



# Morningside Messenger

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### June 2011 Worship at Morningside

**June 5, 2011**

Sermon: "Waiting and Praying"

Text: Acts 1:6-14

Baron Mullis preaching

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

**June 12, 2011**

**Day of Pentecost**

Sermon: "Ecclesiology of the Living God"

Text: Acts 2:1-21

Baron Mullis preaching

**June 19, 2011**

**Trinity Sunday**

Sermon: "It Was Very Good..."

Text: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Baron Mullis preaching

**June 26, 2011**

Homily: "Singing for Those Who Can't"

Text: Psalm 150

Baron Mullis preaching

Congregational Hymn Sing

## Dear Friends,

Sometimes thinking of things out of season has a way of giving us time to chew on an idea for a while. So, even though it's not "stewardship season," I'd like to prompt some thinking about giving. Think of it as your "summer reading."



It is no great secret that pastors enjoy talking about money only slightly less than congregation members enjoy hearing us talk about money. (Perhaps I'm optimistic about those odds. Let's just say hope springs eternal.) In a recent Sunday school class, one of our members observed that when the preacher started talking about money, tension started rising.

I don't think it needs to be that way. I happen to believe that you want to think theologically about your finances. Indeed, I spent some time writing about attitudes about money in the church a few years ago and one of my observations was that congregation members, by and large, want to be generous, want to be deliberate in giving; they just don't want to be browbeaten about it. I couldn't agree more. I don't want to listen to anybody's harangue about money, but it is important to me that I live my life from a posture of gratitude, so I have studied giving through the years in order to live more faithfully and to help others do the same.

Here is some of what I have learned:

1. Overwhelmingly, children who were taught to treat giving as a discipline by giving weekly became the most deliberate givers as adults.
2. Breaking giving down into manageable chunks makes the experience much more joyful. (I learned this the hard way: it's much more enjoyable to write a monthly check for, say \$300, than to cough up \$4,000 three days after Christmas before the close of business for the year. I now have an automatic draft!)
3. Some people find it helpful to think of giving in terms of percentages of monthly income. If you like to think in terms of percentages, set realistic goals. If disciplined giving is new to you, setting a plan for 10 percent might be too ambitious for the first year. Start with 4 percent and increase it as you go. Or 2 percent. The point is, make a plan.

It may seem odd that I'm talking about depriving yourself of substantial amounts of money and joy in the same sentence, but we're not talking about taxes, we're talking about deepening our ties to Morningside and each other as we seek to be disciples of Jesus. Discipline is the root word of disciple and that's why I'm talking about deliberate giving.

The truth is, I mightily despise the verbiage of "giving until it hurts," but I also believe we are called to generosity. So I'd much rather think about giving in terms of finding ways to think of giving so that the experience is joyful, such as this: We give so that we can teach the faith from generation to generation. My experience teaches me that when we find ways to make giving meaningful, it becomes joyful, and we are our most generous.

Thanks for reading!

## June Birthdays

1 Anna Best	16 Cynthia Holzheimer
1 Lisa Harris	16 Quinn Jarratt
1 Jill Davis	17 Carol Southwood
1 Athalie White	17 Martin Dunlap
2 Mary Johnson	18 Graham Lewis
5 Clint Kehoe	18 Grace Gay
5 Betty Treschitta	18 Ken Sharpe
5 Jackson Markovic	20 Caroline Prevost
6 Jeff Hullinger	20 John Keller
8 Bill Humphries	21 Valerie Baginski
8 Kyle Behm	22 John Hawkins
9 Ben Samuels	23 Elaine Tomkinson
10 Craig Kier	24 Amy Millard
10 Carrie Brandon	25 James Attwood
10 David Bothwell	25 Keith Blount
10 Sandra Crawford	26 Kent Balch
10 Sarah Tomaka	27 Patty Mosley
11 Derek Metz	28 Andy Anderson
11 Anne Barnette	28 Mary Michael
12 Ava Boren	29 Lloyd Prince
13 Kathy Bremer	29 Bart Engram
14 Roy Simpson	
14 Bill Crawford	
14 Grace Lazzaro	
14 Lynsley Tyler	



## All's 'Fair' with Time and Talent!

Even if you think you know all there is to know about the activities and opportunities at Morningside Presbyterian Church, you'll undoubtedly find at least one surprise awaiting you in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, June 5.

And if you've been thinking you'd like to get involved in a project or two just to get to know some of your fellow members better outside of "church hours," you'll undoubtedly make one new acquaintance that day, too.

And if you think Morningside's community life is shaped by some secretive tiny 'in crowd,' you'll undoubtedly

discover a welcoming group of enthusiastic volunteers eager for you to share their ministries.

So come on down for some refreshments and tour the displays of the Time and Talent Fair and chat with many of the team leaders and volunteers. Your Time and Talent form is the ticket to opening the door to service, fellowship and a greater part in the life of your church.

Bill Means and the Board of Deacons have planned this event and urge you to drop in.

## *Children's Worship Team Announces Summer Staff Changes*

MPC said good bye to second/third grade children's worship leader Shavon Starling-Louis on May 15, but only for the summer months. Shavon will be doing her supervised ministry, contextual education internship for seminary in Savannah. She'll work with two congregations, First Presbyterian and Butler Memorial Presbyterian churches, for 10 weeks. After working alongside the church leadership to engage in many areas of ministry including pastoral care, teaching, and preaching, Shavon will return to MPC in the fall to once again lead our kids in grades two and three.

Columbia Theological Seminary student Meredith Loftis joined us for the summer beginning May 22. Though she will be in Greek school starting in July, Meredith will join us each Sunday to lead the third-seventh graders. A graduate of Clemson University, Meredith not only has lots of experience with kids (most recently at

St. Luke's Presbyterian in Dunwoody), but has also been an American Red Cross emergency services specialist and a Volunteer Village manager for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Meredith kicked off the summer by organizing a trip to Six Flags for the third-seventh grade bunch.

On May 29, we wished Double Digit leader Heather Bardole well as she finished the school year with us. Heather has completed her first year of seminary and will be doing her required internship next year with a UCC congregation after being a Teaching Assistant at Greek School this summer. With all these changes, Debbi Loomis will continue with the kindergarten-second graders. We appreciate and wish the best to our seminarians.

## Morningside Milestones

- It seems like only yesterday MPC's Session agreed to place Bart Smith under our care as he enters Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. With many proud smiles and "Satisfaction," we welcomed him to our pulpit May 22. Hard to believe he's a senior!
- Our condolences to James Beasley and Austin Davis on the passing of James' father into the Church Eternal May 20.
- Congratulations to Kerri Fuller and Nathan Pramick on their April 30 marriage.

## Personal Story: Shearith Connection Grows Ever Closer

Morningside Presbyterian Church has worked with neighboring Shearith Israel Shelter for women for many years now and continues to respond to the needs of providing shelter and support for 13 women any given night between November and March. When I came to Morningside five years ago, we were strengthening our commitment with SIS and I chose to be an overnight volunteer one night of the week that we covered each season. Every single time, I not only learned more and more about the shelter, but also got to know the Morningside woman that I was staying with. I have three distinct memories of stronger friendships born of those overnight opportunities.

This interfaith partnership continued to grow as Emilie Paille and Jeanne McCarthy came on board as shepherds for SIS. They went even deeper, eventually becoming coordinators, who welcome and orient overnight volunteers, help them serve dinner and answers any questions about the program. When Emilie and Jeanne turned over the role of shepherds, they continued as coordinators at SIS contributing to the stronger foundation of the MPC/SIS relationship. Besides providing a week of overnight volunteers each year, Morningside children fill stockings for the women in December; gloves, hats scarves and more are collected at the Carol Sing and the congregation gives generously to \$10 gift cards for Valentines' Day.

SIS itself has also been growing in these past few years. Executive Director Sallie Weddell has especially worked closely with Intown Collaborative Ministries, another outreach that MPC partners with. ICM is able to provide additional support as the women seek job training, employment and permanent housing. And, SIS became their own 501(c)3 non-profit just this spring. They are also completing a strategic plan that will guide the shelter in its upcoming years.

These steps were well under way before I was asked to be on the board, but learning about it all from the inside has given me insight into the dedicated workings of this shelter for women right here in our neighborhood. I have had the great privilege of meeting some of the founders of the shelter and also working with committed board members who have been supporting the shelter for years –if not decades!

Part of my work with volunteers this year has been to better match up needs with those willing to give – of their time, their talent and their money. We were able to use the analyzing skills of a youth group to see where we had spent money last year on non-perishable items. Now, we will hope to get those items collected and donated this year, so that the money can go towards programs that assist the women in job searches and more.

We are pleased to have a group of women from Americorps painting the shelter this summer and were very grateful to an Emory student who did our spring mailing for us. We also tried to have more projects available for youth groups and families as we get a lot of service requests in the fall.

I have encountered some incredible volunteers throughout the year at SIS, from a five-year-old helping to make a fruit salad during Hanukah to our very own MPC overnight volunteers who happened to be signed up the week that Atlanta was brought to a standstill by snow and ice. Every volunteer checked conditions daily to see if they would be able to make it and one even braved the icy sidewalks to bring supplies over for dinner one evening.

It takes the commitment of each and every volunteer to keep the shelter open, providing a safe home for women who are facing homelessness. Programs are in place in partnership with many agencies to assist the women in finding stable homes and employment. Goals are set and the women work hard to meet them as they progress towards independence. I look forward to continuing to be a part of both MPC and SIS as they work together to assist this process.

Melinda Sandkam

**Don't miss...Sunday, June 26**  
**Congregational Hymn Sing at 11 a.m. Worship**



## *Mission Team Finds Emergent Needs Around Clock, Around World*

The Mission Team works closely with each committee in order to support local and international mission trips, community outreach and advocacy and special offerings. Each brings needs to the table, and we make annual commitments through both budget and calendar planning. However, the Mission Team is fully aware that there will always be emergent needs – both emergency situations such as natural disasters and new outreaches that are brought to their attention. This spring, the Southeast was most unfortunate to be ravaged by tornados, while the extent of the damage from flooding of the Mississippi is still being evaluated. At the same time, long-term recovery is still on-going from Hurricane Katrina, the earthquake in Haiti and flooding in Nashville and is only just getting under way in Japan. Our church is responding in a number of ways and also adjusting some scheduled giving to include new communities from near and far.

Much of this emergent response was made possible because of the good work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which always looks at long-term recovery. The average recovery time from a major disaster is seven years and MPC has had first-hand experience with this as we traveled to Pearlinton, MS three times and were due to go to New Orleans in May. We annually support PDA through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received on Easter Sunday, this year raising \$2,614. When the tornados struck, we decided to give additional funds to PDA from the mission contingency budget and to postpone our New Orleans trip to see what immediate needs would arise for our neighbors here in Georgia and Alabama. PDA knows of our interest and we are ready to provide assistance where needed on their word this summer

Meanwhile, MPC member and Alabama native Heather Regnault has led us in an immediate response for tor-

nado victims. The grassroots organization (initially known as Toomers for Tuscaloosa and now known as Magnolia Disaster Relief) needed more Intown collection sites for urgently needed items ranging from sleeping bags to toiletries, flashlights to water. Morningside received items on Wednesdays in May and volunteers moved them to distribution centers. In order to accommodate this emergency need, instead of our annual canned food drive to stock the Calvin Court Home for Seniors food pantry, the MPC shepherd purchased the supplies with contingency funds and delivered them. Our support of this Presbyterian Home was still very much appreciated and we were able to support two efforts at once.

Another opportunity to respond to friends across the ocean in Liberia came to us through MPC member Emilie Paille who is once again participating in the Mercer on Mission initiative, a unique blend of study abroad and service-learning sponsored by Mercer University. Twelve students and two faculty members will teach Liberian students in West Africa at Ricks Institute, working in classroom partnerships and sharing instruction with Ricks' teachers. This year, in response to Ricks' teacher requests, the emphasis is on teaching children to read, so the MPC Mission Team decided to donate for book purchases. The student teachers will read these books to children, sharing them among the group of students and classes and leaving the books with the teachers at Ricks.

Though each part of the Mission Team will continue to plan carefully for annual events, this spring has shown us how important contingency funds are and how we need to be open to emergent needs of communities near and far, from Tuscaloosa to New Orleans and even Liberia to Japan, while still strongly supporting on-going needs.

### **Returning to Haiti**

Our 2011 Pilgrimage to Haiti has been set for Oct. 1-7. Come to an informational meeting on Sunday, June 19, at 12:15 in Room 201. If you are interested in traveling to Haiti to work with the children at the three Hearts with Haiti homes, but can't make this meeting, be sure to contact Brad Odom [jbradleyodom@gmail.com](mailto:jbradleyodom@gmail.com) as deposits for airline tickets will be required by July 1.

## Help Needed to Make Aslan Roar

While there may be some magic involved in “Adventures Through the Wardrobe,” this year’s Vacation Bible School theme, there’s more need for willing hands and hearts to make the experience memorable for our young campers. Though we certainly do need volunteers who can join us for the whole week of VBS (June 20-24) or to drive for multiple days of Mission Camp (July 25-29), please know that any amount of time you can give is welcome.

For instance, we provide childcare for younger siblings so that parents can volunteer. So, could you help in the nursery one day of VBS, 8:30-12:15? Could you help prepare and serve snacks one or two days 9:15-11:15? Would you like to lead the activity one morning, such as making Turkish delight with kids? Or you could help with closing day lunch, Friday, June 24.

Mission Camp is full of one day and some half-day opportunities – to accompany kids to a preschool or a senior center, to grocery shop and deliver meals to a food

pantry, to sort food at Atlanta Community Food Bank, or even an overnight adventure to the Len Foote Hike Inn in north Georgia.

If helping the week of either camp doesn’t work out for you, we welcome set-up and clean-up volunteers and also those who wish to donate items for snacks, lunches and supplies. Items needed for VBS will be posted in first two weeks of June and items for Mission Camp in July. There is a VBS workday Wednesday, June 15, starting at 9:30 a.m. and the big set up will be Sunday afternoon, June 19, 2-5 p.m. Clean up takes place Friday, June 24, 1-3 p.m. Preparations for Mission Camp will take place the third week of July.

*\*\*\*Registration forms for VBS and Mission Camp can be found on our website ([www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org)). In order to prepare all supplies and volunteers needed for each week, please contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam ([msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)) immediately if you will be mailing in your form.\*\*\**

## Heifer Trip Stockholders Invited to ‘Board Meeting’ Lunch

If you purchased a stock certificate for a share in sending our four MPC sixth-graders and their chaperones to the Heifer International Global Challenge June 8-11, watch your mail the second week of June for your postcard from the youth telling you about their trip. Then, don’t forget the stockholders’ luncheon on Sunday, June 26, after worship, when our young ambassadors will “report” back to those who invested in their trip. There will be delicious hot dogs for all, so plan on coming down to Fellowship Hall for a great meal and the presentation. If you are able to help with the lunch, please contact Melinda Sandkam.

The Silent Auction May 22 was a huge success, raising necessary funds to make the trip affordable. Many thanks to all those who donated items for the auction itself, the very fun bidding wars that took place and all those who did indeed “invest” in the youth of MPC. Special nods to Tony Fishpaw for creating the Auction brochure, to Brenda Fishpaw, Anna and Miguel Garcia and Lisa and Shannon Harris for running our auction check-out and to Jeff Hullinger for a great job as emcee.



## HEAR YOUNG VOICES

### WHO MAY BECOME

### TOMORROW'S OPERA STARS

The Atlanta Opera's High School Opera Institute, comprised of 11 high school voice students from the Atlanta area, will perform their end-of-the-year concert at Morningside on Sunday, June 5, at 4 p.m. This recital is free and open to the public.

MPC's choirmaster/organist Walter Huff is music director of the Institute and will accompany the singers. This educational program is a unique offering for any opera company and an exciting addition to the area's vocal opportunities for this age group. The concert will include vocal selections by Copland, Lehár, Lully, Menotti, and Mozart.



## *Advocacy Committee Exploring New Directions*

MPC's Advocacy Committee supports social-justice efforts year-round, including the Covenant Network, Interfaith Children's Movement, and Presbyterian Day at the Capitol. Come join a meeting of the Advocacy Committee on Sunday, June 12, at 12:30 in Room 201 to discuss what activities and issues we should support in the coming months. We'll discuss the new advocacy partnership at the Presbytery as well.

Possibilities might include merging with the Environmental Action Committee, either to focus on environ-

mental issues or to become a multi-issue organization. Should we continue to function mainly as a financial supporter of other organizations or take a more active role in having the congregation participate in an action (for example, writing letters for Bread for the World as Druid Hills does)?

Even if you can't attend, chair Sarah Beth Gehl ([sbcoffey@gmail.com](mailto:sbcoffey@gmail.com)) welcomes your ideas, comments and questions.

# Your Session at Work: May 16 Meeting

- Program Director **Melinda Sandkam** said additional volunteers are needed on June 24, for the final day of Vacation Bible School (See the whole story on Page 7). Let her know if you can help any time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. with set up, serving or clean up for the closing day program and lunch.
- On behalf of the preschool, Melinda reported that registrations for both summer camp and next year's classes are going well. There are openings for three-year-olds in both programs.
- Speaking for the Facilities committee, Operations Team Leader **John Watson** reported that exterior windows along the front of the church will be scraped and painted while the preschool is closed (May 25-June 5). Lead paint will be removed and replaced with a safer alternative.
- Evangelism Team Leader **Shannon Harris** reminded everyone that any and all information for church-wide communication should be sent to MPC's "universal mailbox" via e-mail at [communications@morningsidepc.org](mailto:communications@morningsidepc.org).

[communications@morningsidepc.org](mailto:communications@morningsidepc.org). The Communications committee, led by **Daisy Ottmann**, will then be sure to place the information on the Web site or on Facebook, or in Life@Morningside, *The Morningside Messenger* or the weekly e-newsletter, as appropriate.

- **Philip Hawkins**, team leader for Worship and the Arts, reported that we will see new banners in the Sanctuary for Pentecost and Advent. Congregational Nurture Co-Team Leader **Brad Odom** commended to Session **Athalie White's** continuing excellence in coordinating MPC's congregational lunches.
- **Brenda Fishpaw**, moderator of the Board of Deacons, said that as part of the group's efforts to help new members assimilate into life at Morningside, they are sending welcome notes and business cards.

Ruthlyn Newell  
Clerk of Session



## A Load of Relief

Lydia Circle members Heather Regnault and Melanie McKelvey getting ready to deliver some of our donations for tornado victims in the Tuscaloosa area. (Read the whole story on Page 6.)



### Elder on Call

**Mary Chapman**  
*June 5-11*

**Sue Ballay**  
*June 12-18*

**Tony Fishpaw**  
*June 19-25*

**Bradley Odom**  
*June 26-July 2*

### Deacon on Call

**Bill Means**  
*June 5-11*

**Jill Klotz**  
*June 12-18*

**Anna Garcia**  
*June 19-25*

**Van Jensen**  
*June 26-July 2*



## Which Bible Do You/Should You Read? Explore ‘Lost/Found in Translation’

Did you know that 2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the King James Bible? For centuries, scholars have struggled to translate the ancient Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible into everyday English while preserving the flavor of the original, with varying results. Various translations were used by competing factions in the dramatic struggle to define modern Christianity.

Go to any bookstore for a Bible, and you’ll be overwhelmed by the variety: KJV, NIV, TEB, NLT,

### WE INTERRUPT THIS NEWS STORY FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN.....

*COMING TO A CLASSROOM NEAR YOU JUNE 19*

*Daisy Ottmann and Link Marx Productions are proud to present a mini-drama "Born Again" in MPC Theatre 201 starring the Man from Nazareth and Nicodemus the Pharisee, Jewish leader and member of the Sanhedrin. Curtain goes up at 9:45 a.m. Doors open at 9:30. Come early for best seating. Admission?*

*Your updated Time & Talent Survey! (And we’ll be seeking your opinion on the style of this proposed curriculum, which follows the lectionary.)*

### NOW BACK TO OUR ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED STORY.....

RSV, NASB, NRSV, ETC. Why are there so many different English translations? What are the strengths and weaknesses of them? Is there an “original Bible” we can rely on?

Learn about the sometimes dangerous history of the translation of the Bible in “Lost (and Found) in Translation,” a discussion led by Jack and James Klotz with the Morningside Bible Class, Sundays in June at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201.