



Morningside Messenger

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March 2012 Worship at Morningside

March 4, 2012

2nd Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"An Offer You Can't Refuse"

Texts: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

March 11, 2012

3rd Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"Divine Foolishness"

Texts: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

New Member Sunday

March 18, 2012

4th Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"3:16"

Texts: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

March 25, 2012

5th Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"We Wish to See Jesus"

Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33



Dear Friends,

Oh how you mock me, you empty page! I'm supposed to provide a word that will inspire and hopefully delight, to borrow a line from Augustine, and all I see is the blinking cursor!

I recently preached about how our message really is the same, year in and year out. And I think it's true, and my message really is the same, month in and month out, when it comes to this page. The attempt at originality often leaves me facing the empty page.

But at the heart of it, I'm really not writing something original each month. I'm really writing about being disciples. That's what we're about at church. That's what it's about when you get this monthly newsletter, and again when you get your weekly e-news. It's about discipleship. It's about being and becoming followers of Jesus.

I wonder sometimes whether the word *disciple* intimidates people. Perhaps it should. When one compares oneself to the original twelve apostles, certainly there are plenty of opportunities to either build oneself up or tear oneself down. Look at the apostles before Pentecost, and you'll feel pretty good about yourself. Post-Pentecost and it's another story. The effect of the Holy Spirit on their effectiveness is quite evident!

Or perhaps the word *disciple* has a distastefully churchy feel to it. There's something unsophisticatedly earnest about the word – and perhaps a little bit uncool... we've all met the person who just won't shut up about Jesus. And certainly a great deal of divine intervention is attributed to Jesus from the football field to the Grammys. (There's just something really incongruous when a rapper whose lyrics carry a warning label offers his thanks to "his personal lord and savior Jesus Christ" when accepting an award. It's as if the irony is lost. But I digress.)

However, with all this said, whether we feel up to the job, or we want to avoid guilt by association with the

word, this is what we're striving to do as church. We want to follow Jesus. That means we're disciples. I am fond of reminding myself and others that *disciple* is the root word for *discipline*. That implies a certain amount of deliberateness in the way we go about it. So as you read through the pages of this edition of the *Messenger*, could I ask you to be deliberate about it? Don't just read it for information, use it as a tool to determine how you're going to follow Jesus this month. What are you going to do *deliberately* to grow as a disciple?

Score: empty page 0, Baron 1. Until next month that is, when I attempt to sound original while telling you the same thing: follow Jesus!

Thanks for reading,

Baron

Elder on Call

Philip Hawkins	March 4-10
Jay Myers	March 11-17
Doug Self	March 18-24
Art Sweum	March 25-31

Deacon on Call

Pat Antenucci	March 4-10
Ken Sharpe	March 11-17
Robin Boren	March 18-24
Curt Barrett	March 25-31

MPC Member Produces, Acts in “Faith Healer” at Intown Theater

A theater outing doubles as a fund-raiser for Morningside Presbyterian, thanks to the play’s producer and star, Robert Bryan Davis. Actually there are multiple stars in Irish playwright Brian Friel’s “Faith Healer.”

Presented in four monologues by three characters, “Faith Healer” tells of a traveling showman who also occasionally heals people; his bitter, angry, but still loving wife; and his once-plucky, now-tired manager, who has given up his career to promote Frank. Each monologue sheds more light on events that lead to tragedy, although the characters’ memories conflict with each other. “Faith Healer” is an Irish meditation on the role and responsibility

of the artist in society, as well as an exploration of the meanings of healing and salvation.

The local production is being staged at “The Old Stone Church,” 470 Candler Park Dr., 30307. Check the website for Jib Jam Productions (<http://www.jibjam.org>) for specific dates. Evening shows begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Enter the code “MPC” when purchasing tickets on line and the production company will donate \$3 per ticket to the church for Friday/Saturday performances and \$1 any other day. Tickets cost \$17.55 including fees.

Volunteers to Create ‘Once and Future Forest’ on Our Grounds

Trees Atlanta has generously offered to donate trees and to lead a volunteer effort to plant them on our property, Mar. 17, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Trees Atlanta helped us update and fill in the landscaping on our upper level grounds several years ago. This year’s

effort will involve planting trees in and around the wooded ravine to rejuvenate the aging canopy. If you can join us for the tree planting, please contact Mary Chapman (chapman.maryv@gmail.com or 404.817.0496).

Thursday Walking Group Will ‘March’ Throughout March

Join other MPC members and friends as we join in a walking group on the five Thursdays of March. We’ll walk from 5:30-6:30 p.m. March 1 and 8. After Daylight Savings Time begins our start time will be 6 p.m.

(March 15, 22, 29). Invite a friend to join you in enjoying the spring weather, good company and exercise this Lent. Contact Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) with any questions.

Morningside Milestones

- Everyone stepped up to fill those Souper Bowl buckets and to eat up the desserts prepared and sold by our Double Digit kids at Fellowship Hour. The Atlanta Community Food Bank received \$535.31 thanks to our group efforts.
- Your Session also thanks everyone who participated in the CAT Scan survey about our church. Survey results were presented to Session Feb. 25, and all the ministry leaders and officers are excited and energized to begin work on a strategic plan to lead us forward armed with your valuable opinions.
- We rejoice with the newly baptized members of our church family, Temple Joyce Elliott, Jan. 29, and Elizabeth Maddox “Liza” Burke, daughter of Claire and Allen, Feb. 19.
- We extend our Christian love and sympathy to those among us who grieve the recent death of a loved one. These include choir member Lenna Turner (death of her mother, Jan. 21); Nell Roberts and Gene and John Turner (death of Richard Batt, son-in-law and brother-in-law, Feb. 3), and Beth Baer (death of her mother Dorothy “Dot” Truesdel, Feb. 16).

Big Month for Youth Group Features BOBO, Trip Registration

Our Youth Group builds, grows and plans not only an exciting month in March, but an even more exciting activity for this summer. And we all have a part to play.

Director of Youth Ministry Chris Peters recently told MPC youth parents, "I'm excited to announce information on the 2012 youth summer trip, held July 16-22. This will include two service project days in Atlanta followed by the Middle School Montreat Conference at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC."



BOBO is coming to supplement fees paid by individual youths and their chaperones, to be able to provide scholarships for those who otherwise would not be able to participate and to help defray the costs of other youth group activities. BOBO—Buy One/Boost One—is this year's version of last year's wildly successful silent auction. BOBO will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship Mar. 25, with a preview day Mar. 18.

We need to know what you're planning to donate for the auction no later than Mar. 12 so we can prepare the auction brochure. Be in touch with Carolyn Morton (carolynmorton@bellsouth.net) with a description of your treasure, the estimated retail value and the minimum bid amount. We already know about some vacation opportunities, jewelry and theatrical events up for bid.

Later in the spring, our youth once again will sell \$10 'stock certificates' good for a postcard from the trip and a lunch and report after they return.

Youth wishing to go to the middle-school conference need to register by Mar. 18, with a \$50 fee. Total cost for the week will be \$150/youth (less than half the conference cost alone). See the church website (www.morningsidepc.org) for the registration form. Scholarships are available on direct request to the Youth Director. Final payments are due Sunday, May 27. Cancellations after May 27 will be responsible for the entire \$150 cost unless there is an emergency or extenuating circumstances.

Here's more detail on the conference:

- We'll spend Monday and Tuesday in out-of-the-box mission/service activities here in Atlanta (details forthcoming), meeting at church in the morning with

late afternoon youth pick-up. Youth will have the opportunity to weigh in on service project options at Up @ 10 on Sunday, Mar. 4 at 10 a.m. in the Youth Loft.

- Wednesday morning the group will head to Clinton for the MS Conference, leaving around 11 a.m. We'll be on the Presbyterian College campus the rest of the week, returning to MPC around 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 22.
- Even more information can be found on two websites, MS Conference Video (from 2010): <http://vimeo.com/15328754> and

Middle School Conference Website:

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2012-middle-school-conference-at-presbyterian-college>

But that's only what the youth are up to in March regarding their summer trip. Here's what else is on their calendar:

- Sunday, March 4
10-10:55 a.m.: First Sunday Up@10--Join us for First Sunday (of the month) Up@10 in the Youth Loft. Weather permitting, we'll walk to Alon's for breakfast at 10:05, so please be on time. Bring \$10 max for breakfast.
5-7 p.m.: MPC Sunday Night Youth@Morningside Presbyterian--We'll have fun while discussing our faith using the PC(USA)'s FAQ for Youth.
- Sunday, March 11
 Service Project--We'll serve dinner and eat with the guests at the Journey shelter.
- Sunday, March 18
5-7 p.m.: MPC Sunday Night Youth@Morningside Presbyterian--We'll have fun while discussing our faith using the PC(USA)'s FAQ for Youth.
- Sunday, March 25
 BOBO Fundraiser and Laser Tag
12 noon: Meet in Fellowship Hall to help with the BOBO auction for our summer trip. Watch for more info on how you can participate.
1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: We'll head to Q-Zar laser tag after helping with the fundraiser. Cost will be approximately \$20 for two hours of laser tag. Special RSVP by Wednesday, Mar. 21.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. MPP Focus Group 5:30 p.m. Lenten Walking Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	2 9 a.m. MPP	3 <i>8 am. to 4 p.m. Habitat Build</i> 5:30 p.m. Tri-Presbytery Dinner, Trinity Presbyterian Church
4 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10 a.m. Youth Up@10 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony 5-7 p.m. Youth Group	5 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society <i>Our House Collection</i>	6 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	7 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. MPP Focus Group 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study; MPP Focus Group 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	8 9 a.m. MPP 5:30 p.m. Lenten Walking Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	9 9 a.m. MPP (Early Release) 7 p.m. Couples Group (Scotti Chonko's home)	10 <i>8 am. to 4 p.m. Habitat Build</i>
11 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 11 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Vital Signs Summary 2 p.m. Venture; Harmony 5 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Journey <i>Our House Collection</i>	12 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	13 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Preschool Committee	14 9 a.m. MPP 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study with Joanna Adams 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Lenten Walking Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir <i>Alabama Mission Trip</i>	16 9 a.m. MPP	17 <i>8 am. to 4 p.m. Habitat Build MPC Provides Lunch for Habitat</i> 9 a.m. Trees Atlanta Planting
18 <i>Georgia Marathon BOBO Preview</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation; Vital Signs Summary 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:45 p.m. Session 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 2 p.m. Venture Crew 5 p.m. Youth Group <i>Our House Collection</i>	19 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	20 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Atlanta Opera Chorus	21 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Luncheon 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	22 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Lenten Walking Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	23 9 a.m. MPP	24 <i>8 am. to 4 p.m. Habitat Build</i> 3-5 p.m. Big Fun 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries 6:30 p.m. Morningside Meet-up (McNeills' home)
25 <i>BOBO Auction</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 11 a.m. Worship/Treble Choir Sings 12 noon Fellowship 1:30 p.m. Youth Laser Tag 2 p.m. Venture Crew <i>Our House Collection</i>	26 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians	27 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	28 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	29 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Lenten Walking Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	30 9 a.m. MPP	31 <i>8 am. to 4 p.m. Habitat Build 12 noon Habitat Dedication</i>

Lent Goes ‘Fast’ When You ADD to Your Observation

Whether you give of your time by contributing a dish towards regular meals for Journey (second Sunday each month) or Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (fourth Saturday of odd months), drive a Meals on Wheels route (an hour on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday), spend a day building a house with Habitat for Humanity (any Saturday through March 31) or donate items for preschool-age children served by Our House in Decatur (gently used clothing infant--five years old or diapers or wipes), we invite you to find a way to add something to your Lenten practice.



Before:
Habitat
Day One,
8:45 a.m.



After:
Habitat
Day One,
3:45 p.m.

You could even slip away for a two-day mission trip March 15-17 to assist a community rebuilding from last

year's tornados in north Alabama (leaving Thursday evening, returning Saturday evening). Duncan Spears (duncanspears@yahoo.com) is your contact. If wielding a hammer isn't your forté, help provide lunch for 50 Habitat volunteers March 17 (contact Lysley Tyler, Lysley@bellsouth.net). Maybe you would like to assist in making mission opportunities happen for the children in our community. On March 24, the elementary-age kids of MPC will work from 3 to 5 p.m. to prepare a complete meal for the 30 men staying at Clifton. Help plan, buy supplies, pitch in to cook with the kids or assist Clifton Shepherds David and Katherine Johnston with delivering and serving the meal.

Or, to learn more about the mission projects that MPC supports, contact Mission Team Leader Tony Fishpaw (tony@firstfidelityatl.com) to let him know you would like to join the MPC table at the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission annual dinner on Saturday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. Our own Pastor Emerita, Rev. Joanna Adams, will be speaking that evening on the good work that the NCD does with new congregations that are anywhere from 10 weeks to 10 years old. We are also renewing a partnership with students and teachers in West Africa at Rick's Institute this spring through the Mercer on Mission initiative. MPC Elder and Mercer Professor Emilie Paille will return to Liberia for the third time this May with this program which is a unique blend of study abroad and service-learning. On previous trips, MPC has provided school supplies and children's books, and we have enjoyed learning more about the program through Emilie's presentation at a One Gray Hair Luncheon.

'Children in Mission' Grant Brings Kids into Month of Service

Children at MPC can join the congregational focus on mission during Lent. They have already been working hard to help others with the support of the "Children in Mission" grant received from our Presbytery. They pre-

pared fruit bags and a fruit salad for Clifton, made a salad for Journey, held a bake sale to raise funds for the Atlanta Community Food Bank and filled bags with non-perishable snacks for Bread for the Journey.

Our **BIG FUN** on Saturday, March 24 will focus completely on mission as the kids prepare a healthy and delicious meal for the men at Clifton. In addition to these food outreaches, our children have been busy making pet toys for PAWS Atlanta and filling their Lent banks with coins to support the Clown Program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Registration for Mission Camp July 23-27 has started. If you know a child who will have completed second grade who'd enjoy a week full of mission and fun, direct them to the website or Program Director Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) with questions.

‘Morningside Meet-up’ Offers New Chance to Get Together

Looking for an opportunity to get to know your fellow Morningsiders better--perhaps socially? Or, do you already know folks well enough and find that you just don't get enough time to chat and catch up on Sunday mornings? Come to the Morningside Meet-up! This gathering for the adults of our congregation is a chance to enjoy grown-up conversation, meet new people and catch up

with friends. Our spring meet-up is being hosted by Hillery and John McNeill (20 Stratford Pl., 30342) on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. Please contact Brad Odom (jbradleyodom@gmail.com) to RSVP. As they say, “Be there or be square”!

Still Feeling Grim? Join the Group!

If you haven't explored one of Morningside's regularly meeting groups, you may have missed an opportunity to deepen your faith, learn something new or make a good friend. Check these out!

- All men of Morningside are invited to join Theology on Tap for dinner and discussion, hosted by Peter Cobb (1150 St. Charles Pl., 30306) on Tuesday, Mar. 6, at 7 p.m. RSVP to the church office (office@morningsidepc.org).
- Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and visitors of MPC to join them on Thursday, Mar. 8, from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Alison Bradway (774 Brookridge Dr., 30306). RSVP to Tara Parrish (taraparrish@bellsouth.net) or for more information.
- Sarah and Peter Chatel welcome all couples to their home (4588 Pine St., Smyrna 30080) Friday, Mar. 9 starting at 7 p.m. Get dinner details when you RSVP to Kathy Bremer (kdbremer@bellsouth.net).

- Georgia's own Doc Holliday is the subject of the next discussion of the RHO Readers eclectic book bunch, meeting in the Session Room at 12:45 p.m. Mar. 18. The book is *Doc* by Mary Doria Russell and anyone is welcome to join in. Questions? Ask Daisy Ottmann (dazette@bellsouth.net).
- If you've got a gray hair, come to lunch at noon on Mar. 21. Bob Wells will tell us about the “Mystery of the Trees,” curious, oddly shaped trees that were used by Indians to guide themselves across the North American Continent to trade, to hunt, to communicate with other tribes, to gather plants for medicines and more. The Trail Tree Project is the subject of a recent book documenting and attempting to preserve these records of Native American life. RSVP for lunch to the Brownlees (rsbrownlee1046@att.net).
- The Wednesday Bible Students kick off a study of the Gospel of John Mar. 21 at 7 p.m. in an informal setting in a participant's home. Learn more from Link Marx (fmarx25@yahoo.com).



March Birthdays

1 Cade Lawson
 2 Melinda Sandkam
 3 Hap Howell
 3 Lacey Berreth
 3 Linda Jenkins
 4 Bart Smith
 4 Phyllis Grimes
 5 Ann Watson

6 Nicole Bellmann
 6 Sarah Brownlee
 6 Betty Ray
 7 Bryce Gay
 8 Joan Starks
 10 Sawyer Barnette
 10 Brian Bartis
 11 Ava Arepally
 11 Austin Smith
 11 Emilie Paille
 12 Kelly Goldsmith
 12 Lindsey Howell

12 Drew Kimball
 12 Ellen Cleveland
 13 Carolyn Corr
 14 Guerry Mashburn
 14 Jan Strickland
 14 Mary Leight
 14 Finn Bresnahan
 17 Nan Payne
 17 Bryan Rogers
 18 Ibby Bailey
 18 Gail Kitchens

20 Aaron Bertrand
 20 JoAnn Bertrand
 22 Brenda Fishpaw
 22 Jamie Jones
 23 Hillery McNeill
 25 Todd McDonald
 27 Carolyn Wingfield
 28 Dale Gustafson
 29 Brian Mills



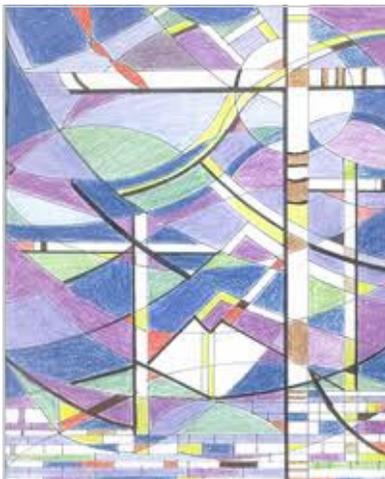
April Opens with Holy Week

Our Chancel Choir shares their incredible voices, the Flower Guild prepares our sanctuary to celebrate the Risen Lord, the Worship Committee provides a special fellowship hour, volunteers supplement the regular and extra staff for children's worship and childcare – Holy Week is coming.

Plans are underway to welcome members and guests alike to all our events the first week of April. Please consider giving your time to help reach out to our community in whatever area you feel called to serve.

In the month of March, we will be seeking volunteers for:

- Maundy Thursday Dinner on Apr. 5 – preparing food, serving and/or cleaning up (contact Mary Chapman (chapmanmaryv@gmail.com))



- Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, Apr. 7 – donating stuffed eggs, hiding eggs, greeting families and cleaning up (contact Jennifer James

jennjames@comcast.net)

- Easter Sunrise Breakfast Apr. 8 – serving and cleaning up (contact Brad Odom jbradleyodom@gmail.com)

- Parking assistance for 11 a.m. Easter Worship – contact Jay Myers JMyers@sefath.com)