

## **Preparing for MPC's Exciting Future**

### ***The MPC Transition Team Is Here to Help***

Back in October of 2009, anticipating Joanna's retirement and Chris' role as Acting Head of Staff, the MPC Session appointed a Transition Team. Its mandate was to help the Church manage well through these transitions, and to prepare for the search for a new Senior Pastor.

The Transition Team's work to-date has included hosting Listening Sessions, in which over 250 Morningside members participated. The findings informed our Church Information Form (CIF) for the search and provided guidance to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Team nominated the members of the PNC who were then elected by the congregation. Their discernment and hard work has resulted in the call to the Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis, MPC's new Senior Pastor. And, we worked closely with Chris Henry and the Session throughout this interim period.

**The Transition Team's new mandate is to guide Morningside's transition to a future in which we realize our next level of possibilities, growth and discipleship.** The Team is charged with helping MPC welcome Rev. Mullis and facilitating his transition into the Morningside and Atlanta communities.

With the addition of PNC members, the Transition Team is now 15 members strong: Anne Barnette, Kathy Bremer, Ellen Brown, Sarah Brownlee, Martin Dunlap, Anna Garcia, Sarah Beth Gehl, Jennye Guy, Phillip Hawkins, Bill Humphries, Ruthlyn Newell, Brad Odom, Michael Perez (chair), Leslie Prince and John Watson.

Some of the areas which the Transition Team will be involved are:

- Creating a transition plan that includes timely introductions to Morningside's leadership bodies, choir and other groups, including community leaders and entities outside the Church.
- Keeping MPC members informed through the transition.
- Partnering with Worship and other MPC Committees on the February installation ceremony and related events.

- Staying closely attuned to the ideas, concerns and needs of MPC members.

**Even as we transition to an exciting future, much remains constant and strong at our Church.** Among some 30 events, meetings and gatherings between now and late January (check the calendar for dates) are the following:

- Ongoing mission work, including food collection and sorting for Intown Collaborative Ministries, overnight volunteers at Shearith Israel Women's Shelter, meals for Clifton, Druid Hills and Common Ground and a Senior Workday in our community MLK Jr. weekend
- Ongoing group meetings include: Theology on Tap, Lydia's Circle, the Couples Group, Young Adults, Bible & Brunch and Women's Roundtable.
- Pre-school activities including Carols and Coffee.
- Adult and children's education offerings, Big Fun days, and Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs.
- Handel's *Messiah*, Christmas Pageant, Carol Sing, Sunday Worship, Early Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and Lessons and Carols at 8 p.m.

We celebrated Chris' leadership and gifts to Morningside on Dec. 5, his final Sunday at Morningside. We will celebrate Mary Brueggemann's ministry and wonderful contributions on Dec. 26, her final Sunday with us.

As Morningside members, we have so much to be grateful for--remarkable spiritual leadership (past, present, future), worship that is uplifting and challenging, and the strength, love and authenticity of our congregation.

**We are in a time of transition and new possibilities.** The Transition Team looks forward to serving our new Senior Pastor and Morningside community, in ways that are thoughtful, responsive, positive and energizing. Please let us know what's on your mind—ideas, concerns, needs. Our mission is to help everyone in our community make a joyous transition to the exciting future God intends for Morningside Presbyterian Church.