



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 This I Believe
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Spotlight on Holiday Planning
- 7 Connections
- 8 Spotlight on Haiti
- 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*

abenson@morningsidepc.org

Randy Young *Facilities Manager*, 404.876.7396 ext. 13

randyyoung@morningsidepc.org

JoAnn Kearns *Accountant* kearnsj@gmail.com

Sarah Tomaka *Preschool Director*, 404.685.8758

mpp@morningsidepc.org

Gus Restrepo *Sexton*

November 2011 Worship at Morningside

November 6, 2011

All Saints

Baron Mullis Preaching

"Stewardship"

Text: Micah 6:6-8

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated.

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Lunch

November 13, 2011

Baron Mullis Preaching

"The Importance of Being Prepared"

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Response Sunday

November 20, 2011

Baron Mullis Preaching

"From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Text: Matthew 25:14-30; Psalm 100

November 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent

Baron Mullis Preaching

"No One Knows, No One Knows..."

Text: Mark 13:24-37

Dear Friends,

One of Morningside's members recently remarked to me that the arrival of fall to the parched, hot people of Atlanta must feel very much like the arrival of spring to the soggy, frozen residents of Buffalo.



I'm inclined to agree. I've always loved fall, regardless of where I've lived, whether in the Northeast, the Midwest or that other place. There is something about the change of seasons and the celebrations that accompany it – trick-or-treating, college football, Thanksgiving that I particularly love.

I think Thanksgiving is probably the capstone of my favorite season. (I'm aware that this note arrives in your home well ahead of that high-holy-day of tryptophan connoisseurs.)

And that's what I'd like to reflect on with you: what would a season of thanksgiving look like?

What if, rather than taking a day to overindulge on turkey and fall asleep in front of the television, we spent the whole month thinking about our blessings? Would you live life any differently if every morning when you awoke the first thought of the day was of what you look forward to in that day, and the last thought before drifting to sleep was of what you were grateful for from that day?

It would be a discipline to think of our days that way – I certainly can't claim that I do. More often than not, I don't wake up to thinking of what I'm looking forward to. I hit the snooze button five times to avoid taking my dog outside for his morning walk. And when I hit the bed, I'm thinking of what I have to get done the next day. Pausing to give thanks is not my regular discipline.

But even as I type this, I realize that it should be. Not as a duty, but as a joy. I have been so blessed – and to give thanks to God should be a natural reaction. Perhaps you feel the same way sometimes.

So, join me, will you? Let's try to think throughout November of all our blessings. I bet it will be a joy. And it might even make us live differently.

Thanks for reading,

**Adults Have Bible Study Choices
Sunday Mornings**

Currently, the adult class meeting in Room 201 at 9:45 Sunday mornings is studying the books of Luke and Acts with Rev. Paul Roberts, dean of the Johnson C. Smith Seminary. Members will remember that Rev. Roberts was part of the January installation team for Baron Mullis.

A smaller Bible discussion group, with the goal of comprising eight to 10 members, will start meeting Sunday mornings beginning Nov. 6 for a six-week study of Mark's gospel. The meeting place for this new group, led by Link Marx, will be Room 107.

Going forward, the upstairs adult class will use the curriculum "Feasting on the Word." This curriculum explores the scripture reading that will be used in worship that morning. It's edited by Barbara Brown Taylor and David Bartlett, both of whom have been guest preachers in our pulpit. "Feasting on the Word" sessions will be led by class members, with the opportunity to invite guest speakers as well.

Alternating with "Feasting on the Word" will be a five-week speaker series and a special two-week (Dec. 4, 11) Advent study of Vivaldi's "Gloria," led by Elizabeth Rice and Mary Miller Brueggemann.

Elder on Call

November 6-12	Randy Parrish
November 13-19	Tom Daniel
November 20-26	Jill Davis
November 27-December 3	Philip Hawkins

Deacon on Call

November 6-12	Tim Gargis
November 13-19	Brenda Fishpaw
November 20-26	Bill Means
November 27-December 3	Betsy Holland

Two Special November Sundays Reflect MPC's 'Dreams and Visions'

Two of the most important Sundays in the life of our congregation are coming up the first two weeks in November, and your presence is earnestly requested.

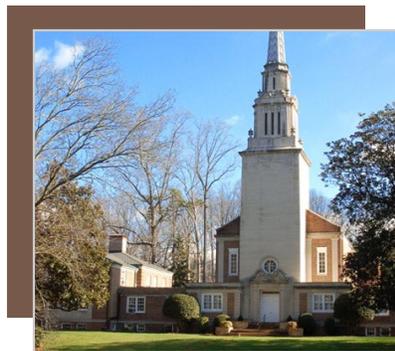
First, there will be a congregational meeting immediately after worship Nov. 6 to elect a class of elders and deacons to serve through 2014. These church officers not only guide the ongoing business of the church, they also plan our strategy and emphases for the future. The Officer Nominating Committee has been working diligently to arrive at a balanced slate from among all those you nominated in October. Come, vote and rejoice! And then come down to Fellowship Hall, where all are welcome for our next congregational lunch. RSVP to the church office and donations toward the cost of the lunch are welcome. Contact Brad Odom (jbradleyodom@gmail.com) to volunteer to help set up, serve and/or clean up.

The following week will feature Response Sunday. We've mailed our materials, all around our theme of Dreams and Visions, including an explanation of our financial needs for 2012, the Time and Talent volunteer form and pledge cards. During the service Nov. 13, everyone is invited to come forward and place their pledges and Time and Talent forms on the communion table. Walter Huff and the Chancel Choir are planning special music to highlight Response Sunday.

Pledging is vital because it takes much of the guesswork out of the budgeting process. And even if you've filled out a Time and Talent form before, it's important to offer a new one every year so that committee chairs can identify the individuals whose skills and interests are so badly needed.

Dirty Your Hands to Beautify Your Church

Get ready to roll up your sleeves for Morningside Beautification Day, Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This semi-annual congregational work day will tackle a number of projects all over the building and grounds. There's a volunteer signup sheet in the Welcome Center.



Some of the jobs identified so far include repair and cleaning of the bridge over the ravine, "spiffing up" the church inside and out, assembling and weatherproofing two new benches for the Sarah Richey Memory Garden, one or two gardening/landscaping projects involving planting, a new shelf for the copy room and other projects.

Morningside Milestones

- Say a welcome to our newest members--Jon and Ali Bradway and daughter Anna, who was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 30, and to Greg Cornwell, who's already been part of our Haiti team.
- Did we enjoy dining at La Tavola to benefit our preschool? We sure did--\$650 worth!
- We wish all success to our deacon Anna Garcia and husband Miguel as they relocate to Michigan for Miguel's great new job. Besides the vacancy on the diaconate, they're leaving us big holes in mission, property and youth work. Tim Gargis will step up for the Garcias as shepherd for our support for the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- Are you smarter than a third grader? Six Star Refugee Partnership is seeking tutors for a third grader now. Be in touch with Betsy Armstrong or Holly Campbell if you can help.
- It's never too soon to plan ahead: our special service of music for the Advent season will be Sunday, Dec. 11, this year, and the Christmas Pageant will be Dec. 18. Speaking of our music ministry, Walter Huff was honored recently for his 23 years as chorus master at the Atlanta Opera's annual ball.
- Congratulations to Amy Jensen, who recently passed the bar and begun work as a full-fledged attorney.



(Choir member Jennye Guy delivered this homily in worship Sunday, Aug. 7. We will reprint the other speaker's message in a future issue and we invite you to submit your own "This I Believe" story to communications@morningsidepc.org.)

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

Whenever I'm drawn into conversations about God, I tell Bible stories. Now I'm asked to go beyond the stories—to stand before you with nothing but what I believe, what I know to be true for me. But, I find I just can't do it. I have to tell my story within the framework of one particular Bible story. Here is my interpretation of that story.

I relate far more readily to the elder brother in the prodigal son's story than to the younger brother. I see the elder brother—I'll call him John—as having struggled all his life to understand and receive his father's freely given love, the very same love he saw so lavishly bestowed upon his wayward brother. I imagine John thought his dutiful work and diligent care of his father's holdings would earn him that love. I don't know if his father's gentle reminder, "You are always with me and all that I have is yours," cut through John's hurt and confusion (probably some envy, too) at seeing his father's reception of his younger brother. After all, it's not easy to change instantly from a lifelong mindset of thinking that one must earn love to a mindset of just receiving it.

I was baptized by my father, a Baptist minister, at the age of eight. I spent a lot of my childhood hanging around in Papa's study, attempting to read books that were way beyond my comprehension. I could entertain myself for hours lost in them ... until the day I stumbled across *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. I was horrified even as I was fascinated by it. Here were stories of people who willingly died for Christ. And their deaths weren't easy ones, either. Is that what loving God required?

Papa had an operation my junior year in high school. When he came home, he told me about a visitation from the Holy Spirit in his hospital room the night before the operation. He described his room as being filled with such love that he begged God to take him back with Him. I had mixed feelings hearing Papa's story. On the one hand, I marveled that God would visit human beings like that and on the other hand, I was a little perturbed that God's love was so encompassing that it would cause Papa to want to

leave us! How could he leave *me*? Even as I struggled with the hurt of his attempted "defection," I struggled with the concept of an all-enveloping, tangible love from God that was available to any and all.

I was a freshman in college when I boldly said to God, "I want to know you for myself. Until that knowledge comes, I'm going to take a leave of absence." And I then proceeded to learn how to do what had been forbidden in my strict Baptist home: drink, play cards and dance. I was a failure at dancing. And I like only very, very sweet drinks. So, the drinking wasn't much to speak of either. But the cards...now that's another story to be told at another time!

My senior year, God got my attention. Under the Holy Spirit's guidance, the New Testament came alive for me as I read about ordinary women and men who loved God so much they willingly gave their lives to Him and His service. Here was that conundrum again: How was it possible to know that you are so loved by God that you, in turn, love Him enough to surrender everything? And, how was this kind of love possible without having to work for it?

The years went by and I learned more about God—His provision, protection, deliverance, faithfulness, guidance, discipline—in ways I hadn't planned or sought. But my questions remained. Recently, while sitting in the church monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, I became aware of a stillness, a quiet, so profound, so comforting, I felt I was wrapped in a cocoon. I found myself thinking perhaps this is what God's love feels like. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he wrote "...for in him we live and move and have our being." As I try to understand this more deeply, I pray this prayer from Ephesians (New Living Translation):

"...I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it."

I like to think that elder brother John finally got it. That one day he finally grasped the love his father was giving him. Likewise, for myself, I believe that as I continue praying that prayer from Ephesians, I too, will grow in the ability to receive, and reciprocate, God's freely given love.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Evangelism Initiative Meeting 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	9 a.m. MPP	
6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	7	8 <i>Election Day MPP Closed</i>	9	10	11	12
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Congregational Meeting and Congregational Lunch 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Venture Crew 5-7 p.m. Youth Group	9 a.m. MPP 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MPP Book Fair 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Preschool Committee	9 a.m. MPP 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MPP Book Fair 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study	9 a.m. MPP 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MPP Book Fair 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	9 a.m. MPP 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MPP Book Fair 7 p.m. Couples Group	9 a.m.-12 noon MPC Beautification Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship/ Response Sunday 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting 12:45 p.m. Congregational Nurture 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Venture Crew 5-7 p.m. Youth Group	9 a.m. MPP 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thanksgiving Gathering 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Community Outreach	9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Lunch 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP	7 p.m. LGBT & Friends Gathering
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 5 p.m. Venture Crew 5-7 p.m. Youth Group	<i>MPP Thanksgiving Break</i> 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	<i>MPP Thanksgiving Break</i> 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<i>MPP Thanksgiving Break</i> 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<i>Thanksgiving Day Church Office and Pre- school Closed</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break Church Office and Preschool Closed</i>	6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries
27	28	29	30			
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 5 p.m. Venture Crew 5-7 p.m. Youth Group	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Womens Roundtable 7 p.m. Parliamentarians 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	9 a.m. MPP 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir			

Spotlight on Holiday Planning

'Tis Season for Angels, Donkeys and Sheep, Oh My!



Christmas Pageant practice is actually just around the corner. Children four years old through fifth grade are welcome to participate in the pageant, to be presented at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Fill out your preferences for roles and to help on both sides of the pageant signup card (get it at www.morningsidepc.org) and get it to Program Director Melinda Sandkam no later than Wednesday, Nov. 2 so that the cast can be set in time for practices to start at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13. Most practices will be Sunday mornings before worship with a full dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 18, 9-11 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to sew costumes, build props and help with practices. If you are able to be a volunteer the weekend of pageant (Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon/evening) please contact Melinda or sign up in the Welcome Center. We also invite all to attend the pageant and the chili and soup dinner afterwards which is then followed by singing carols together in Fellowship Hall. As the weather gets colder, be sure to pull out your favorite recipe and sign up to bring a pot to share.

Gift Parents with Evening of Free Holiday Babysitting



On the first Monday in December, we offer a gift to the community of three hours of free babysitting, 5-8 p.m., for kids from infants three months old through fifth graders. We serve pizza for dinner and plan activities for each age group.

We can't make this happen without our volunteers! Help us give this once-a-year gift to parents who may use the time for a quiet dinner together, shopping, getting together with friends, decorating or gift wrapping – time to

breathe in the busy weeks of Advent. Sign up to help at church or contact Jennifer James (jennjames@comcast.net).

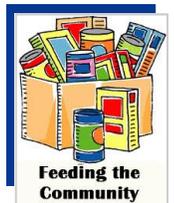
Also, you **must** sign up your child ahead of time, so that we have enough babysitters in place. Contact Jennifer James by Wed., Nov. 30 with the names and ages of children (including which age preschool class they are in).

Canisters Coming for Annual Holiday Canned Food Drive

We are once again supporting the good work that Atlanta Community Food Bank does by filling five canisters between Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 with requested canned food items. ACFB focuses on high-protein food items, aiming to distribute foods that enable people suffering the ill effects of hunger and poverty to feel stronger and healthier.

Most needed items include peanut butter, canned tuna, beans, soups, stews and pastas, 100 percent fruit juice,

canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese dinners and whole-grain low-sugar cereals. Please do NOT donate glass containers, baby food or formula, condiments, pet food or homemade items. You can drop off food anytime the church is open, or bring it to the Thanksgiving Gathering (see Page 10).



De-Stress with Musical Outing Featuring Opera Chorus Members



What would add to enjoying the phenomenal Christmas performance at All Saints Episcopal? An opportunity to go together with your MPC friends, of course. Selected soloists from The Atlanta Opera Chorus will present a Christmas Concert of sacred and popular favorites, directed by chorus master Walter Huff and accompanied by organist Peter Marshall, Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

This concert, a traditional musical highlight of the Atlanta holiday season, also traditionally sells out. RESERVE EARLY! Go to www.allsaintsatlanta.org under 'Music' to purchase \$30 tickets now! Once you have purchased your tickets, email our office (office@morningsidepc.org) to let us know you are coming, so we can determine where we might meet for dinner and who would like to carpool in order to make it a fun MPC gathering.

One Gray Hair Plans ‘Doggone Good’ Program

Canine assistance comes in many forms and this month’s luncheon program for One Gray Hair will introduce one of the less-familiar: Diabetic Alert Service Dogs. At noon on Wednesday, Nov. 16, the group will welcome Trevor Jordan, of Marietta, and his four-legged friend Boss.

Trevor is just one of the over 21-million Americans living with diabetes. Diagnosed more than 30 years ago, he battles the daily ups and downs of a disease that the national association notes kills more people every year than AIDS and breast cancer combined. An insulin pump patient, Jordan has managed his diabetes very tightly and to date has only one long-term affect: he can no longer tell when his blood sugar is reaching the danger level.

Diabetic Unawareness (DU) is the body’s decreasing ability to recognize the typical triggers associated with blood sugar levels. DU is common in long-term diabetics and is not a result of poor health or poor management. “My body used to tell me when things were out of whack,” states Jordan. “I’d get the shakes or feel light-headed.

Today, I still get the shakes, but when I check my blood sugar, it’s already dangerously low. I have very little time to secure what my body needs in order to rebound.”

Enter the newest reality in the treatment of Diabetes Unawareness: the Diabetic Alert Dog (D.A.D.s by industry standards). When trained properly, the black leathery nose of an intuitive dog can let a diabetic know that his blood sugar levels are dropping or rising—before the diabetic is aware. “Diabetic Alert Dogs are relatively new,” Jordan adds, “and gaining a lot of momentum in the diabetic world.”

Come learn more about this new possibility, as both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes continue to the rise in the U.S. RSVP to Sarah Brownlee rsbrownlee1046@att.net. (For more about the Jordan family, visit www.missiondad.com.)



Get Holiday Shopping Underway at MPP Book Fair

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool’s annual Scholastic Book Fair will turn our Parlor into a book store just for us on Monday, Nov. 7 (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) and Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 9-11 (8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

You will find books from new and favorite authors, popular series, and fun for everyone.

Shopping at our MPP book fair is a great way to raise money for our wonderful school, as well as, an opportunity to buy fantastic books at low prices.



Find Your Fellowship Group for Fall Fun

- Our men's group, Theology on Tap, will meet Tuesday, Nov. 1, hosted by Philip Hawkins at the home of Robert Hicks (2332 Bry Mar Dr., 30345) at 7 p.m. for dinner and discussion. Theology on Tap needs three volunteer hosts for December, February, and March on the first Tuesday evening. RSVP to the church office.
- RHO Readers’ final book selection for 2011 takes us to 18th Century Japan with the novel *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell. Daisy Ottmann leads the discussion on Nov. 20 at 12:45 p.m., in the Session Room.
- Start your Thanksgiving celebrations early with the next LGBT & Friends gathering at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the home of Leslie and Lloyd Prince (91 Lakeview Dr. NE, 30317). The LGBT & Friends group meets regularly for fun, food, fellowship and building connections within our faith community. Events are open to all MPC members and friends who support full inclusion of LGBT individuals within the church. RSVP for this event or add your name to the mailing list by contacting Peter C. Dickson (404.839.1281, peter.dickson@comcast.net).

Personal Story: Filthy Faith, or What Did Jesus Smell Like?

(Bryan and all of our reps have a much longer, richer story to tell. Ask them! You'll be glad you did.)

Haiti. It brings up many images in our American minds. Suffering. Filth. Death. Smells. While visiting Haiti with good friends from our church, these forms that our minds create morph and change. Filth changes to faith. Smells change to the divine. The simple becomes the miraculous.

Our team—Greg Cornwell, Tony Fishpaw, Tim Gargis, Shannon Harris, Brad Odom, and I—were fortunate to represent MPC in our church's journey to Haiti this year. Last year's travelers to Haiti brought back stories of transformation. Stories of surprise. Funny stories about bookshelves and concrete bricks and children who holler 'hallelujah' in simple joy. Stories of spirit. This year's travelers will tell you the foundation of last year has grown, and the joy continues to do the same.

You know Haiti is a tough place. The earthquake. Cholera outbreaks. What more can a people endure? But we have seen with our eyes that the people of Haiti do more than endure. And if you get into relationship with these friends, the experience will bless you. I believe our greatest accomplishment was that we were present with the people we met, and we continued our relationship with some wonderful friends. We are learning to BE with our neighbors.

In Port au Prince we noticed a subtle, but big difference. Most of the rubble had disappeared. But a lot of things were the same. And these things were repeated blessings. St. Joseph's Home for Boys greeted us with the customary cold glass of water. In Hot Humid Haiti, this is a wonderful gift. We saw a six-story building, where there was nothing but rubble a year before. We climbed the wooden scaffolding and ladders to the roof where the outdoor chapel will be. The heat was tropical, but our spines were chilled! What a solid foundation to stand on when we had stood on dirt and rubble just a short time ago.

We loaded 50 boxes of supplies into our van, and we were off like a flash further up into the hills to Fermathe and Wings of Hope. The children at Wings of Hope—well, their bodies and minds host a variety of 'disabled' conditions; but in the spirit, these folks are our teachers. You feel that you are doing something really special just by being with these new friends. None of us speak Creole or French, and few of the residents of Wings speak English. But somehow we communicate, and the conductor, I am convinced, is the spirit of God.



My mind is full of images from Wings of Hope—each MPCer dancing, holding hands, singing, drumming, sitting, smiling, washing clothes, feeding, worshipping, being with our friends. Peterson – he wears a lacrosse helmet all waking hours; Josephine – a brilliant 10-year-old who can converse in English, picking up the language from all the visitors; Raoul – the oldest, the quietest, the sassiest; Steve – he will rock your world with the drum and force you to feel joy with his hallelujahs and amens; Sadraque – he has a smile that would win Helen of Troy; Frank Ely – not too far behind Steve in energy, eager to be with us every possible moment....

At St. Joseph's the children lead the Sunday service and include the Americans. Our words are translated. It's fun to take the Creole hymnal, listen to the residents sing a bit, then chime in trying to wrap your tongue around these different sounds. It's worth the trip to simply attend this worship.

On part of our journey, we rode through an area close to the epicenter of the earthquake. My heart sinks as I see it in my mind's eye. If hell were on earth, it must have been next door to this place just after the quake. But you can't dwell in that story. You have to dwell in the spirit of life. Look at all the people, attending their sidewalk stores, moving blocks of ice, pulling huge wooden carts, waiting for tap taps (taxis), going places. In the midst of this awful looking place...these people are alive ...really alive!

St. Joseph's Home for Boys; Wings of Hope; Trinity House: These children deliver a message of God and Christ, transforming filth into faith, and unfamiliar smells into the divine. One night, I asked "What did Jesus smell like?" at the dinner table. My traveling companions thought my question was quite odd. But then, we settled into the question. We didn't come up with an answer. Yet when we were in Haiti, I feel confident that we all knew what Jesus smelled like, without having to speak a word. We smelled the spirit of joy and love, the spirit of hope and faith. We were baptized in it. Our friends in Haiti hosted this baptismal.

Think about joining us on our next trip. It's tough love. Tough love. But most importantly, pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Ask God to guide them, to encourage them, to love them, to care for them. And thank God for the children, our teachers and our friends.

Bryan Davis

Your Session at Work: October 17 Meeting

- Session approved a motion made by the Facilities Committee Chairman **John Watson** to amend MPC’s Building Use Policy to increase usage fees for certain of the church’s rooms, Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary. John said the team would continue its work on building use next year, including focus on automating the room reservation process and improving security.
- **Tom Daniel**, Commitment Ministries Team Leader, said that Music Director **Walter Huff** is working on special music for pledge Sunday, Nov. 13.
- On behalf of the Evangelism Ministries Team, Co-Leader **Shannon Harris** noted in his report that the data for the on-line church directory is fully loaded into the system and that he and **Derek Mathews** are doing some preliminary tests. The next step will be a pilot test involving a larger user group.
- Session approved a congregational survey that will serve as input for strategic planning initiatives next year. In the past, Morningside has conducted extensive listening sessions to inform its planning. The survey, which will be conducted early in 2012, will take members only 10 to 15 minutes to complete and will provide Session with much more data. In related action, the session approved establishment of a Survey Implementation Team comprising of **David York, Kathy Bremer, Sue Bal-lay, John Watson** and **Jill Davis**.

Ruthlyn Newell

Clerk of Session



November Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Gabe Couret | 7 John Moore | 22 Clint Holmes |
| 1 Barbara Brooks | 8 Kelly Myers | 23 Sherry Walls |
| 3 Ginny Fergus | 9 Gary Womack | 24 Geneva Bourne |
| 3 Ann Benson | 10 Maria Ragland | 24 Amy DeBaets |
| 4 Will James | 10 Mac Young | 24 Bradley Odom |
| 4 Tara Parrish | 11 Grace Howard | 25 Kira Hullinger |
| 6 Mac Frampton | 12 Charlotte Sommerfeld | 25 Link Marx |
| 6 Samuel Wingert | 12 Julie Loring | 27 Loretta Pinkston |
| 6 Lindy Menefee | 12 Amelia Weltner | 26 Jack Perez |
| | 15 Joseph Cochran | 28 Tony Fishpaw |
| | 15 Rhonda McIntosh | 28 Bret Adams |
| | 17 Art Sweum | 28 Richard Brownlee |
| | 20 Anne Menefee | 28 Kathleen Pramik |
| | 20 Robert McIntosh | 29 William Hackney |
| | 20 Anna Palmer | 29 Leslie Prince |
| | 21 Nell Roberts | |
| | 22 Cash Hackney | |

MPC Gives Thanks for Our Preschool Community

Come explore the spirit of giving at our annual Thanksgiving Gathering, Monday, Nov. 14, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy a free dinner in Fellowship Hall featuring chicken tenders, mac 'n cheese, green beans, corn, green salad, corn muffins, and pumpkin ice cream, water, iced tea and cider. Crafts, games, face painting and music by the Cherub Choir will encourage us to think about reaching out to others and giving thanks.

In this spirit, help kick-off our canned-food drive for the Atlanta Community Food Bank by bringing in non-perishable items for the big blue bins.

Members of our congregation are needed to staff the event, which especially honors our preschool families. Volunteers can come for the whole evening or one of three specific shifts: Shift 1 – 4-5:15 p.m. (decorate, set up food items, as well as, crafts and games and prep in the kitchen);



Shift 2 – 5:15-6:30 p.m. (welcome guests, serve food, run crafts and games); and Shift 3 –6:15 -7:30 p.m. (visit with guests, breakdown decorations and crafts, package leftovers, clean kitchen and remove trash). We also need two kitchen captains to oversee smooth running of the food service. There's a sign-up sheet at church or be in touch with our chair, Jennifer James.

Our goal is to have 125 adults and 75 kids come join us for this evening of fun and thanksgiving. We hope you will be one of them. RSVPs are requested! Please contact Jennifer James to RSVP or to volunteer, at jennjames@comcast.net or 404.583.3207.