



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 A Message from Joanna Adams
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Children, Youth & Families Ministries
- 7 Connections
- 8 Spotlight on Leadership
- 9 Session News
- 10 BackWords

Serving You

Dr. Baron Mullis *Pastor*, 404.876.7396 ext. 11
baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org

Rev. Joanna Adams *Pastor Emerita*
Walter Huff *Organist / Choirmaster*
music@morningsidepc.org

Robert Gray *Assistant to the Minister*
Chris Peters *Director of Youth Ministry*
chrispeters@morningsidepc.org

Melinda Sandkam *Program Director*, 404.876.7396 ext. 15
msandkam@morningsidepc.org

Rebecca Shipley *Director of Children's Choirs*
rebeccashipley@mindspring.com

Debbi Loomis *Children's Worship Leader K-1st*
debbiloom@yahoo.com

Shavon Starling-Louis *Children's Worship Leader 2nd-3rd*
shavon.starling-louis@students.ctsnet.edu

Meredith Loftis *Children's Worship Leader 4th-5th*
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*

October 2011 Worship at Morningside

October 2, 2011

Baron Mullis preaching

"Covenant"

Text: Exodus 20:1-20

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

October 9, 2011

Baron Mullis preaching

"Idols"

Text: Exodus 32:1-14

October 16, 2011

Rev. Katherine Higgins preaching
Chaplain / Clinical Pastoral Educator

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Church Retreat Weekend

October 23, 2011

Baron Mullis preaching

"The Impossible Commandment"

Text: Matthew 22:34-46

New Member Sunday

October 30, 2011

Baron Mullis preaching

"'Tis Good to Be Humble"

Text: Matthew 23:1-12

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

Dear Friends,

Let's think about dreams... and let's think about time... and let's think about money.

When we talk about stewardship that's what we're talking about. We are thinking of strategies where we can seek to align our dreams with God's dreams.

There is no dream or vision we can think up for Morningside that exceeds God's hopes for us. The wonderful reality of God's abundance is that we can't out-dream God.

Here are a few dreams that I have a hunch Morningside members hold in common with each other and with God:

- Ongoing relationships with our mission partners where we can give from our substance, not our excess. In this vision, we are major givers to the outreach agencies that are closest to the vision we believe God is calling us to live. You know who they are.
- We've hired a talented youth director... part time. We're a congregation of nearly 500 with only one pastor. What would it take to move from a part-time youth director to an associate pastor for youth and their families?
- Here's a big one: our fine choir and our nascent youth group both meet in borrowed spaces: the choir in Fellowship Hall and the youth in the old associate pastor's office. What would it take for them to have their own spaces someday?

In some ways, I think having the courage to dream a big dream is harder than finding the time and the money to support it. It takes courage because we have to risk that we won't realize it immediately (none of the above are things I expect we'll accomplish this year or even next) or that it won't be lived out quite the way we hoped. But the wonderful thing about when we seek to align our dreams with God's hopes for us is that the end product will never disappoint God.

Here's the thing, though. The tragedy wouldn't be that

we set our sights too high and failed to achieve our goals. The tragedy would be if we set our sights too low and did. And one more thing... Morningside's track record isn't the latter. Morningside's track record is to set our eyes on lofty places and get there. Who would have dreamed ten years ago of where Morningside would be today? Well, some folks did.

Which brings us to time and money. One of the wonderful things I've seen about Morningside since I've arrived is this: *you show up*. You're there for the celebrations and you're there for the hard work. You give your time. And I don't know how much people give to the church, but I know you show up financially too. And I know you will.

The last thing I'll say about the church is this: the way we work, the way we've always worked in bad economic times and good, is that we give in proportion to how we have been blessed, because we won't be able to out-give God.

How big do we dare to dream? As big as we can – we can't out-dream God. How should we give? We give as generously as we're able. We won't be able to out-give God.

Thanks for reading,

Baron



Young Adults Examine Careers

Are you where you want to/need to be in your profession or career? If not--or if so!--come explore your work life Sunday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Brad Odom (2183 Ellwyn Dr., Chamblee 30341). Dr. Glenn Small will facilitate. RSVP to Brooke Lampe (brookelmsw@gmail.com).



Signups Still Open for ‘Growing in Faith’

Spaces are still available to join some 40 members of our church family for a weekend in the North Carolina mountains—if you can sign up this week. Forms are available in the Welcome Center and the Narthex, as well as on our website, www.morningsidepc.org.

Oct. 14-16 will mark our third annual fall journey to Montreat, NC, to refresh our minds, enjoy the scenery, find time to shop or hike or laze by the fire, get better acquainted, and enjoy discussion and worship in a beautiful setting. There are various levels of accommodation at the historic William Black Lodge and financial assistance is available.

The program includes three sessions led by Professor Peter Hobbie on “Growing in Faith”: 1) Knowing who we are: what distinguishes Presbyterians from other Christians, 2) Loving our neighbors: understanding how our beliefs differ from those of other major world religions, and 3) Keeping the faith: practices that strengthen our faith ... as individuals, as families, as citizens. Dr. Hobbie is Cornelison Professor of the Christian Religion at Presbyterian College.

Refer any questions to Mary Chapman (404 234.0560 or chapman.mary@gmail.com).

Lasershow Spectacular Says Goodbye to Summer

Let's join together in the cooler outdoors for the all-new laser show at Stone Mountain and say goodbye to summer in style. The fun starts Saturday, Oct. 1, at 8 p.m. Plan to carpool from MPC or meet on the lawn for fellowship and a magnificent show.

Chairs, blankets, and food (no grills or glass) are welcome, and it is free with the \$10 vehicle entrance fee. Email Katherine Johnston at kecjohnston@gmail.com with any questions.

Morningside Milestones

- It was a banner day for MPC when we honored the Rev. Dr. Joanna M. Adams with the title pastor emerita Sept. 18. Read her letter to all of us on Page 4. We also want to recognize Walter Huff, our Chancel Choir, and special guest soloists for the outstanding musical programs both that Sunday and for the service marking the tenth anniversary of 9/11.
- Our best wishes for a bright future for member Shelley Senterfitt and her bridegroom Ken Canfield, who wed Sept. 10.
- Congratulations to our Double Digits for baking delicious goodies! Thanks to your generosity in purchasing them, they raised \$353.21 to help relieve Somalian famine.
- Did you ever wonder if those ‘dine-out’ nights hosted by local restaurants really do generate money for Morningside Presbyterian Preschool? Well, September’s evening at El Taco raised more than \$500! Next chance to “dine and donate” will be at La Tavola on Virginia Ave. Tuesday, Oct. 4. Be sure to mention MPP and also to thank the restaurant. A few openings remain in MPP’s three-year-old class, so pass the word. The preschool also has scheduled an open house for Oct. 20 to celebrate their tenth anniversary—all alumni are encouraged to attend.
- Welcome new member Sheila Carol Williams, who was also baptized into our fellowship. On Sept. 25, we baptized young Ellis LeMaster O’Brien, son of Eric and Emily.
- Keep our friends in Haiti in your hearts as our delegation—and the ‘second suitcases’ you filled with necessities—returns to that struggling country. We can’t wait to hear how things have improved over the past year from Greg Cornwell, Bryan Davis, Tony Fishpaw, Tim Gargis, Shannon Harris and Brad Odom.
- We extend our Christian sympathies to Tim Holbrook on the death of his mother, Lenore Schang Holbrook, and to David York and family on the passing of Iris Crownover York.

A Message from Joanna Adams

Dear Morningside friends,

After more than 20 months away from Morningside, I can tell you for a fact: there is no place like home! What a wonderful “Welcome Home” celebration on Sept. 18, and how grateful I am for the very special honor of being named Morningside’s Pastor Emerita. Al and I are so thankful for your warm embrace, for the spectacular festivities, and for the gifts bestowed. The paraments for Ordinary Time are elegant enhancements of Morningside’s already magnificent worship space, and the portrait is an honor I do not deserve but accept with a deep feeling of appreciation. The music, the sermon message, the gracious remarks by Leslie Prince, Walter Huff, Kathy Bremer, and David Wingert, the flowers, the food—all worked together to create a beautiful day I shall never forget.

We look forward to returning to the faith community that has meant so much to us both in recent years. We hold Baron Mullis in high regard and intend to support his ministry and this exciting new chapter at Morningside with all our hearts.

A number of you have asked what a Pastor Emerita actually does, and I am happy to say that there is no job description, emphasis on “job”. In fact, the word *emerita* (feminine for the Latin word *emeritus*) means “retired from active service while retaining one’s title as an honor.” Nevertheless, I will not be totally useless. In addition to supporting Baron and the ministries of Morningside as my schedule allows, I hope to lead a Bible study, teach, and preach on occasion. Mainly, I will enjoy being in worship and sharing a hymn book with my husband for a change. I continue to preach and teach around the city and elsewhere, and we are traveling much more than when I was a full time parish minister. Those grandchildren in Richmond keep calling our names! I also am working on a project with more than a dozen local Presbyterian pastors and their congregations, and that endeavor will take me away for a number of Sundays between now and May of 2012. Don’t expect us every week, but know that we will be here whenever we can.

I am enthusiastic about Morningside and the role our congregation is playing and will play in our city, in our beloved Presbyterian Church (USA), and in the lives of church members, neighbors, and friends near and far. Among the ministries I care about most deeply these days is Intown Collaborative Ministries, whose board I currently chair. Morningside already generously supports ICM’s crucially important work in the 30306 and 30307 communities. I am grateful to be a part of our church’s ongoing story. I believe deeply that God is not still photography but streaming video, and I cannot wait to see what happens next around here.

I recently read an intriguing thought: home is not only a place of belonging, refuge, and sustenance. It is also the place where we learn how to use a fork, ride a bike, and be nice to our brothers and sisters, whether we feel like it or not. Morningside Church is our spiritual home. Here, we are nourished and fed by the sacraments, by God’s Holy Word, and by the love and support of others. Here, we engage in the life-long learning process of how to be human, how to treat other people in the human family, how to be gracious and generous, how to be truthful and brave, how to be hospitable, how to glorify God in all that we do. How glad I am to be back home with you.

Thank you for all that has been and all that will be.

Devotedly,



Pastor Emerita



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 6:30 p.m. Stone Mountain Laser Show
2 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Called Session Meeting 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5-7 p.m. Youth Group 5 p.m. Venture Crew	3 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	4 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5:30 MPP Dine Out 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	5 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	6 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Gay Pride Service followed by reception 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	7 <i>Haiti Pilgrimage</i> <i>Middle School Retreat</i> 9 a.m. MPP	8 <i>MPP Continuing Education</i> <i>Middle School Retreat</i>
9 <i>Middle School Retreat</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Venture Crew	10 <i>MPP Closed</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	11 <i>MPP Closed</i> 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	12 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir; Preschool Committee 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	13 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	14 <i>All Church Retreat</i> 9 a.m. MPP 5 p.m. Wise/Williams Wedding Rehearsal	15 <i>All Church Retreat</i> 5 p.m. Wise/Williams Wedding
16 <i>All Church Retreat</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5-7 p.m. Youth Group 5 p.m. Venture Crew	17 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	18 9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	19 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. 10th Anniversary of MPP Open House 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	21 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group	22 <i>Our House Fundraiser</i>
23 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; Inquirers Class 10:40 a.m. Called Session Meeting 11 a.m. Worship/New Member Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Harmony 5-7 p.m. Youth Group 5 p.m. Venture Crew 6:30 p.m. Young Adults	24 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Roundtable 6:45 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	25 9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Atlanta Opera Chorus Rehearsal	26 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	28 9 a.m. MPP	29 10 a.m. Big Fun 
	30 <i>Youth Group to Corn Maze</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation	31 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship	31 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Venture Crew	31 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 MPP Halloween Parade 7 p.m. Mandolin		

New Youth Director Busy Getting Acquainted

Our middle-schoolers are getting used to a lot of “new”: a new Youth Group, a new Youth Loft and now a new Youth Director, Chris Peters. Chris is a first-year Master of Divinity student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. Our newest face on staff grew up in the Low Country of South Carolina and is a 2004 graduate of the University of South Carolina, with almost 10 years of experience in full and part-time youth and young adult ministry.

Chris has served as Adult Moderator of the Trinity Presbytery Youth Council and as a music leader, recreation director, and keynoter for Presbytery youth retreats and the Montreat Conference Center. He is currently in the planning stages of two weeks of Montreat’s 2012 Youth Conferences, where he will serve as a co-director overseeing Small Groups and Recreation. For fun, Chris enjoys playing acoustic guitar and attending concerts,

watching sports (especially college football!), hiking, playing Apples to Apples, and reading.

The Youth Committee and team of youth advisors planned a number of regular Sunday activities to get Chris started, with meetings every Sunday evening from 5-7 p.m., including dinner. Oct. 7-9, there’s the Middle School Retreat at Calvin Center with the theme “5 Loaves and 2 Fish,” and an afternoon trip to a North Georgia corn maze Oct. 30. On Nov. 6, parents and their youths are invited to all meet with Chris over dinner to plan future activities.

Weekly meals are being coordinated by Tish Woolley (woolleyt@gmail.com). A number of families, individuals and groups have shown interest in encouraging our youth by providing dinner one Sunday. Please be in touch with Tish if you’d like to be a “teen angel” by feeding our kids.

Projects, Big Fun Beckon Elementary Ages

Our Double Digits—fourth and fifth graders—are using their Sunday mornings for projects: a bake sale to raise funds for those suffering from famine in Somalia, making the dessert for the men at Druid Hills Night Shelter and baking bread as they learned about World Communion. In October, you will see them in worship on World Communion Sunday (as they are each month) and then they are off for horseback riding at Calvin Center in the afternoon. On the second Sunday, they will once again make dessert for the men at the Druid Hills shelter, joining with the second and third graders in this project.

All the elementary age kids are invited to bring their friends for a day of Big Fun on Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.--2 p.m. This slightly longer Big Fun event will include lots of dress up as favorite Bible characters and also baking for the lemonade stand that will be out front on N. Morningside by mid-day. The kids will talk about various outreaches and choose together which ones they will support with the funds they raise. Plan to swing by MPC that Saturday to support the efforts of the kids. If you need to RSVP for Big Fun, contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam at msandkam@morningsidepc.org. She is also the person to contact if you are able to volunteer to help with the day.

Preschool, Congregation Support Our House

The coming of cooler weather reminds us not everyone is prepared for the cold. Once again we’ll use October to support the Our House preschool in Decatur, serving families that are facing homelessness. Our own Morningside Presbyterian Preschool will join with the church community in providing hats, scarves, mittens and gloves before the first frost. Bring your donations to the Mitten Tree at the preschool end of the church building Oct. 3-28.

Also, don’t miss an opportunity to support Our House with a great evening out on Saturday, Oct. 22, an annual auction. Go to www.ourhousega.org for information or to purchase tickets. Once again, a number of our Morningside members are part of the team making this fundraiser come to life in order to support the on-going good work of Our House.

Roundtable Offers Women Nourishment for Brain, Body

On a personal note, I want to tell you that I always look forward to Roundtable every month. As a crazy-busy working mom, I've found that Roundtable—where I'm allowed 2+ hours to let go of my responsibilities ---is truly a respite in a harried world. I leave every meeting with a sense of peace, of safety in the knowledge that other women are going through the same experiences or have already been there, and of cohesion with my fellow Morningsiders. As a bonus, I always learn something new - whether it be about a fellow church member or about the world in which we live. Roundtable's mission is to nourish women, through body and soul. And it never fails to nourish me.

-Kim Perez

After beginning the fall season with a dynamic program featuring an expert on crimes against children, our Women's Roundtable will provide an opportunity this month for our female members and their guests to focus

on fellowship and one another—getting to know each other in fun, new and exciting ways. This meeting has been a favorite in years past.

Roundtable meets the fourth Monday every month. That means this time it's Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lynn Young (277 The Prado NE, 30309). We will start with beverages and informal conversation, then proceed with a wonderful, home-cooked dinner.

This year Women's Roundtable will be marked by dynamic and intellectually-stimulating conversation, personal stories, and fun fellowship opportunities. Go ahead and get these dates on your calendars: Monday, Nov. 28 we will highlight our own Ginny Fergus and her amazing gifts, and Monday, Jan. 23 we will highlight our new Pastor Emerita, Joanna Adams. All women are welcome: loyal attendees, newcomers and visitors.

Theology on Tap, Lydia Circle Announce Dates

The men of Morningside will gather for their monthly evening of food and discussion Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the home of Ken Sharpe (1700 Timberland Rd., Atlanta, 30345) beginning at 7 p.m. The after-dinner topic presented by Baron Mullis will be "Can I ever get a break? The practice of Sabbath keeping - is it a commandment whose time has come?" To RSVP, be in touch with the church office.

The next Lydia Circle meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 13. Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and visitors of MPC to join them from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Dawn Bell (901 Virginia Avenue NE, 30306). Please email Tara Parrish to RSVP and for any other details (taraparrish@bellsouth.net)

Intown Food Pantry Calls for Saturday Food Sorters

Our next opportunity to serve at the food pantry of Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM) will be Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The ICM Pantry is supported by Morningside Presbyterian and provides bags of groceries to homeless and near homeless in zip codes 30306 and 30307.

The Pantry is located in the fellowship hall of Druid Hills Methodist Church (at Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff). All are welcome, including children over the age of 10. "Please come out and join our efforts to fight

hunger!" says our ICM shepherd, Nancy Collins. Sign up on the Mission Bulletin Board or contact Nancy at 678.634.4572 or ncollins0209@gmail.com.



Nominating Season Reminds Us We Govern Our Church

In our Presbyterian tradition, we believe that the Holy Spirit works best in our church through the will of the people as represented by its elders and deacons. Did you know the highest official in our church is the elected Clerk of Session—not the pastor? Serving as an elder or deacon means “to lead in the faithful, exciting call of Christ to be God’s people in this world” (*Presbyterian Outlook*, Vol. 190, No. 28, September, 2008). It is not a popularity vote, but the Holy Spirit working through the congregation to select leaders for a particular time in the life of our church.

We have the opportunity to nominate candidates for church office via forms distributed with the weekly Bulletin Oct. 2 and 9. As you think about possible nominations for both elder and deacon, here’s what our *Book of Order* says about church leaders, “In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord... Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.”

The first duty of elders, individually and together, is to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation. Another duty is to encourage the people in worship and service. This naturally flows into the next call for elders ---to equip and renew those in the congregation in God’s mission to the world, focusing on the very

ground-level problems of the poor, the sick, the lonely and the oppressed. Elders should also cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and lead in worship.

Regarding deacons, the current *Book of Order* states, “The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies and sound judgment should be chosen for this office.” It is a ministry of caring, love, compassion, prayer and community service. At Morningside, helping new members become attached and involved is a particular call.

Nominating forms may be placed in the collection plate or turned in to the church office no later than Oct. 16. Before submitting someone’s name for nomination as elder or deacon, make sure the person is willing to serve a three-year term. Also be aware that every name submitted is not necessarily on the final slate of nominees. Candidates for elders, deacons and members of next year’s Officer Nominating Committee will be presented at a congregational meeting called for the purpose of electing our new leaders in early November. Watch for details in *Life@* and on-line. This year’s Officer Nominating Committee is composed of Jill Davis, Ellen Brown Landers, Bill Means, Leslie Prince and Doug Self.



Elder on Call

October 2-8	Mary Chapman
October 9-15	Daisy Ottmann
October 16-22	Shannon Harris
October 23-29	Bradley Odom
October 30-November 5	Daisy Ottmann

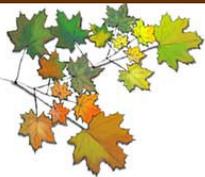
Deacon on Call

October 2-8	Brenda Fishpaw
October 9-15	Jill Klotz
October 16-22	Duncan Spears
October 23-29	Betsy Holland
October 30-November 5	Tim Gargis

Your Session at Work: September 19 Meeting

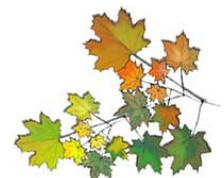
- Session hosted representatives from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, including Executive Presbyter **Tom Evans** and our own members **Kathy Bremer** and **David York**, who presented a new tool our presbytery has been using to better understand the wishes and needs of congregations. Called the CATScan (for Congregational Assessment Tool), this on-line survey offers advantages in both administration and interpretation over the “listening sessions” Morningside has conducted in the past to help plan for the future of our church. Session felt more information was needed before we decide whether to adopt this methodology. **Sue Ballay, Jill Davis** and **John Watson** formed a task force to study the material and present a recommendation to Session.
- For Mission Ministries, Team Leader **Sarah Beth Gehl** noted that **Becky Medearis** will become the new shepherd for our Shearith Israel Women’s Shelter outreach, and that **Katherine** and **David Johnston** will be the Clifton shepherds in 2012, replacing the team of **Kent Balch, Brenda Fishpaw** and **Tony Fishpaw**. Six of our members will travel to Haiti Oct. 1-7, continuing our relationship with St. Joseph’s School for Boys and Wings of Hope.
- **Shannon Harris**, for Evangelism Ministries, reported that we are close to being able to pilot-test our digital on-line member directory. We underestimated the complexity of having a photo directory available and protected online. This project required our website-hosting company to develop new software and to interface with our member database from another vendor.
- Session reviewed all the upcoming special dates on our worship calendar. Worship Team Chair **Philip Hawkins** noted the new green paraments given in **Joanna Adams’** honor by the LGBT Group and the Worship Committee were used for the first time Sept. 18, and that we will have new banners in the Sanctuary for Advent.
- The Board of Deacons has completed their summer project of making contact with every church member, just to stay in touch. Session thanked our Deacons for their efforts in reaching out to our entire church family.

Daisy Ottmann for
Clerk of Session



October Birthdays

1 Charlotte Spears	4 Tia Bartis	16 Addison Berreth	27 Robin Hackney
1 Whitney Maloy	5 Miranda Brownlee	16 Ann Brady	28 Merwin Peake
1 Shelley Senterfitt	5 David Wingert	16 Philip Hawkins	29 Rob Payne
2 Carson Myers	7 Jo Faddis	17 Joanna Adams	29 Jason Loring
2 Duncan Walker	8 Duncan Spears	18 William Grigley	29 Terry Lawson
2 Frances Bresnahan	8 Melisa Prevost	18 Donna Scalf	30 Pat Antenucci
2 Alan Godfrey	9 Jane Simpson	20 Jessica Adams	30 James Beasley
3 Jeannette McClure	10 Megan Nelson	21 Betty Blaine	31 Don Grant
	11 Daniel Sommerfeld	22 Julie Green	31 Brian Johnson
	14 Lily Woolley	24 Jeff Harris	31 Jeff Peters
	13 Amy Jarratt	24 Cate Branon	
	13 David Yntema	25 Riley Ruby	
	15 Joseph Brady	26 Brad Addicks	
	15 Sanda Means	26 Finley Holaway	
	15 Alex Regnault	26 Pam Sharpe	



Stellar Speakers Offer Insight into Legislative Issues

Major issues facing Georgians are the theme of a new event, to which everyone is invited, sponsored by Public Policy Advocacy Partnership of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. The Public Policy Advocacy Resource Fair will be held at Decatur Presbyterian Church, 205 Sycamore Street (corner of Church and Sycamore) on Saturday, Oct. 29, 8:30 a.m.—2 p.m.

Key legislators from the Georgia General Assembly, including (alphabetically) House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams, Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson, House Majority Whip Ed Lindsey, and House Judiciary Committee Chair Wendell Willard, will comprise a panel moderated by family law attorney and leading public policy advocate (and Morningside member) Shelley Senterfitt. These legislative leaders will share their views and insights regarding major issue areas expected to take center stage in Georgia's 2012 Legislative Session.

Also looking toward the 2012 Legislative Session, three major issue areas will be explored. "Issues Affecting Women and Children" will be examined by Pamela Per-

kins, coordinator of the Interfaith Children's Movement and Polly McKinney, advocacy director of Voices for Georgia's Children. Laura Lester of the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Andy Lord, health care and health insurance policy specialist with Georgia Capitol Solutions will explore "Issues Affecting Low Income Persons." "Issues Affecting the Environment" will be addressed by Justine Thompson of GreenLaw and Gil Rogers of the Southern Environmental Law Center and the Georgia Water Coalition.

Alan Essig, executive director of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, will provide insights and overviews of how the state budget and the budgeting process will impact each of these three vital public policy areas. Opportunity will be provided for questions and answers as part of each presentation. There is no registration fee for the Public Policy Advocacy Resource Fair, but there will be a \$10 charge for lunch. To register, email Karen Turney: kt2654@gmail.com. If you have questions about the fair or MPC's advocacy activities, be in touch with Sarah Beth Gehl (sbcoffey@gmail.com).