



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 Children, Youth & Families Ministries
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Spotlight on Youth
- 7 Spotlight on Groups
- 8 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

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

Chris Peters Director of Youth Ministry
chrispeters@morningsidepc.org

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

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

Sarah Tomaka Preschool Director, 404.685.8758
mpp@morningsidepc.org

Gus Restrepo Sexton

August Worship at Morningside

August 5, 2012

"This I Believe"

Homilies delivered by Ellen Brown,
Brian Johnson, Lloyd Prince

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

August 12, 2012

Chris Peters preaching
"Live in Love"

Texts: Psalm 130:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Sunday School Kick Off

Thornwell Offering Received

August 19, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching
"Wisdom"

Texts: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Ephesians 5:15-20

August 26, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching
"To Whom Can We Go?"

Texts: John 6:56-69; Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18

Congregational Lunch

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

"You shouldn't have to kick things off in August, that's inhumane..."

"No one wants to put on their plaid school dress when it's 106 degrees..."

These are just a sampling of the reflections I've heard as I've had my ear to the ground lately. It may be July as I put my fingertips to keys to write this, but it's being written for August, and we all know what happens in August... the break ends.

I had exactly one year when I started school after Labor Day. I was in kindergarten. After that the NC public schools began systematically pushing the start date back. And there was no air-conditioning in my junior high school! (And I also trudged five miles to get there, uphill both ways, in the snow...)

My point? That whether we like it or not, August has arrived, and we all know what happens in August. We start the secular equivalent of ordinary time.

I'm sure you've heard over and over that ordinary time does not refer to what is common but rather to the ordinal numbers that measure its Sundays. So too in life we return to the measured way of being that is driven by the school-year calendar. Even if your children are long grown, or like me you don't have children, our lives have something of a programmatic way about them. We take breaks in summer, and we return to routine in the fall.

One of the wonderful things about returning to the routine is that it offers an opportunity to reflect on our lives and think of what we might want to alter about them. Much like a new year offers perspective, the return of routine offers the same. Is there a discipline or practice that you'd like to incorporate into your routine? Clearly I'm going to make a pitch for involving yourselves more deeply in church, or re-involving in something that you once loved but perhaps drifted away from as the rest of your life offered competing demands.

I could make the case that like everything else, you get out of it (church) what you put into it. But I won't make

that case because it isn't true. You don't get out of church what you put into it. The nature of God's grace is that you get vastly more than what you have put in. Indeed, in the classic definition of grace that claims that it is God's unmerited, unearned, unconditional love, what you put in matters not the least bit.

No, in the midst of all of the tit-for-tat, in between the rushing and the worrying about deadlines, church is the place where what you put in is done purely out of gratitude for what God has done. There is nothing you can put in that will equal what God has done. And ironically, in the midst of all of the tug-of-war that is sometimes life, church is probably the one place where you can sit and do *just one thing*. You can sit and worship God. And relax.

That's a whole lot like a break.

Thanks for reading,

Brian

"This I Believe..."

Ever wonder what it's like to write and deliver a homily? Be with us as three of our courageous members—Ellen Brown, Brian Johnson and Lloyd Prince—talk about their personal faith experiences Aug. 5: our annual "This I Believe...." Sunday when our members take over the pulpit.

Elder on Call

August 5-11	Peter Cobb
August 12-18	Bonnie Daneker
August 19-25	Leslie Prince, Jenny Guy
August 26-September 1	Jay Myers

Deacon on Call

August 5-11	Bill Smith
August 12-18	Van Jensen
August 19-25	Jeanne McCarthy
August 26-September 1	Jeanne McCarthy

'Cool' Lunch Focuses on Cool Mountain Retreat

It'll be "cool" during our congregational lunch, Sunday, Aug. 26, as the theme focuses on the beautiful mountain setting for our Oct. 19-21 all-church retreat in Montreat, NC. You'll see photos from previous events, have an opportunity to talk with the planners and previous attendees, and even assure your favorite type of accommodations by registering on the spot.

Of course, the lunch will be friendly, fun and delicious as always. This year, we've requested you to be diligent in

your RSVP for congregational lunches. It helps us to order the correct amount of food and spend money wisely. Please continue this strong trend by signing up for the Aug. 26 lunch by contacting the church office (office@morningsidepc.org; 404.876.7396) by Aug. 20. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. We will continue to be sure to order a few extra meals so that guests will always feel welcome, so don't stop inviting your pew neighbor to come down to lunch the day of.

No Agenda, Just Fun as Morningsiders Mingle

In March, Hillery and John McNeill hosted our first Morningside Mingle. Mark your calendars now for the fall Mingle which will be co-hosted by the McNeills and Becky and Alan Medearis on Saturday, September 15. All are wel-

come to this evening gathering at the Medearis' home at 1261 University Ave., 30306. RSVP to the church office@morningsidepc.org and plan to bring a dish to share.

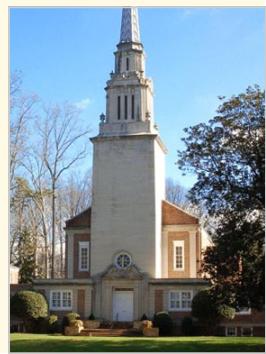
Morningside Milestones

- Our Three Sons! For a couple of months, we have known that Brian Johnson and Bryan Rogers had been selected as adoptive parents to three brothers - Austin, Ben and Jason - ages 20 months, 30 months, and 40 months, respectively. And hooray! The boys are here and have been greeted with dinners and gifts from the Young Adults, RHO Readers and other groups and individuals.
- Congratulations to James and Kate Scribner, son and daughter of Doug and Heather, who received the sacrament of baptism July 22.
- MPC has long been a member-partner and sponsor of Earth Covenant Ministries within our Presbytery. Their good works paid off at this year's PC(USA) General Assembly last month when ECM took home the Restoring Creation Award granted by the Presbyterians for Earth Care. We're proud to share in this national recognition.
- Our Christian sympathy goes out to Monirah and Gary Womack on the death of Monirah's father, the Rev. E. L. Taylor, Jr., June 27.

Morningside Spaces and Places

Morningside has its own library of books for all ages, mostly on subjects devotional, theological and ethical but including some fiction, too. You can check out books, donate books or just browse. It's also a convenient space for a small meeting. And where is this resource? Right inside the front doors on your right. There's also an entrance from the Session Room.

This month we will be giving some TLC to our church library. Contact Melinda Sandkam (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) if you can help for a few hours one day. In order to make the books for adults more accessible, they're moving to the bookshelves in the Session Room. We'll then work on growing our children's books (the Betty Ray Collection, named for our long-time librarian) to make the current resource room/library a destination for all the children in our community—congregation and preschool kids alike.



'Back-to-School' Applies to Churches Too

No matter which week in August your public or private school goes back to the classrooms, you are all welcome to our Sunday School Kick Off Aug. 12 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and lots of activities. Jonah's Whale will return again this year, as will the dress-up corner themed after this year's 'Following the Star' VBS. Our crafts will all have a musical theme and our outreach project will be to cook a dish for Journey (to be served that evening when the church provides the meal).

During worship, we'll collect the annual offering for Thornwell Home for Children. This Presbyterian outreach in Clinton, SC, serves at least 100 children each year - from toddlers to teens. Some stay for only a few months; others grow up at Thornwell. The envelopes in your worship bulletins were made by the kids attending Mission Camp. Please join us in supporting these children in need.

After worship that day, MPC children in grades three through five are invited to meet with Dr. Mullis to learn how to carry in the communion elements and to sign up

Growing Kids Always Need More 'Threads'

As they enter into higher grades, kids inevitably need bigger sizes of pants, shirts, dresses, athletic wear, shoes—EVERYTHING. As your kids or grandkids get ready for the new school year, consider passing along their outgrown duds as they get fitted for new ones. Our collection closet outside the elevator on the Lower Level at church is yawningly empty and eager to hold your cast-offs. We send used clothing in good, clean condition to the Threads Ministry for needy families, run by All-Saints Episcopal Church in Midtown with the help of MPC and other area churches.

Mission Camp Completes Another Successful Week

Our fourth year of Mission Camp ended Sunday, July 29, when some attendees served as liturgists in worship, offered an ice cream social for Fellowship Hour and shared their experiences with the congregation. Mission Camp's focus is to live out our theme: "It's Not All About Me". In four years, we've grown from 13 to 33 campers.

We added a number of lunch preparation projects for Cure Childhood Cancer and Smart Lunch, Smart Kid along with the preparation of the whole meal for the men staying at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. We continued visits to Atria Senior Community, Gatecity Daycare, the Atlanta Humane

for an opportunity to do so this school year. They have time to munch a snack at Fellowship Hour and then come to the Sanctuary at 12:20 for 30 minutes. Parents are asked to bring calendars in to sign your children up to take part in worship by bringing in the Lord's Supper.

Later this month, Morningside Presbyterian Preschool once again opens its doors to nearly 100 students from 15 months through pre-k. We welcome back all of our teachers and so many families from our community. Teachers return on Aug. 13 and students begin Aug. 27. While groundwork has been laid for a Kindergarten class, we anticipate it will begin in fall 2013. Contact Director Sarah Tomaka (mpp@morningsidepc.org) with questions regarding registration. Anyone may take advantage of CPR and First Aid training on Friday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-noon for \$20. Also, mark your calendars now for MPP's Jungle Jam (similar to the former Spring Fling) on Saturday, Oct. 13.

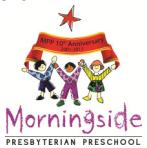


In winter, we ask for new pajamas, socks and underwear in sizes for infants through preteens, and Threads depends on us for these important donations. Lori Guarisco, Threads director, has let us know of the current acute need for school-type garments as families prepare for the season ahead. Threads' list of agency-approved families who "shop" at Threads has tripled in size during this economic downturn. That means a lot more children who need good clothing for school, daycare, sports and other activities. Your no-longer-needed clothing could brighten a child's day.

Society and shopping for the ICM Food Pantry. Our overnight adventure has continued to be a highlight of the week with a return to the Len Foote Hike Inn this year. We salute our many dedicated volunteers – from our Children in Mission Chair Rachel Spears, our Mission Team Leader Tony Fishpaw and many of our outreach shepherds who coordinated projects, to all the parents who donated snacks and helped set up and clean up, to every single one of our chaperones/drivers and all 14 of the volunteers that took two days off work and hiked a total of 10 miles. Thanks to the whole congregation for your sincere support.



August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety		3
						4
5 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 a.m. <i>Ten Ten</i> 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Youth Hot Dog Lunch	6 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	7 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. MLPA Zoning 8 p.m. Wessyngton Road Neighborhood Group	8 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	10 7 p.m. Couples Group	11
12 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Kickoff/Breakfast 11 a.m. Worship/ Thornwell Offering Received 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 12:20 p.m. Communion Elements Training 12:45 p.m. Campus Ministry Meeting 6 p.m. Journey <i>ICM Food Collection</i>	13 9 a.m. MPP Workday 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	14 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Preschool Committee	15 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	17	18 1-4 p.m. Sort Food at Atlanta Community Food Bank
19 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 a.m. <i>Ten Ten</i> 11 a.m. Worship with Handbells 12 noon Fellowship honoring James Klotz 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 2 p.m. Youth Group welcomes 6th graders <i>ICM Food Collection</i>	20 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	21 12 noon MPP and MPC Staff Luncheon 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends Dinner Meeting	22	23 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir  MPP Meet & Greet	24 9 a.m. MPP CPR Course	25
26 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 a.m. <i>Ten Ten</i> 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Congregational Lunch <i>ICM Food Collection</i>	27 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians	28 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	29 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	31 9 a.m. MPP 	

Spotlight on Youth

Rooted in Love: Montreat Middle School Conference 2012

Traveling from Atlanta to Clinton, SC in a huge Suburban, four youth - Cade Lawson, Lucy Grant, Taylor Morton and Joseph Cochran led by Tony Fishpaw and Miranda Brownlee - participated in the Montreat Middle School Conference at Presbyterian College. Joining together with over 600 middle schoolers and their chaperones from across the country, we learned and celebrated that we are "Rooted in God's Love".

"At first, we were nervous and didn't know what to expect. But we got checked in and saw what college dorms are like. And every morning we participated in energizers with singing and dancing," said Cade Lawson.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Landon Whitsitt from Liberty, MO; who was also the Vice Moderator of this year's 219th General Assembly. He spoke to us each morning about what it means to be "Rooted in Love." "Landon discussed what is love and what it means to be uprooted and that even though we may feel uprooted we are still rooted in God's love," said Joseph Cochran.

Our breakout sessions or small groups mixed things up and allowed everyone, even the chaperones, to meet new people from across the country. We made friends and learned about God's sovereignty, grace, providence, and faithfulness while having fun. "I loved playing the minute-to-win-it games. But it was really hard. One exercise was to balance dice on a popsicle held in your mouth. The other was balancing coat hangers on a string held by two people. They were impossible. But we learned that it is okay to ask for help and there are some things that we can't do by ourselves or at all but we are rooted in love" said Cade.

We also discussed various everyday scenarios learning new ways to cope and deepen our faith and understanding of God. Upon learning of the story of a church that had burned and a community's rally to help that church, Lucy Grant learned "You don't need a church building to have church. You need a community and to remember you are rooted in love."

Nightly worship was put together by Theresa Cho, who preaches in San Francisco. However, the youth served as liturgists and even the small groups helped with decorations. It was cool being in a room full of kids our own age and worshiping together. "At one point in small groups, we made flowers with popsicle sticks and wrote positive messages on them. These were used in worship to help portray the idea that God made us each unique but we are all rooted in God's Love," said Lucy. "We also learned and made Ebenezers which are symbols that we hold up to God in worship and help remind us of God's love for us," said Taylor Morton. On the last night we had communion by intinction. It was fun, different and cool.

Not everything was directed towards worship. One night there was a talent show showcasing the various gifts of many of the youth present. There were singers, guitarists, and many acts on the piano. Cade especially liked the outdoor events with the small groups including the Olympics and Water Day. "I got hit with multiple water-filled sponges. It was awesome," he said. Taylor enjoyed meeting new people especially at the dance.

The chaperones had a blast, too, and learned new things. Tony Fishpaw said, "I learned that it is okay to clap during worship... Can you believe this, Walter Huff? But seriously, I also learned that middle schoolers and youth are a lot smarter than people give them credit for. The youth are the future and present of the church. As a church, we don't give enough opportunities to showcase the talents of our youth."

We look forward to our trip back and for next year's conference: Rolling Away Stones.

As we learned at the conference, God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!

Joseph Cochran, Lucy Grant, Cade Lawson, Taylor Morton, Miranda Brownlee and Tony Fishpaw

On Sunday, Aug. 19, our Youth Group will welcome rising sixth-graders! Youth Group kicks off their fall season Sunday, Sept. 9.

Feeding the Needy in August

- Starting, Sunday, August 12, we will once again collect needed items for the Intown Collaborative Ministries Food Pantry. ICM supports those living in ZIP codes 30306 and 30307. Needed are pop-top foods, any sort of canned meat, granola bars, snack crackers and rice packets that can be microwaved. Bring items to baskets located in the Welcome Center through Sept. 2.
- Sign up to help sort food at Atlanta Community Food Bank, Saturday, Aug. 18, 1-4 p.m. Contact Shepherd Tim Gargis (tgargis@gmail.com) with questions.

LGBT & Friends Offers Fellowship, Discussion, Service Opportunities

LGBT & Friends, an inclusive fellowship community at Morningside Presbyterian Church, seeks to celebrate the common threads between our lives and faith journeys. The group will start its 2012-2013 monthly meetings Tuesday evening Aug. 21. LGBT & Friends welcomes all who wish to grow and be energized through Christian fellowship and service.

Monthly meetings are hosted, over dinner, at a Morningside member's home and each meeting is focused on a specific group discussion topic. Several potential topics, ranging from "Being Gay and Being Christian" to book readings of relevant literature like Howard Hannon's *Agony in the Garden*, will be discussed for group input on Aug. 21. "I look forward to the opportunity this group will provide to build new friendships and networks," said Rob Payne. "With commitment from its members, I know it will become a bright spot of fellowship at Morningside."

Group meetings will allow Morningside members, visitors and friends a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Leslie Prince remarked, "I'm thrilled that Morningside's LGBT & Friends has renewed energy and will begin meeting again in a meaningful way. Lloyd and I look forward to being part of it, as we have really enjoyed the monthly events that we've been able to attend. The really cool thing about Morningside is that everyone is welcome and there's really no other agenda except to worship God and have fun....and this group truly demonstrates that fact."

Additionally, the LGBT & Friends plans outreach service programs within the Atlanta community. Steve Smith commented, "It's great that Morningside supports addressing uniqueness in its congregation while also making everyone feel like part of the larger church family."

Curt Barrett looks forward to attending and said, "I've grown to love my church family more and more as each year passes; in friendships formed and nurtured in worship, mission outreach, gatherings and service opportunities. 'All are Welcome' echoes subtly time and again, in a way I never take for granted and as a warm reminder we've come a long way. Knowing Morningside supports and encourages its LGBT & Friends gatherings drives the inclusion message home making me feel all the more welcome."

Along with Rob Payne and Steve Smith, Jeff Peters and Michael Siedschlag are Morningside shepherds for LGBT & Friends. The group is sponsored by Morningside Elder Brad Odom. The meeting on Aug. 21 will be at the home of Jeff and Michael (1812 Meadowdale Ave. NE, 30306). Subsequent meetings will be the third Tuesday of each month through May from 7-9 p.m. RSVP to Michael to attend this month's meeting and/or if you have interest in hosting an upcoming meeting: michaelmspnyc@yahoo.com.

Contributing writer, Jeff Peters

August Birthdays

3 Bill Southwood
4 Greg Wolters
4 Julia Jarratt
5 Shannon Harris
5 Nancy Coomes
5 Sandy Jones
5 Pete Mounts
6 Greg Cornwell
6 Lucy Grant
8 Amanda Lewis
8 John McNeill

12 Annie Kimball
12 Jake Jones
13 Charlie Irwin
13 Jennye Guy
13 Charlie Menefee
13 Robert Gray
15 Emma Lawson
16 Jackie Cleveland
17 Katie Davis
18 Nancy Lane
19 Nick Lazzaro
20 Ed Garrison
20 Caroline Parrish
21 Sheila Williams
22 Shawn Holaway
22 Bill Means
22 Jon Bradway
22 Sarah Chatel
23 Tim Holbrook
24 Bryan Busch
25 Bonnie Daneker
26 Nowell Berreth
27 Debbie Fox
28 Rob Cromwell
28 Becky Medearis
29 Cha Holmes
29 Randy Parrish
29 Christopher Lewis

30 Jill Klotz
30 Elizabeth Rice
31 Scott Bremer
31 Charlsie Woolley
31 Dale Ray

Celebrate James Klotz's Studies at Princeton Seminary Aug. 19

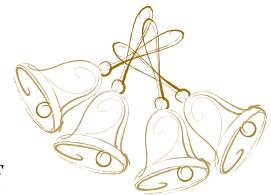
On Sunday, Aug. 19, MPC will dedicate fellowship hour to express our best wishes to James Klotz as he heads to Princeton for his first year of seminary and to thank him for his leadership of the handbell choir. Please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall after worship.

James began conducting MPC's handbell choir three years ago. The church was blessed with the donation of handbells and chimes from James' grandmother. During his time as director, the bell choir has played regularly during worship, including special performances at the early Christmas Eve service and on Maundy Thursday. After attending the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat annually, James taught the handbell choir new ringing techniques and arranged pieces himself.

At its March meeting, your Session endorsed James as an Inquirer in cooperation with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, which will ensure James receives the full preparation for ministry. Leslie Prince will serve as James' liaison to the Session. Bart Smith has been MPC's most recent seminarian, just finishing his studies in Austin.

Handbell Choir in New Hands: Jeff Peters'

Starting Labor Day, Jeff Peters will begin as the interim director of the Morningside Handbell Choir. Jeff has been a substitute ringer with the handbell choir in recent months and sang with the chancel choir during "Sing with the Choir Sunday" in 2010 and 2012. Jeff plays trumpet and piano and has conducted a wide range of music for orchestra and chorus.



Jeff says he is honored to participate in the Music Ministry at Morningside and is looking forward to working closely with the members of the handbell choir. One of Jeff's first priorities is to grow the group, starting in September. If you have ever thought you'd like to ring, now is a great time to join. Please contact Jeff with your interest or any questions:

jeffcpeters@gmail.com.