9:45 a.m.

## *Youth Invite You to ‘Stock Up’ for Summer Heifer Trip*

It's time to take stock of your wallet and stock up on stock certificates so our intrepid sixth graders can visit the livestock at Heifer International. With that stock of wordplay out of the way, catch up with Cade, Lucy, Joseph or Taylor after worship any Sunday and buy a \$10 certificate as they raise money for the youth mission trip to Heifer Global Challenge in Perryville, AR, June 8-11.

In addition to your stock purchases, you can support their travel fund by donating and bidding on silent auction items. The auction will begin May 8, so contact Melinda Sandkam with anything you want to put up for bid by May 1. Bidding will be open until the congregational lunch May 22. Does a week at a vacation home in the Cayman Islands quicken your pulse? How about a round of golf at Druid Hills Country Club? Or to pick a Scripture from which Baron will preach (he says, “satisfaction not guaranteed”)? Baby-sitting, pet-sitting and sitting in restaurants are some of the other items

offered so far. Winning bids on May 22 will need to be paid for in cash or by check to MPC.

Your stock purchase will get you a postcard from the youth at the end of the trip, plus an invitation to the ‘stockholders’ meeting’ Sunday, June 26, after worship. The kids will report back on their trip while everyone enjoys a hot-dog lunch fresh off the grill.

Heifer International’s Global Challenge introduces young people to the realities of life in less-privileged environments as they experience fetching water, caring for animals and other aspects of village life.

In addition to buying stock and participating in the auction, your help is needed with auction check-out on May 22 and preparing the hot-dog lunch on June 26. Contact Melinda to volunteer.