



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

TEL 404.876.7396
WEB morningsidepc.org

Inside This Issue

- 1 **Worship**
- 2 **From the Pastor's Desk**
- 3 **Inside Morningside**
- 4 **Spotlight on Clifton**
- 5 **Calendar**
- 6 **Children, Youth and Family Ministries**
- 7 **Gallery**
- 8 **Connections**
- 9 **Session News**
- 10 **BackWords**

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-2nd*

debbiloom@yahoo.com

Meredith Loftis *Children's Worship Leader 3rd-7th*

loftism@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*

July 2011 Worship at Morningside

July 3, 2011

Sermon: "Alternative Medicine"

Text: Mark 5:21-43

Baron Mullis preaching

July 10, 2011

Katherine Higgins preaching
Eggleston/Scottish Rite Hospital Chaplain
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

July 17, 2011

Glenn Small preaching
MPC Affiliate Member
Licensed Professional Counselor

July 24, 2011

Tom Evans preaching
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

July 31, 2011

Sermon: "Open Wide Your Hearts"

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Baron Mullis preaching

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

Dear Friends,

As I sat down to write this, I had just been downstairs witnessing the closing of the first day of Vacation Bible School here at Morningside... as I sat watching our younger members sing their songs and pray the closing prayer together, I was struck once more by just how necessary, indeed mandatory, it is for us to prepare to meet the needs of this boisterous, big band of kids as they progress into adolescence. It is important that we meet their needs, and it is important that we meet the needs of the youth we have now. So you will be hearing about some exciting things upcoming in the life of Morningside Church over the coming months.

We are doing good things here, and we will continue to find ways to honor the vows we make every time we baptize a child at Morningside. As I recently alluded in a sermon, some of you are going to be asked to be a part of our new youth program when it starts in the fall. So be forewarned, the call is coming!

But today... today I want to write to you about *rest*. Perhaps it is my own upcoming time away that puts me in mind of rest... I will be gone for a few weeks in July, first to study and then to play. I hope you also will have some time this summer for reflection and relaxation. It's important to recharge our batteries. As I was taking in all of the activity in Fellowship Hall with the kids, I thought to myself, "we can't sustain this if we don't periodically take time to renew ourselves."

I'm reminded of an analogy that a colleague of mine uses to describe the interconnectedness of work and rest. He thinks of it like breathing. We must inhale and exhale. There is a limit to just how much we can inhale. Eventually we are full and must exhale. But there is also a limit to how much we can exhale. Eventually we will be empty and suffocate. We must both inhale and exhale to survive.

I think there is a tremendous amount of truth to that analogy and that it plays well in the church. I know well that our summer attendance and activities will ebb due to vacations and family time away. I know our programs slow down and where we struggle to prioritize what goes in the e-news in April, we wind up looking for con-



tent in August. I believe that is as it should be. We can't "go, go, go" all the time! But when we're done with rest, it is time to go back to work, to return to seeking meaningful ways to be a part of what is going on in Atlanta because of Morningside Church.

So, for all of us, for me and you, I hope the fallow time of summer prepares us for the excitement of new ventures in the fall.

Shalom,

"This I Believe..." These words prompt various responses from all of us. Some think of Starbucks cups, others of Edward R. Murrow, and at least a few of us remember a service at MPC where our fellow congregants told us what they held as core values. We will repeat *This I Believe* as our 11 a.m. worship on Aug. 6. This year's homilies will be delivered by Jennye Guy, Bill Means and Ruthlyn Newell. Don't miss this chance to hear what Jennye, Bill and Ruthlyn believe!

July Birthdays

1 Becky Haskins	13 Blair Myers
1 Matthew Caudill	13 Bennett Metz
1 Cindy Humphries	14 Mindee Metz
1 Will Grant	15 Ellen Brown Landers
1 Kelly Lee	17 Mark Cochran
2 Charles Woolley	20 Collier Maxwell
3 Michelle Mashburn	21 Annie Moon Davis
4 Will Herndon	21 Jeb Davis
4 Andrea Leonard	23 Diana Cochran
4 Meg Samuels	25 Anthony Owens
5 Ben Kennedy	25 Mark Johnson
6 Mary Hardy Holaway	25 Laura Fillyaw
7 Mac Barnette	25 Taylor Morton
7 Luke Santy	26 Bill Bell
7 Gaspari Pellerito	26 Nick Bremer
7 Wendy Ralph	27 Cameron McIntosh
8 Marlo Kirby McDonald	28 Kim Nuckols
9 Marshall Hunter	28 Elizabeth Fairleigh
10 Richard Finn	30 Leigh Del Grosso
10 Steve Prittie	31 Nathan Burgess
10 Caroline Bell	31 Amy Jensen
11 Roland Behm	
12 Susan Oder	
12 Tom Oder	
13 Christine Butz	



Adult Class Will Ponder What Bible Really Says

What does the Bible *really* say about _____? Choose your topic, and you can be sure that there are any number of answers that people will make. How to answer tough questions scripturally can be a challenge for even the most seasoned believer. Recognizing this challenge, the late Dr. Peter Gomes authored *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*.

About his book, Dr. Gomes wrote, “The theme of this book is the risk and joy of the Bible: risk in that we might get it wrong, and the joy in the discovery of the living Word made flesh. It is around this theme that I

formulate three basic questions which the thoughtful reader brings to the Bible: What is it? How is it used? What does it have to say to me?”

The adult class meeting in Room 201 at 9:45 a.m. Sundays will cover “The Bible and... wealth, science, mystery, anti-Semitism, women, the good life, homosexuality.” Come to all or any of these discussions led by member of our Morningside church community and re-encounter what Scripture has to say about these eternal topics.

‘Tempest’ Will Tempt Us at Georgia Shakespeare

Meet Ariel, Caliban and a marooned cast of characters on a remote island in William Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” playing at Georgia Shakespeare. We’re getting up a group to go together to see the production by this professional theater company located on the Oglethorpe University campus on Sunday, July 17, at 7 p.m.

Join the MPC crowd for dinner and an evening of theater. It’s easy to get to, has free parking, picnic tables available beforehand and beautiful 500-seat theater for a great performance. Contact Melinda Sandkam by July 10 to reserve your ticket at a group price.



Morningside Milestones

- Oops! We knew there were more weddings in our Sanctuary that we’d somehow missed saluting. So a belated wish for happiness to Ellen Brown and Jim Landers, Katherine Colmer and David Johnston, who were wed in May.
- Our baby boom continues as we welcome Alexander Stuart Holland, son of Betsy and Jason and grandson of Bill and Cindy, who can’t stop grinning.
- We baptized Wren Alexandra Lewis into Christ’s church June 19. Proud parents are Amanda and Christopher.
- Adults joined up too! On June 12, we added Richard Alexander, Rich and Lib Boggs, Bryan Rogers and Brian Johnson, and engaged couple Jason Williams and Jennifer Wise. Seek out these new members of our family and get acquainted. Ruthlyn Newell, our clerk of session, says this brings our membership total to 486.
- We extend our sympathies to Ken Sharpe on the recent death of his father, to the family of Karolyn Cowden, former MPC member and long-time Presbyterian who recently died in Summerville, SC, and to Chris Henry and Sara Hayden on the death of Chris’ grandfather.
- Congratulations to Joseph Cochran, Lucy Grant, Cade Lawson, Taylor Morton and their chaperones Leslie Grant and Melissa Lawson for their success in surviving heat and “Third World conditions” at the Heifer Global Challenge in Arkansas. We heard about their travails and the good work this organization does in providing sustainable growth with food animals from our young ambassadors and Heifer International CEO Pierre Ferrari at a hotdog lunch in Fellowship Hall June 26.

Personal Story: Church Shelter Continues Despite Church Closure

In the winter of 1979, a homeless man died from exposure on the streets of Atlanta. At that same time members of Clifton Presbyterian Church, located in the Lake Claire neighborhood, were in the midst of a Bible study and wondered how they could respond. About then, a guest pastor suggested to the congregation that they establish a shelter in their church and challenged them to act. After much prayer and preparation, on Nov. 1, 1979, they took their vans and cars downtown and convinced three homeless men to come with them. They gave those three men hot food, a shower, and shelter in the sanctuary of the church. That was the beginning of Clifton Night Hospitality, the first faith-based emergency shelter in our city.

Thirty-one years later this November, Night Hospitality still provides food and shelter for 30 men every night of the year. The men are provided with counseling, case management, and are taught the self-respect that they need to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. They are encouraged to seek employment and establish good habits for better health.

Though Clifton Presbyterian Church closed in 2003, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries still continues, sponsored

mostly by Presbyterian churches, including Morningside. Each night, a church team or individual volunteers will come to the shelter and serve the evening meal to the men, providing them nourishment and hospitality. Volunteers also assist with teaching life skills, keeping the clothes closet full, doing laundry and myriad other tasks that go along with providing day-to-day support for 30 men.

How can you and I help? Morningside members prepare and help serve dinner for the men at Clifton the fourth Saturday of every other month. After helping serve dinner, volunteers are encouraged to sit down and eat with the men and enjoy conversation and fellowship. In addition to preparing dinner during the month of July, we'll collect household items for Welcome Home baskets (see story below). These baskets will be gifts to the recent graduates who have found employment and are moving into their own homes. If you have any questions or want to get involved in helping at Clifton, please contact one of our shepherds .. Kent Balch, Brenda Fishpaw, or Tony Fishpaw.

Tony Fishpaw

Morningside Comes Together to Welcome Clifton Men Home

We have until July 17 to bring in donated items to create Welcome Home baskets for the men moving on from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. With contents ranging from alarm clocks to condiments, detergents to toiletries, this homecoming gift is most welcome when moving into a new home. See the display in the Welcome Center for

requested items. The kids attending Mission Camp will assemble the baskets. If you are looking to further support this effort for Clifton, we need four volunteers to coordinate the basket-filling 8:30-10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 26. Contact Clifton Shepherd Tony Fishpaw (Fishpaw@kentbalch.com) with any questions.

Fight Local Hunger at Food Pantry



Sign up today to sort food at the Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM) food pantry on the morning of Saturday, July 9. ICM serves many residents in our neighborhood that live in low-income housing. Give a few hours to support this at-risk part of our community. Shepherd Nancy Collins at ncollins0209@gmail.com can provide more information.

Adventures in Our Community Beckon Campers, Call for Adults

Twenty-one kids are registered for our third Mission Camp, July 25-29. Now we need to secure chaperones/drivers, since most of our week is spent visiting outreach programs. Contact Melinda Sandkam today to sign up for a morning, afternoon or whole day.

Campers will visit a preschool and senior home on Monday. Tuesday morning we need non-driving volunteers to help assemble Welcome Home baskets for two hours. Special hiking volunteers are needed for Tuesday through Wednesday mid-day for our overnight adventure to the Len Foote Hike Inn. Wednesday and Thurs-

day afternoons, one group sorts food at Atlanta Community Food Bank while the other visits the Intown Collaborative Ministries food pantry. Thursday morning we'll hold a car wash for preschool parents and anyone else who stops by church, with the money going to the Atlanta Humane Society. If you don't have the whole morning, we would still welcome volunteers to coordinate the car wash. Friday we'll visit the offices of Trees Atlanta and then return for an afternoon of water fun on front lawn, a wrap-up devotion and planning the Sunday presentation. We need volunteers for all pieces and parts to make this camp truly "Not All About Me."

'Narnia' Week Full of Fun, Surprises Thanks to You

We have a raft of helpers to thank for the successful week of "Adventures Through the Wardrobe" Vacation Bible School for 55 active youngsters. Whether taking pictures, running registration, preparing snacks, helping for a day or two, setting up and breaking down, or just supplying props, we needed you!

Special kudos to the group leaders-- Ibby Bailey, Scotti Chonko, Robin Hackney, Katherine Johnston, Heather Regnault and Heather Scribner, Sam Tomaka and Liz Thompson; doing music – Dawn Bell and Linda Johnson; and the ever-helpful Knights of Narnia-- Joseph Cochran, Nicholas Lazzaro and Taylor Morton. Thanks to Maggie

Adams for making Turkish Delight with 35 kids and Don Grant for designing another awesome t-shirt. Camp Calvin Program Director Paul Humphreys and counselors brought all sorts of fun games and activities, including churning ice cream, along for two days with the older kids. Gratitude also to the Readers' Theater performers led by Daisy Ottmann, "construction" crew – Joe Ballay, Nancy Coomes, Marlo McDonald, Gus Restrepo & Bryan Smith, Children & Youth leaders Sue Ballay, Jill Davis and Carolyn Morton, and Children's Program VBS Co-Chairs Vickie Hunter and Melanie McKelvey. Nineteen new kids came to VBS this year!

All parents and volunteers,
please note that next year VBS will be June 25-29.
Mark your calendars!

New 'Adventure' Explores Stage, Closets July 12

As we wrap up from heavy use of property during VBS and look ahead to Sunday School kick-off in mid-August, we will be holding a stage/closets workday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, July 12. Join us for any amount of time during the day as we sort, straighten, inventory and prepare for next endeavors. Come for an hour or

two after dropping off food for Common Ground, or come for an hour while the kids are in camp, spend a morning or afternoon with us. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the Session Room 103. Or contact Melinda Sandkam with questions.

'Through the Wardrobe' Goes Many Places



Readers' Theater told the 'Narnia' Stories



Double Digit Dragon Girls Practice Song Moves



Games with Camp Calvin Director



Acting Out Psalm 148

Fellowship Groups Continue Summer Connections

Some of our continuing groups have gone on hiatus for the season, but others continue their activities and welcome newcomers to come check them out. MPC also has a number of ‘pop-up’ events in the works, such as the theater outing detailed on Page 3.

If there are two of you, you’re a couple and thus invited to the next MPC Couples Group social evening at the home of Julie Green and Mardee Rightmyer (2707 Pharr Rd., 30317), Friday, July 8, at 7 p.m. There’ll be beef and chicken kebabs on the grill, so plan to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to go along, plus your favorite beverage. Kathy and Alan Bremer (kdbremer@bellsouth.net) will take your RSVPs.

The LGBT Group’s next gathering will be Saturday, July 16, at the home of Ann Bowers and Maria Ragland (568 Park Dr. NE, 30306). Further details will follow in Life@, our website and on MPC’s Facebook page. RSVP for this event or add your name to the mailing list by contacting Peter C. Dickson (404-839-1281 or peter.dickson@comcast.net).

The LGBT Group meets regularly for fun, food, fellowship and building connections within our faith community. Our events are open to all MPC members and friends who support full inclusion of LGBT individuals within the church. But we need a new name! The LGBT Group is looking for a name that showcases our strengths and encourages an inclusive church community. We have already received some promising suggestions, and we want to make sure we hear from everyone. So put on your “thinking caps” and email in your ideas to Peter. The group will vote on all entries received at the gathering July 16.

To Dance with the White Dog by Terry Kay will be the featured book for discussion July 17 in the Session Room at 12:45 p.m. JoAnn Bertrand will lead the talk about this book which has reached Southern-classic status. The book group is open to everyone. The August selection is *Quarantine* by Jim Crace and in September we’ll tackle *The Help* by Katharine Stockett. Daisy Ottmann coordinates the group’s activities (dazette@bellsouth.net).

Got Game? Kids Can Prove It Sunday Mornings

“Ping Pong, Pop Tarts and Prayer” continues through the summer for completed third through seventh graders at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays in Rooms 003 and 005. The Double Digits and Youth of MPC are invited to meet Ms. Meredith on Sunday mornings to enjoy a cookies ‘n cream or frosted blueberry Pop Tarts between games of ping pong, foosball and air hockey. This fun time of fellowship is wrapped up with prayer before the worship hour.



Mountain Retreat Will Focus on Faith

MPC has landed the premier weekend for leaf-looking in Montreat, NC, for our next all-church retreat. In addition, we’ll welcome as guest speaker Dr. Peter Hobbie, distinguished educator from Presbyterian College as we focus on “Growing in Faith.”

Registration materials are available now in the Narthex and on our website (www.morningsidepc.org) for Oct. 14-16 at the William Black Lodge. Signups must be completed by Sept. 18, but early registration is encouraged to reserve your choice of accommodations.

Elder Mary Chapman is chairing this year’s retreat committee. She notes that financial aid is available for those who otherwise might forego the retreat. Contact her at 404.234.0560 / chapman.maryv@gmail.com

Your Session at Work: June 20 Meeting

- **Jill Davis**, Children and Youth Ministries team leader, moved that Session permit her team and the Human Resources Committee to move forward with offering the job of Youth Leader to a qualified candidate. Session unanimously approved. More than 100 children attend MPC's Sunday school and other programs, so it is important that we provide strong youth leadership and programming to keep our children engaged in the life of the church as they grow up.
- Facilities Committee Chairman **John Watson** reported that recent storms knocked down three large trees in the wooded area of the church's property. The committee is researching tree removal options.
- John moved that Session approve the MPC Medical Emergency Plan developed by his committee. The session voted unanimously for approval. Copies of the plan will be available in the drawers of the tables in the Narthex, among other places.
- **Tony Fishpaw**, chairman of the Community Outreach Committee, reported that MPC's Meals on Wheels program needs help with deliveries the fourth Wednesday of every month. Please contact **Sarah Brownlee** at rsbrownlee1046@att.net if you'd like to volunteer. The route is in midtown and takes about an hour.
- **Jay Myers**, Evangelism Ministries team co-leader, reported that Morningside has welcomed 23 new members so far this year. The church has 486 members total.
- Diaconate Moderator **Brenda Fishpaw** reported that the deacons will be calling every member of the church over the summer months "just to touch base." Please welcome their calls.
- **Baron Mullis** announced he would be taking one week of study leave, followed by two weeks of vacation, and will be gone from July 8 – July 28. Rev. **Glenn Small** will be available for pastoral concerns. We have three guest preachers in place when Baron's away.
- In keeping with its practice in recent years, Session agreed not to have a stated meeting in July.
- Session unanimously agreed that MPC should be the site for this year's "Pride" service, Oct. 6. Session also agreed to sponsor the service, meaning our financial manager, **JoAnn Kearns**, will handle receipts and expenses connected with the service, which will not involve MPC funds.
- Baron opened discussion about naming **Joanna Adams** as Pastor Emerita for Morningside. Session voted unanimously to approve applying to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and then seeking the congregation's approval at a meeting in August. Stay tuned for the exact date of this meeting.

Ruthlyn Newell

Clerk of Session

Elder on Call

Tony Fishpaw

July 3-9

Philip Hawkins

July 10-16

Tom Daniel

July 17-23

Jill Davis

July 24-30

Randy Parrish

July 31– August 6

Deacon on Call

Bill Means

July 3-9

Duncan Spears

July 10-16

Bill Smith

July 17-23

Tim Gargis

July 24-30

Anna Garcia

July 31– August 6



Project Seeks Helpers to Fill School Backpacks on Summer Saturday

Remember the wonderful fragrance of a new box of crayons? Help more than 200 local school kids enjoy that experience by helping out at the Back-2-School backpack-filling party, hosted by the Georgia Justice Project for the children of its clients. Morningside Presbyterian would like to send at least five volunteers to help set up and work the event, Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Georgia Justice Project provides legal services and family support to indigent criminally accused clients, helping them move back into productive lives once they leave the judicial system. GJP has been highly successful in breaking the poverty-crime link, reducing recidivism to only 17 percent (vs. 70 percent nationally). The Back-2-School event has an impact on clients and their families as well, encouraging their children to have a positive attitude toward school.

There will be games, face painting, food and lots of fun. Held inside the gymnasium at the Dunbar Recreation Center, this is a great way to help at-risk youth get a good start for the new school year. The Dunbar Center is at 477 Windsor St. SW, 30312 (between Fulton and Richardson Sts. SW). For details, contact Bill Means (billmeans@bellsouth.net, 404.234.9718). Bill also is organizing a carpool from the MPC lot for this event.

