



MorningsideMessenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Worship at Morningside

April 1, 2012—Palm Sunday

Baron Mullis preaching

"On the Nothing Train to Nowhere"

Texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Mark 11:1-11

Special Music by Fauré and Handel

Nathan Munson, guest soloist

Moment with children; the sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

April 5, 2012—Maundy Thursday

Meditation by Baron Mullis

6:15 p.m. Dinner; 7 p.m. Worship with Communion

April 8, 2012—Easter Sunday

7 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Lawn

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Baron Mullis preaching

"Hallelujah"

Texts: Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8

Special Music by Charpentier and Handel

Mark Mashburn, trumpet; James Zellers, flute

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received.

April 15, 2012

Shavon Starling-Louis preaching

Jason Hardy, guest soloist

Cherub Choir will sing.

April 22, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Witnesses"

Texts: Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

April 29, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Wolves, Hired Hands, and the Good Shepherd"

Texts: Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

New Member Sunday



Dear Friends,

There is a somewhat dangerous false dichotomy between matter and spirit that is as old as the church itself. Indeed, Paul wrote about it extensively and what I mean by it is this: we believe there are certain things that are material, and others that are spiritual. In this world-view, things like prayer, worship and study are considered spiritual, and things like money, plumbing and cutting the grass are considered material. Continuing in this world-view, things like prayer and worship are best attended to by learned spiritual professionals (that's me) and things like our budget and the building should be handled by tough-minded pragmatists.

Self-referential jokes aside, there's something very wrong with this world-view: it's unbiblical. There is nothing in the Bible to suggest that money and allegedly "practical matters" can't have a spiritual value, just as there is nothing in the Bible to suggest that prayer and other more "esoteric matters" can't have material value. In fact, every time we affirm that we believe in the resurrection of the body when we say the Apostles' Creed, we are attesting that our world-view is a biblical world-view, where the material and the spiritual are indivisible. Explaining that will take more space than this column has, but that's the essential point: that there's no separation between material things and spiritual things.

That doesn't just extend to our corporate life as a congregation. It extends to our personal lives, as people. We aren't spiritual beings in physical bodies, and we aren't physical bodies that have something separate called a soul—we're completely integrated. We are who we are and every bit of us is important to God. It's all deeply connected.

All of which is to say, if we are living balanced, integrated lives, then we should be cognizant of where we are tempted to *disintegrate*. What I mean is if I am someone who prays with regularity but only gives what's in my pocket at the time of the offering, then I'm out of balance—there's no deliberateness. And if I am someone who writes big checks to cover the operating expenses, but I don't make time for prayer and worship, maybe I'm out of balance too.

It all comes back to this theme of discipleship that I've been developing over the past months...when Christ calls us; he calls our whole selves. Not just the material, not just the spiritual—because they were never divided in the first place. Just something I hope you'll think about.

Thanks for reading, 

Holy Week Opens Month of April with Palm Sunday Celebration

It's the most profound emotional roller-coaster in the church year. It opens and closes with celebrations, but with the deepest despair in between. It's known to Christians worldwide as Holy Week.

The ride begins—almost literally—with Jesus on a donkey colt entering Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowds and the suspicion of the Romans and Jewish officials. At Morning-side, we'll mark Sunday, Apr. 1, with music and the waving of palm branches. Significantly, the dried palm branches become the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service.

Our Mediterranean-style meal on Maundy Thursday also has become an MPC tradition. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. Apr. 5 for supper followed by worship including the sacrament of communion. Those who want to come only for the worship service are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. The Congregational Nurture Team needs two things to make this event happen: your RSVPs to the church office ([very important!](#)) and helpers for three shifts: set up (4:30-6 p.m.), serving (6-7 p.m.) and clean up (7:30-8:15). If you can be part of the crew, please contact Mary Chapman (404.817.0496, chapman.maryv@gmail.com).

The mood changes again on Saturday morning, Apr. 7, as we invite all kids—theirs, their buddies, neighbors—for the "running of the eggs" on our campus. Beginning at 10:45 a.m., come enjoy *Ruby the Clown* as 'The Easter Bunny', face-painting and Easter cookies. The Egg Hunt sprints off at 11 a.m. Volunteers still needed! First shift (9:30-10 a.m.) jobs include egg hiding, tent set-up, and event set-up. Second shift (10:30-11:45 a.m.) will manage the event itself, and the clean-up crew will begin work at 11:45 a.m. Bring donations of pre-filled eggs to the church early in the week. Contact Jennifer James if you've got time to help (jennjames@comcast.net).

Easter Sunday will be joyous with flowers, Hallelujahs from the Chancel Choir and full pews long before 11 a.m. It's also the day MPC joins Presbyterians and Christians from seven other denominations in giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. From 1949, this has been an ecumenical effort where all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid. In recent years, Presbyterians have given about \$10 million annually to support the good work of Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Plan to join others in the One Great Hour of Sharing, when sharing our resources will change lives.

Survey Results Spur Session's Ongoing Efforts

So, you filled out the survey about our church. Or you meant to, but didn't get around to it. Or you thought, "Why bother?" Regardless of where you fell on the spectrum, MPC received enough responses to make the findings statistically valid and to give Session a great starting point to dig deeper into the meaning of the results. And you can help with this process.

After an afternoon examining what the survey said about our congregation's highest priorities, Session has identified five areas for which they'd like more input from all of us. Elders are being trained in how to discuss these questions with groups in a consistent manner so that the outcomes will compare "apples to apples". Feedback sessions will be held at meetings (such as Theology on Tap, Women's Roundtable, etc.) over the next two months as well as at a few before-or-after church sessions anyone can attend.

The five areas that need more definition are 1. Connecting with visitors and the community; and connecting new members to MPC; 2. Christian education: When, where, what? to

reach all ages and stages; 3. Spiritual vitality: How to deepen spiritual connection for MPC members? 4. Caring for one another; and 5. Caring for the world around us. Within each topic, discussions should explore stewardship (time, talent, treasure) and whether these ideas represent needs or wants.

According to the survey, MPC members are overwhelmingly satisfied, which suggests very high church morale compared with other congregations. Scores for satisfaction with our worship and music were literally "off the charts". Another highly-rated area is freedom from conflict. The level of concern about conflict shared by our participants was extraordinarily low.

Other significant findings are that Morningside tends to be theologically progressive and quite adaptable. Combining those results with our overall apparent unity, MPC's leadership should be poised to develop plans for the future and move forward, and to believe that the congregation will be willing to invest in accomplishing them. Watch for opportunities to enter into the input process and pray for us as we go about the task of building our discipleship.

Preschool Will Provide Kindergarten Program This Year

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool Kindergarten Class will begin this fall. The class will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, following the Atlanta Public School calendar except for the start date which will be Aug. 27. This dynamic half-day Kindergarten will emphasize child-centered learning which encourages creativity, fun and academic success. The comprehensive curriculum prepares children for first grade by addressing the whole child — in areas of social, academic and physical growth.

"We believe children learn best when they are encouraged to be active learners and have designed our program with that in

mind," says MPP Director Sarah Tomaka. "Our Kindergarten has the advantages of fewer transitions, a low teacher-student ratio, a shorter day and the warm, nurturing community of Morningside Presbyterian. We are in the process of hiring qualified teachers who are well-versed in performance standards, assessments and curriculum. In keeping with our Mission, we intend to serve the children of this community, teach them that they are loved by God and accepted in this community of faith. We welcome children of all faiths, races, and nationalities and will teach them to value themselves as well as others." For information contact Sarah at mpp@morningsidepc.org.

Morningside Milestones

- Red roses on the lectern welcomed two baby boys recently: Preston Caldwell Barnette on Feb. 23 to Will and Anne Barnette (big brothers are Mac and Sawyer); and Charles Robert Strong to member Laura Marshall Strong and husband Jake on Mar. 17 (grandparents are Georgia and Robert Marshall). Congratulations also to Gene and John Turner on the recent birth of their granddaughter, Lucia Nell Turner (Betsy and Ian Turner are the parents, and Nell Roberts is the great-grandmother).
- Another very young man, Stephen Pass, son of Jenny and David Pass, was baptized into our family of faith Mar. 11.
- Also 'new' are our latest batch of members. Please welcome Margaret "Maggie" Blake, Cliff Burt, Rebecca "Becky" and Andrew Stewart, and the Terrys, David and Emilee, along with their twin daughters Eva and Carolyn.
- Morningside Presbyterian Preschool's big tenth birthday bash netted more than \$22,000 to help fund program expansions and enhancements. Next for MPP is the fun and famous Spring Fling, coming up May 5. Watch for ways you can sign up to help make it even more fabulous.
- With the theme line "Play. Serve. Worship. Grow." Morningside Youth now has its own e-newsletter, full of details about upcoming activities. Contact Youth Director Chris Peters if you think you'd like to be on the distribution list.
- Who is new author Daisy Wallace? She's our elder and RHO Readers coordinator Daisy (Wallace) Ottmann, whose first published novel, a humorous mystery titled *Book Cases*, is available online from Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com.

MPC Adopts ‘Mercer on Mission’ in Liberia as Global-Concern Project

MPC will again partner with Mercer on Mission as it sends 12 education students to Liberia, West Africa, under the leadership of MPC Elder and Mercer Professor Emilie Paille and Mercer Christianity Professor Richard Wilson. Here’s Emilie’s description of this effort:

For the past five years, Mercer on Mission, an initiative at Mercer University, has sent students and faculty from various schools within the University to developing countries to work alongside people striving to improve conditions in their home countries. This year, Mercer will send approximately 130 students and 12 faculty members to nine countries. (For more information: www.mercer.edu/mom)

The group journeying to Liberia will teach at Ricks Institute, a K – 12 school, for three weeks this summer. This will be the third year that Paille and Wilson have led this work in Liberia. Last year, MPC donated money to the Mercer team going to Liberia. We used the money to buy books for the Mercer teachers to

read aloud in their elementary classes. We selected this as an important focus because hearing books read aloud allows children to hear “book” language, enjoy good stories, and help develop important skills that transfer to reading ability. Literacy in Liberia is very low: 38.3 percent of the total population, with males at 53.9 percent and females at just 22.4 percent. Reading is a struggle for many Ricks students. Morningside’s gift of books was very important. With the money you gave us, we were able to take 63 books, selected to meet the interests and background knowledge of the listeners as well as could be predicted from afar. The books were well received, read daily, and were left in classroom sets for teachers to continue to read in their classes.

Thank you, Morningside. Your gift was so needed and appreciated. I am grateful for your continuing prayerful support.

Emilie Paille

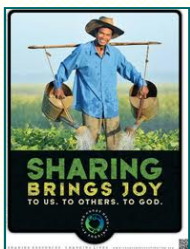
Closer to Home, Morningside Supports ICM’s Neighborhood Outreach

Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM) provides a range of comprehensive services to our neighbors. The heart of this work is the *Heading Home* program. ICM also operates the ICM Food Pantry, the ICM Food Co-Operative, a Clothing Closet, and Emergency MARTA Assistance. Support for ICM’s pantry comes from congregations, individuals, businesses, and organizations in ZIP codes 30306 and 30307.

Our church assists ICM’s outreach through both food donations and pantry workdays. Our next collection of food for ICM’s pantry will run Apr. 8 – 29. Your donations should be of items specific to the needs of the homeless such as pop-top foods, nonperishable microwave meals and can openers. **Canned meats are a critical need.** Bring items to the Welcome Center to help your neighbors.

MPC’s next Pantry Workday is Apr. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board to volunteer to sort food for the morning or email our ICM shepherd Nancy Collins (ncollins0209@gmail.com or 678 634.4572).

ICM is conveniently located at Druid Hills United Methodist Church, 1200 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, at the corner of Briarcliff and Ponce.



Remember, Easter Sunday is the day we share our blessings with those who suffer after natural disasters, from hunger or oppression through the national One Great Hour of Sharing. Open your hearts and wallets for our brothers and sisters in crisis on this joyous day.

Elder on Call

April 1-7	Peter Cobb
April 8-14	Bonnie Daneker
April 15-21	Philip Hawkins
April 22-28	Leslie Prince
April 29-May 5	Caroline Tanner

Deacon on Call

April 1-7	Link Mark
April 8-14	Link Marx
April 15-21	Duncan Spears
April 22-28	Bill Smith
April 29-May 5	Jill Klotz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 1 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. Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew 5-7 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Young Adults (home of Brad Odom)	2 <i>MPP Spring Break</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	3 <i>MPP Spring Break</i> 9:15 a.m. Yoga Class 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap; MLPA Zoning	4 <i>MPP Spring Break</i> 7 p.m. Small Group Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	5 <i>MPP Spring Break</i> 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	6 <i>MPP Spring Break</i>	7 10:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
<i>Easter Sunday</i> 8 7 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by light breakfast 10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 11 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship/One Great Hour of Sharing received 12 noon Fellowship 6 p.m. Journey <i>ICM Food Pantry Collection</i>	9 <i>Church Office closed</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	10 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. Yoga Class 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Preschool Committee	11 9 a.m. MPP 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir	12 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	13 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group (Chatels' home)	14 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. ICM Food Pantry Workday
15 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 11 a.m. Worship/Cherub Choir Snags 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 1:35 p.m. Braves Game 2 p.m. Venture; Harmony 5 p.m. Youth Group <i>ICM Food Pantry Collection</i>	16 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	17 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. Yoga Class 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	18 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	19 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	20 9 a.m. MPP	21
22 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Kids Earth Day Outing 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony 5 p.m. Youth Group <i>ICM Food Pantry Collection</i>	23 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians	24 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. Yoga Class 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	25 9 a.m. MPP	26 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	27 9 a.m. MPP	28
<i>New Members</i> 29 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; Inquirers Class 10:10 <i>Ten Ten</i> Program 10:40 a.m. Called Session 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture; Harmony 5 p.m. Youth Group <i>ICM</i>	30 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society					

Young Adults Will Share ‘What’s Next?’ Career Concerns

Based on the way our Young Adults turned out for the first session last year, another vocational/career discussion has been scheduled for the group. Whether you attended the first one or not won’t be an issue. Glenn Small, a licensed counselor, will facilitate the group in such a manner as to review and expand the earlier mate-

rial. If you are searching for "what's next" in your career search, this might be helpful.

The session will be held Sunday, Apr. 1, at 6 p.m. at the home of Brad Odom (2183 Ellwyn Dr., Chamblee 30341). To RSVP or for more information, contact Brad (jbradleyodom@gmail.com).

Morningsiders Going Out to Welcome Braves Back for Season

It’s the first home stand of the year for Atlanta’s Braves and Morningside’s got tickets. The Sunday game Apr. 15 starts at 1:35 p.m. versus the Milwaukee Brewers. Seats are \$20 each for Section 138 close to the field. Leave from church with a bag lunch (no glass or alcohol) to eat

at the stadium or enjoy the concessions there with your MPC friends. See Jack Klotz to pay and receive your ticket(s). Contact Katherine Johnston (kecjohnston@gmail.com) for more information.

Get ‘Bendy’, Balanced, Beatific through Yoga Practice

MPC member Pam Sharpe, a seasoned yoga teacher and fitness professional, began a six-week series of yoga classes in March in Room 201 on Tuesday mornings beginning at 9:15.

practice to strengthen and stretch your body and mind in a non-threatening environment. If you would like to participate, or for more information, contact Pam at 404.217.5420.

She’ll begin a new series Apr. 24 running through May 29. This is a great opportunity to explore this ancient

Where, When Will Our Connectional Groups Meet This Month?

- The Wednesday Bible Students have just begun looking into the Gospel of John. They’ll gather Apr. 4 at 7 p.m. at the home of Daisy Ottmann (2539 Ellijay Dr. NE, 30319). It’s not too late to join—contact Link Marx (fmarx25@yahoo.com) for more info.
- The next Theology on Tap dinner and discussion for all men will be hosted by Bill Means on Tuesday, Apr. 3 at 7 p.m. at 1071 McLynn Ave., and the topic will be “Open Theological Forum.” There is a lot going on in the world lately. Our denomination is in turmoil. We’re in the middle of the political season. The death of Trayvon Martin has shone a light on race relations and gun violence. Come think theologically about these things. After dinner, Baron will take questions and facilitate discussion on the topics of our choosing. RSVP to the church by Monday, April 2.
- Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and visitors of MPC to join them on Thursday, Apr. 12, from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Kelly Goldsmith (1785 Johnson Rd., 30306). Please email Tara Parrish (taraparrish@bellsouth.net) to RSVP and for any other details.
- If you’ve got a spouse, partner or significant other, come get better acquainted with MPC couples for a social evening with dinner (bring a side or dessert and beverage) at the home of Peter and Sarah Chatel (4588 Pine St., Smyrna 30080) Friday, Apr. 13, at 7 p.m. RSVP to the Bremers (kdbremer@bellsouth.net).
- Did you know that April is National Poetry Month? In honor of the occasion, instead of discussing a book, the RHO Readers will share a favorite poem. Everyone is invited to this poetry party on Sunday, Apr. 15, at 12:45 p.m. in the Session Room. The readers plan a special event next month as members of the family who are the subjects of *Troubled Memory: Ann Levy, the Holocaust and David Duke’s Louisiana* by Lawrence N. Powell will join us for our discussion May 20.
- The final Women’s Roundtable of the season will be Apr. 23 at Lynn Young’s (277 The Prado, 30309.) Speakers will be Hillery McNeill and Sarah Brownlee talking with us about our church’s history, especially how much things have changed since they joined years ago. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., so be sure to RSVP to Kim Perez (kimkperez@yahoo.com).

Joanna Adams, Pastoral Colleagues Seek 'Higher Ground'

We all know 'retirement' is just a hypothetical concept for MPC's *pastor emerita*, the Rev. Joanna M. Adams, but freedom from preparing a weekly sermon and other congregational duties has allowed her more time to follow many of her passions, including interfaith dialog.

One result is an ongoing conversation among Joanna and three other religious leaders representing different faith and viewpoints. Known as the "higher ground group" of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, the participants are Joanna and Rev. Joseph Roberts, Jr., Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, and Imam Plemon al-Amin.

The foundation's aim in bringing together these four retired Baptist, Presbyterian, Jewish, and Muslim faith leaders with a common goal is to inspire positive change. Their personalities are as varied as their faiths. Reverend Roberts followed in the footsteps of Martin Luther King, serving 30 years as senior pastor at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. "I was born in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Then I became a Presbyterian, and now I'm a Baptist. I don't know which team is going to win but I



thought I better cover all of the bases so I would have a chance to make it," says Rev. Roberts.

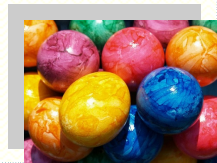
"The perspectives are diverse but everybody wants to be a good influence on one another and also on the city of Atlanta. We want to give something," says Imam El-Amin. Adds Rabbi Sugarman, "To help people understand that when they know of a problem not just to shrug their shoulders, oh that's too bad, what can I do about it? That's it, to place the question right in front of them, what can I do about it?"

"I just think this city is a place where we can show civilization a better way. Not to ignore difference but to understand that difference actually comes from God. We wouldn't be different if God hadn't made us that way," is Joanna's viewpoint.

To experience their informed and intriguing perspectives on local events and issues, visit their blogs at <http://www.highergroundgroup.org/>.

April Birthdays

3 Robert Bartis	13 Greg Johnson	21 Frances Adams	29 Walter Huff
3 Alan Medearis	13 Brent Mooneyham	22 Sue Ballay	29 Ann Bowers
4 Henry Jonas	13 Mindy Potter	23 John Fillyaw	30 David Fairleigh
6 Joe Ballay	14 Amy Santy	23 Chip Edgerton	
7 Michael Perez	16 Bryson Hankinson	23 Jesse Neill	
8 Liz Sommerfeld	18 Andrew Stewart	24 Rebecca Holmes	
9 Austin Davis	18 Ezra Zook	25 Caroline Tanner	
9 Cindy Metzler	20 Sophie Markovic	26 Ruth Wells	
12 Hope Bothwell	20 Thomas Markovic	27 Hal Nuckols	
	20 Isabella Perez	28 Alan Bremer	
	20 Georgia Moore	29 Browning Fergus	



BOBO says "Thanks!"

Your generosity—and good shopping skills!—raised more than \$6,300 for our youth program, especially to send our kids to the Middle School Montreat Conference in July. You really did Buy One to Boost One as we grow our young persons in faith.

Morningside Gallery

If We Had a Hammer...And We Do!

March was the month for our spring Habitat build with four partner churches. From framing on the Habitat for Humanity shop floor to the day MPC provided lunch for the workers, from "What now?" through controlled chaos, we worked with the homeowner family of five from Liberia to create their house which was dedicated Mar. 31.



Then, 11 Morningsiders, joined by an Emory student, traveled for a weekend in Gadsden, AL, where we worked on two new houses rebuilt on the sites of unbelievable tornado devastation last spring. Now we've got some mad construction skills, yo!

Your Session at Work: February 25 and March 18 Meetings

- Both the February and March meetings were held at special weekend times to allow Session members to hear and discuss the Vital Signs Report resulting from the CAT Scan Survey (See article on Page 2) and begin work to develop a new five-year plan. Between now and Session's next planning retreat June 2, everyone will have an opportunity to meet with members of Session to offer ideas around major themes that emerged from the survey. Watch for an opportunity to participate!
- Session voted to allow the Children and Youth Ministries Team to hold two fund-raisers for the youth summer trip and other programs. The BOBO (Buy One/Boost One) silent auction opened Mar. 18. "Shares of stock" in youth attending the Middle School Montreat Conference at Presbyterian College will go on sale closer to the July trip. Also approved were the "We Believe" and "Worship for Life" curricula for elementary-age classes. Mission Camp registration is available on-line now and VBS registration will begin right after Easter.
- James Klotz**, who has applied to four seminaries and been accepted by all four—Princeton, Columbia, Union, and Austin—asked Session to endorse his enrollment as an inquirer with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, a request which was enthusiastically approved.
- Preschool Director **Sarah Tomaka** introduced a motion from the Preschool Committee to begin a half-day kindergarten program this fall. The new class could accommodate 14 children and require two teachers. Session unanimously approved this significant step in the growth of our preschool.
- Speaking for the Evangelism Committee, **Leslie Prince** described a change in how we welcome new members. A new Inquirers' Class will be offered regularly for anyone who is considering joining or is curious about our theology, history and the way our denomination is governed. We'll also continue to hold a New Member Class on the morning people join, but it will emphasize what it means to be a member of Morningside Presbyterian. Our first new Inquirers' Class will be at 9:45 a.m. Apr. 22 and our next New Member Sunday will be Apr. 29.
- Jennye Guy**, Discipleship Ministries Team Leader, received approval to reassign **Brad Odom** from Congregational Nurture Co-Leader to Small Groups Coordinator. All our small groups are being contacted for information and encouragement.
- For Mission Ministries, **Tony Fishpaw** informed Session that our global-concerns focus for this year would support **Emilie Paille** and Mercer University's ongoing educational program with Ricks Institute in Liberia with a financial contribution and collection. (See story Page 4).
- Mary Chapman** reported on improvement to our landscaping. Fifteen MPC volunteers turned out Mar. 17 to help a contingent from Trees Atlanta plant a gift through Joe Staley of 20 new trees for the ravine to refresh the aging canopy. She also drew attention to the new design for the Sara Richey Memorial Garden near the preschool entrance. Thanks to a gift of mature boxwoods, flagstones and dwarf mondo grass from our new members **Joanna and Ian Erwin**, created a new, larger garden design. She also thanked **Randy Young** and Davis Landscaping for their work on the project.

Daisy Ottmann for
Clerk of Session



Sunrise In the Garden

Just as the women came to the garden tomb to find Jesus risen, you are invited to come early to Morningside to celebrate the Resurrection. Our annual sunrise service takes place at 7 a.m. Easter morning in front of the church. Coffee and juice will be served, followed by a light breakfast.

Earth, Moon, Stars: MPC Elementary Kids Have ‘Universe’ of Programs Planned

Let's start with Earth! Kids in grades two through five are invited to bring a sack lunch and comfortable hiking clothes for after church on Sunday, Apr. 22. In honor of Earth Day, we will pick up trash at Morningside Nature Preserve. RSVP to Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org). If you are an adult who wishes to join in the fun, let Melinda know that you're willing to drive.

Stars? We've got one great big one! Vacation Bible School registration starts at the Easter Egg Hunt on Apr. 7 and thereafter on our website. Children who will be four by Sept. 1 through fifth grade are welcome to "Follow the Star" as we explore Advent to Epiphany through traditions from Sweden to Brazil and back again. Volunteers are needed to make this fun event happen June 25-29, 8:45 a.m.- noon. A project you can do now involves hemming a number of our biblical-era costumes. Contact Melinda if you can take one or two of them home to shorten.

We're not going to the moon, but we'll probably see the moon during 'It's Not All About Me' Mission Camp, July 23-27, on our overnight adventure to the Len Foote Hike

Inn on the Tuesday. We are busy booking other outreaches to include sorting food at the Intown Collaborative Ministry food pantry, visiting the Atlanta Humane Society (and holding a car wash to raise money for it), assembling sack lunches for Cure Childhood Cancer and Welcome Home Baskets for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, to name a few. Mission Camp welcomes those who complete second grade this year and above. Registration forms are on the website. Register now and contact Melinda to volunteer for a morning or afternoon or full day of driving and chaperoning. Adult chaperones are a key component of bringing this mission experience to life for our kids.

Younger children can have a "camp" experience, too. Camp Morningside summer program for children ages two-five is now open for registration. Eight weeks of summer fun! Registration forms and session information are available online at <http://www.morningsidepc.org/preschool/summercamp.html>. If you need more information, contact Sarah Tomaka, preschool director, at 404.685.8758 or mpp@morningsidepc.org.