



# Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

TEL 404.876.7396  
WEB [morningsidepc.org](http://morningsidepc.org)

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## Serving You

**Dr. Baron Mullis** *Pastor*

404.876.7396 ext. 11

[baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org](mailto:baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org)

**Walter Huff** *Organist/Choirmaster*

[music@morningsidepc.org](mailto:music@morningsidepc.org)

**Robert Gray** *Assistant to the Minister*

**Melinda Sandkam** *Program Director*

404.876.7396 ext. 15

[msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)

**Debbi Loomis** *Children's Worship Leader K-2nd*

[debbiloom@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiloom@yahoo.com)

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

[loftism@gmail.com](mailto:loftism@gmail.com)

**Anna Best** *Office Administrator*, 404.876.7396 ext. 10

[office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org)

**J. Daniel Altman**, *Music Administrator*

[music@morningsidepc.org](mailto:music@morningsidepc.org)

**Ann Benson** *Office Assistant / Wedding Coordinator*

404.876.7396 ext. 20

[abenson@morningsidepc.org](mailto:abenson@morningsidepc.org)

**Randy Young** *Facilities Manager*, 404.876.7396 ext. 13

[randyyoung@morningsidepc.org](mailto:randyyoung@morningsidepc.org)

**JoAnn Kearns** *Accountant*

[kearnsja@gmail.com](mailto:kearnsja@gmail.com)

**Sarah Tomaka** *Preschool Director*, 404.685.8758

[mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)

**Gus Restrepo** *Sexton*

## August 2011 Worship at Morningside

**August 7, 2011**

"This I Believe"

Homilies delivered by

Jennye Guy, Bill Means and Ruthlyn Newell.

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

**August 14, 2011**

Baron Mullis preaching

Sermon: "When You Begin to Sink"

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

*Sunday School Kick Off*

*New Member Sunday*

*Congregational Meeting following worship*

**August 21, 2011**

Baron Mullis preaching

Sermon: "Shiphrah and Puah"

Text: Exodus 1:8-2:10

**August 28, 2011**

Baron Mullis preaching

Sermon: "Beware the Burning Bush!"

Text: Exodus 3:1-15

*Minute Message for Church Retreat*

## Dear Friends,

Okay, so recently I had one of those weeks where nothing quite seemed to go right. By the time the week had wrapped up, I had furniture missing from my move, no water at my house and a damaged car. I took to Facebook to rant about it, something I almost never do. My status update was only up briefly before I realized I just looked like I was whining and I took it down.



However, one of my clergy colleagues, someone who is *supposed* to have pastoral care skills, chose at that moment to comment that I probably could work a sermon out of this fiasco! (She wasn't the only one, either!)

Indeed I have. When I look back over that rather stressful week of my life, and I know we all have rather stressful weeks in our lives from time to time, the bright spots are represented by church.

Seriously, what made that particular week better was the help and offers of help that I got from friends, old and new, and it took me a little while to realize it, but what they all had in common was that I had some church connection to them. I know it seems a bit facile to put it so plainly, particularly because one can make friends other ways. But as I thought of it, that was from where my help came: friends from Seminary, friends from Charlotte, and friends from Morningside all reached out to offer me a meal, to unpack boxes... I could go on and on.

Sometimes it appears the job of a pastor is to be chief cheerleader and motivator to the church. And to be sure, I know you hear a lot from me about the need for church members to give time and treasure in pursuit of our mutual calling to follow Jesus Christ. And to be sure, the church does survive or thrive based on the activity of its members. It's easy to think of all we do *for* church. But every once in a while it sure is good to remember what the church does for *us*.

I hope from time to time that is your experience as well, to be reminded (hopefully not so dramatically!) that when we live and give of ourselves in genuine community, that same community reaches out and enfolds us our whole lives long with bonds of love and care and friendship.

It is, in a few theological words, the communion of the saints. And I give thanks to God for you.

Shalom,

## Presbyterians Witness? Come Hear Us Do It!

Anyone who has ever attended a Presbytery meeting has heard hopeful candidates for the ministry reveal their inmost thoughts about their faith. It's an important part of their theological journey. But for the rest of us? Maybe we're not so comfortable sharing the pillars of our beliefs in public. Some of us may even feel that personal witness may not be even "decent and in order."

Oh, but it is! We hold to a concept known as "the priesthood of all believers" and in keeping with that great tenet of Reform Theology, and instead of a sermon during our 11 a.m. Sunday worship on Aug. 7, three of our members will offer homilies on the topic "*This I Believe...*" Our speakers will be Jennye Guy, Bill Means and Ruthlyn Newell.



### Birthdays

3 Bill Southwood  
4 Julia Jarratt  
5 Shannon Harris  
5 Nancy Coomes  
5 Sandy Jones  
5 Pete Mounts  
6 Lucy Grant  
8 Amanda Lewis  
8 John McNeill  
12 Annie Kimball  
12 Jake Jones  
13 Jennye Guy  
13 Charlie Menefee  
13 Robert Gray  
15 Emma Lawson  
16 Cathy Keaveney  
16 Jackie Cleveland  
17 Katie Davis  
18 Nancy Lane  
19 Nick Lazzaro

20 Caroline Parrish  
22 Shawn Holaway  
22 Bill Means  
22 Sarah Chatel  
23 Tim Holbrook  
24 Bryan Busch  
25 Bonnie Daneker  
26 Nowell Berreth  
27 Debbie Fox  
23 Lee Douglas  
23 Scotti Chonko  
28 Becky Medearis  
29 Cha Holmes  
29 Randy Parrish  
29 Christopher Lewis  
30 Jill Klotz  
30 Elizabeth Rice  
31 Scott Bremer  
31 Charlsie Woolley  
31 Robin Boren  
31 Dale Ray



## Session Schedules Meeting for Momentous Vote

Something special will happen immediately after worship on Aug. 14. Your Session voted to ask the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to allow our members to vote on extending the title *Pastor Emerita* to the Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams. We've received permission and have scheduled this Congregational Meeting to vote on honoring Joanna.

This honorary title can be bestowed when a congregation wishes to recognize a retired former pastor who has served with great distinction. After our Congregational Meeting, we look forward to planning a celebration for Sept. 18, when Joanna and Al will be able to join us in

worship. There will be some surprises and Walter Huff and the Chancel Choir are working on special music.

Incidentally, if your Latin is a little rusty, *emerita* is the female version of *emeritus*. Literally, it means "out, but worthy." With this new relationship with MPC, Joanna can be in—and still most worthy. And, in case you're wondering why MPC hasn't acted sooner, our denominational Book of Order requires a waiting period before beginning the process.

## Hot Enough for You? Contemplate the Cool Mountains

Montreat, NC, has picked up some pretty funny nicknames—such as the "Presbyterian Mecca"—over the years, but whatever you call it, Montreat is a lovely and calming place for jangled nerves and spirits. And at no time more so than during the autumn leaf season in the Appalachians.

Morningside members will be able to enjoy this delightful setting for our third annual all-church retreat, "Growing in Faith," Oct. 14-16. We will stay at the historic William Black Lodge, a three-level stone building complete with fireplace and rocking-chair porch. In addition to workshop and worship sessions and our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Peter Hobbie, there will be time for hiking,

shopping (Black Mountain and Asheville are nearby), and just having fun with our group.

For details on accommodation choices, costs and other details, including how to apply for financial aid, pick up a brochure in the MPC Narthex or visit our website, [www.morningsidepc.org](http://www.morningsidepc.org), for a downloadable copy of the brochure and registration form. A \$25 registration fee is due at sign-up and you have until Sept. 18 to make final payments.

But, the Retreat Committee, chaired by Mary Chapman, will make it even easier to sign-up. Come to Fellowship Hour, hosted by the committee, on Aug. 28, and register and pay then.

## Morningside Milestones

- *Morningside Messenger* tries hard to keep up with all our member news, but lately we've been a bit behind. So, more belated best wishes to member Shereen (Sherry) Walls and her new husband Mike King (May 22) and to Lisa Jern and Tom Byrne (June 18). Our most recent newlyweds are Andrea Leonard and John Morgan (July 3). As a reminder, you can help keep us up to date by emailing news items to [communications@morningsidepc.org](mailto:communications@morningsidepc.org).
- Do we need to start a special column for "Newborn News"? July 13 brought Anderson Kimball to Drew and Susan and his big sisters Annie and Lillian Jane; July 16 welcomed Isabella Rose Sudduth to Andrew and Stefanie, as well as Anna Elizabeth Bradway to regular visitors Ali and Jon. We also salute Julian Aaron Bertrand, born June 25 in Italy. The whole family is doing well, including grandparents Jo Ann and Aaron.
- Calling all crafters! We've reserved Fellowship Hall for Saturday, Oct. 22 and Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23, for the Morningside Made Holiday Harvest Show and Sale. This event, open to our entire community, will offer clever and unique items for all ages, for giving or keeping. If you're interested in taking part—or know someone who is—be in touch with Daisy Ottmann (404.812.9725, [dazette@bellsouth.net](mailto:dazette@bellsouth.net)).
- Sympathies to Tom and Sarah Beth Gehl on the death of Tom's grandfather.
- Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully brought back those generous Pick-A-Pan helpings for lunch for our neighbors at Common Ground. This program now has been suspended by the AIDS Alliance for Faith & Health (AAFH). If cooking once a month is a great fit for you to support MPC's outreach programs, please consider signing up to provide a dish for the men at Druid Hills Night Shelter or to feed residents at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

## Personal Story: Morningside Supports ‘Mercer on Mission’

Mercer on Mission is an initiative established by Mercer University, a unique blend of study abroad and service-learning that provides life-changing experiences for students through academic instruction, cultural immersion, meaningful service, and spiritual reflection.

On June 4, I was fortunate to be able to return to West Africa on a Mercer on Mission project to work at Ricks Institute, a private school located just outside of the capital city, Monrovia. I traveled with Dr. Richard Wilson, chair of the Department of Christianity at Mercer, and we took with us 12 teacher candidates who are nearing the end of their teacher preparation programs and two teachers, earning Reading Masters degrees, who served as mentor teachers to the students.

The 2011 experience was intense. Our students were thrown into the daily routines of a struggling—but successful—school in Liberia. They rose to the challenges, but there are challenges ahead. Tift College of Education initially was invited to Ricks to provide experiences for Ricks faculty to be paired with teacher candidates who could provide views of what might be possible in teaching. Liberian teachers have been denied many educational experiences Americans take for granted due in part to growing up during the Liberian civil war.

Is it possible to impact instruction in Liberia with inexperienced teacher candidates when we are present there only one month out of the year? We believe that it is, especially with the input of the mentor teachers and Mercer faculty. Impact also becomes more possible because of the relationships Mercer and Tift are building with Ricks faculty and administration. Relationships matter; relationships allow the possibility of email correspondence and discussions about teaching to continue throughout the months between our visits.

Since we know that reading aloud to classes has important impact on students, and because there was little evidence that teachers read to the students when we were there in '09, a major emphasis for the 2011 team was an assignment to read to their classes daily. Prior to the trip, students were directed to select books Liberian students could relate to, excluding books which were all-white and all-American, and 62 books were purchased with funds donated by Morningside Presbyterian Church.

These books created a shared resource for the MoM team and were left in classroom sets with the suggestion and hope that they will be placed in classrooms for students and teachers next year. (If not, they'll be housed in the library for check-out.) Ricks teachers attended a seminar with the team in which each of us talked about the books we personally requested. It was exciting to see Ricks teachers' interest in the books and some took notes as they listened. Before we left Liberia at the end of June, several Ricks faculty members worked with the team to sort the books into classroom sets at the final seminar.

The impact of reading the books was apparent. It's impressive to hear older elementary students walking together on the paths of the school compound, chanting lines from a book they had heard for the first time:

“Chica, chica, boom, boom,  
will there be enough room  
at the top of the coconut tree?”

(*Chica, Chica, Boom, Boom*, Bill Martin & John Archambault, ill. Lois Ehlert, Prentice Hall, 1989)

Thank you, Morningside, for making this reading project possible. We all enjoyed it!

--Emilie Paille



## What a Relief! Sunday School Kick-Off Moves Inside

Remember those humid Sunday mornings when we welcomed the school year on the front lawn? Well, it's been hot enough this summer, and we have decided to move our kick-off event into Fellowship Hall. We hope that you will join in the fun at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14, as we play games, sing favorite VBS songs, dress up in "costume corner" and more.

A light breakfast will be served and grown-ups and kids alike will have fun sampling our children's offerings such as a mission project for kids (sponsored by Bread for the Journey outreach), chimes for children, crafts with our children's worship leaders, a romp in Jonah's whale, a final Vacation Bible School trip 'Through the Wardrobe' into Narnia and a preview of Big Fun days for the year. Games and activities for all!

Another feature of the day will be our annual special offering for Thornwell Home and School. During worship, please fill the special envelopes (decorated by Mission Camp attendees) with your gifts for this Presbyterian outreach which serves 100 children, toddlers to teens, each year. Some children stay for only a few months, others grow up at Thornwell. Your generous gifts support many basic needs including clothes, food, housing and school

supplies, along with enrichment opportunities such as activity fees for swimming or soccer, baseball or tennis. As many families are getting back into the school year, they can confirm how much it costs to sign up a child for soccer and buy the uniform, cleats, a ball and supply snack once for the team. Imagine providing all this for 100 children!

Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy. Read more @ [thornwell-home.org](http://thornwell-home.org).

Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam if you can help set up and serve breakfast and activities Sunday morning, Aug. 14, 9-10:50 a.m. or clean up after Fellowship Hour, 12:30-1 p.m.

## Morningside's Programs Grow with Our Youth

Morningside Presbyterian Church now offers a Middle School Youth Program. Our kids have grown up and so MPC is growing with them. At the beginning of this school year, our Middle School Youth Program begins for our current group of nine students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Our Youth Committee has grown too and would welcome more members. This group supports staff (soon to include a Youth Director) in planning and implementing Sunday morning activities, Sunday evening Youth Group, retreats, mission trips, fundraising, confirmation and more. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam if you would like to become involved with these efforts. The Youth Committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. Sunday,

Aug. 7, in the Session Room to confirm details of programming through the end of October. At the same time, we invite members of our congregation to discern if they are the next Youth Advisors for this Middle School program. Youth Advisors actually support the program by "hanging out" with the youth – chaperoning outings and going on retreats and mission trips.

Contact Baron Mullis if you can support our Middle Schoolers this way. First up this fall are outings that range from the Stone Mountain Laser Show to bowling, serving at Druid Hills Night Shelter and navigating a Corn Maze in North Georgia. MPC will also attend the Middle School Retreat at Calvin Center Oct. 7-9.

## We Need Your Big Boxes

*As we look ahead to a new introduction to the Christmas pageant, we need your big boxes. Please bring any large (think big enough for a kid to fit in) boxes to the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please check for any staples or other sharp edges.*



## Kids' Volunteers Gear Up for School Year

As our kids buy new backpacks, check their school supply lists and figure out where to catch the bus, we're also getting ready for the school year at MPC. We've set three volunteer training sessions at 10 a.m. on Sundays, Aug. 7, 21, and 28 in Room 001. If you have missed previous volunteer orientations or are new to an age group, then plan on joining one of these events to find out how to be the best volunteer ever.

At this brief orientation, you'll meet or reacquaint yourself with class leaders, shepherds and other volunteers,

learn or review your responsibilities as a volunteer and get important information on health and safety in classrooms. RSVP today to your shepherd to let them know which orientation you will attend. Kindergarten-grade one: Lele Ruby ([leleruby@bellsouth.net](mailto:leleruby@bellsouth.net)), grades two and three: Caroline Tanner ([carolinetanner@hklaw.com](mailto:carolinetanner@hklaw.com)). For grades four and five, RSVP to Program Director Melinda Sandkam ([msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)).

## New Burmese Family Arrives in Decatur

Six Star Refugee Partnership Inc. welcomed a new family from Burma/Myanmar July 27. From the same area (Chin State) as our current family (the Sia Tings), the Pey San family consists of a 29-year-old father, 25-year-old mother and two sons, ages two and eight months. The father's 19-year-old brother is also part of the family. They are Christian and will surely become involved in one of the many Chin congregations here in Atlanta.

The family will live in Decatur in the same complex as the Sia Ting family. Immediate needs include a washer and dryer. Please keep this family in your prayers as they prepare for a new life. Contact Betsy Armstrong ([bjarmstrong@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjarmstrong@bellsouth.net), 770.396.6496) or Holly Campbell ([hollycampbell1@gmail.com](mailto:hollycampbell1@gmail.com), 404.435.0676) with questions or offers of assistance.

## Program Chief Congratulates Clean-up, Camp Crews

Joe and Sue Ballay and Richard and Sarah Brownlee helped whip our children's programming storage spaces into shape. Thanks, Gracias and Merci! Our stage and closets have never looked so good! A huge thank you also goes out to the 40+ volunteers that made 'It's Not All About Me' Mission Camp happen the last week of July. The 10 who hiked five miles in and five miles back out the next day for our overnight adventure get an extra special

round of applause, but every single volunteer is appreciated. We repeated some old favorites – visiting Gate City day care and Atria Senior Community, adapted our shopping-on-a-budget and delivering-items-to-food-pantry to include our partner outreach program Intown Collaborative Ministries and tried new locales including Atlanta Humane Society and Trees Atlanta.

### Elder on Call

August 7-13	Tom Daniel
August 14-20	Jay Myers
August 21-27	Randy Parrish
August 28-September 3	Anne Barnette

### Deacon on Call

August 7-13	Brenda Fishpaw
August 14-20	Jeanne McCarthy
August 21-27	Shari Tant
August 28-September 3	Link Marx

*As our nation approaches the tenth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, Walter Huff and the Chancel Choir are preparing special musical selections to be presented in worship on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011. Mark your calendars to be with us.*

## Theater, Books, Dinner Highlight August Fellowship Fun



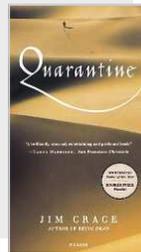
Something is more than a little 'off' in Georgia Shakespeare's next show, and MPC is off to enjoy a hearty laugh.

"Noises Off" is a hilarious British farce that takes you behind the curtain with a mediocre touring company trying to put on a terrible play and making a delightfully entertaining mess of it.

Productions are staged at the Conant Arts Center, located at the rear of Oglethorpe University, parking is free and picnic tables are available before show for dining together. Contact Melinda immediately for a group ticket, cost \$26.75, (or buy your own) to the 7 p.m. performance of this evening of hilarity on Sunday, Aug. 7.



All couples will be welcomed by host couple Carol and Bill Southwood for a fun evening at Caramba Restaurant on Decatur St., Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. RSVP to Kathy and Alan Bremer ([kdbremer@bellsouth.net](mailto:kdbremer@bellsouth.net) or 404.872.3001).



Also welcoming is our co-ed and highly informal book group, the RHO Readers. Our discussions take place at 12:45 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month in the Session Room. Featured Aug. 21 is the highly unusual short novel by Jim Crace titled *Quarantine*. Does spending 40 days in the desert sound familiar to you....? Sue Ballay will lead the conversation.