



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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September Worship at Morningside

September 2, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"A Bunch of Hypocrites at the Table (present company included)"

Texts: James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 24-15, 21-23

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

September 9, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Thinking Theologically About Modern Life" Sermon Series

I. - "The Sin Sermon"

Text: Romans 8:7-25

Inquirers Class

September 16, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Thinking Theologically About Modern Life" Sermon Series

II. - "The Violence Sermon"

Text: Romans 12:9-21

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

New Member Sunday

September 23, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Thinking Theologically About Modern Life" Sermon Series

III. - "The Money Sermon"

Text: Luke 12:41-48

September 30, 2012

Baron Mullis preaching

"Thinking Theologically About Modern Life" Sermon Series

IV. - "The Sex Sermon"

Text: 1 Corinthians 13



Dear Friends,

A while back I had the occasion to read what a number of my high school classmates, former neighbors in North Carolina, and extended family had to say about a particular issue. The issue itself isn't so much important as is the experience that I had reading their thoughts.

My experience was this: since the issue at hand had some religious overtones to it, there was a vast multitude of religious viewpoints shared. And there's nothing wrong with this – surely we *should* speak about our faith. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that much of what I read represented devout belief on the part of my neighbors, classmates and family. No one could reasonably question the religious devotion of anyone on either side of this particular issue.

But after I read a while, I began to notice an absence. It was the absence of theological thought. There was much recitation of belief, but little thought given to how those beliefs might create a consistent pattern of life based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. That's really what theological thought is – taking what we've learned, what we've heard, and thinking critically about how to engage life.

There's no doubt in my mind that the Bible has a great deal to say to our modern life. And there's also no doubt in my mind that much of what the Bible has to say was written about ancient life. It takes thoughtful reflection to translate faithfully the timeless character of Christian life from the first century to the twenty-first. Think of it: property laws have changed. Our knowledge of science and medicine has changed. Paul had plenty to say about the relationship of the faithful to government, but what carry-away would he have for a democratic republic?

There are many things about which committed Christians may disagree, but at the heart of our faith, there are core values that unite us. So I want us to think theologically this fall. To this end, I'm committing to preach a sermon series on the things that I think concern us: sin, violence, money, sex, politics and the environment. (Basically, the sermon series is every-

thing you're not supposed to talk about in polite society.)

Faith has something to say about each one of these things. And since I'm asking you to trust me to preach faithfully about them, I'll make you a promise: I will strive to keep what I say as free of my personal bias as I can. But more importantly, I'll see the sermon as the start of a conversation. Each Sunday afterward, I'd love to talk more with you about what thoughts the sermon provoked. We'll have a feedback time in Room 201 after our social time starting at 12:30.

Bridging two millennia to think about how to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ takes thought. Let's think together.

Thanks for reading,

Care to Join Us?

Our next Inquirers Class will be offered in the Session Room at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 9. A new member class will follow at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16, also in the Session Room. Please call Baron at the church office or send him an email (baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org) if you're interested in becoming a member here at Morningside.

Elder on Call

Caroline Tanner	September 2-8
Leslie Prince	September 9-15
Mary Chapman	September 16-22
Tony Fishpaw	September 23-29
Shannon Harris	September 30-October 6

Deacon on Call

Ken Sharpe	September 2-8
Duncan Spears	September 9-15
Curt Barrett	September 16-22
Jeanne McCarthy	September 23-29
Ken Sharpe	September 30-October 6

Make More Friends: Mingle with Morningsiders this Month

Don't just say you wish you had more time to visit with and get to know more individuals you see in the pews on Sunday morning. We're all invited to the autumn Morningside Mingle from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the home of Alan and Becky Meaderis (1261 University Dr., 30306), co-hosted by John and Hillery McNeill.

There's no agenda but socializing! RSVP to the church office at office@morningsidepc.org by Monday, Sept. 10. Bring a side dish or dessert if you are so inclined but you are just as welcome if you realize you can come at the last minute without food.

Say Goodbye to Summer with Braves at Turner Field

Even though both the baseball and summer seasons are winding down, we've secured seats on the shady side for an afternoon game at the home of the Braves as they take on their league-leading rival Washington Nationals.

Jack Klotz has gotten us \$15 seats in the upper box for the 1:35 game on Sunday, Sept. 16. The Braves will be taking

on their rival for the last time this season. Tickets include a commemorative Dale Murphy hat or shirt, your choice. Contact Jack for tickets or more information (678.428.6255 or jacksklotz@gmail.com). Jack has free parking passes for the Green Lot for the first five carpools to step forward.

Help Our Congregational Lunch Shepherds

For the past three years shepherd Athalie White has established great relationships with a number of caterers, and many dedicated volunteers have supported her with setup, serving, and clean up. Many thanks Athalie!

We now welcome Sandy Jones to this shepherd role, and we invite you to join her team. You don't have to guaran-

tee availability for all four lunches but it would be a huge help to build this list. Contact Sandy (sandybonejones@yahoo.com) today to be added to the list. The next Congregational Lunch will be Sunday, November 11.

Be ready to have a friendly chat with one of our deacons this month as they begin their semi-annual effort to touch base with every Morningside member.

Morningside Milestones

- Our sympathy goes to Bobbie McCrackin on the recent death of her husband, Alec McCrackin, in Dubois, WY, and to Emilie Paille and Jeanne McCarthy on the recent death of Jeanne's nephew Tom Bixby. And our condolences also go to Anna and Gary Best on the death of Gary's father, Jack Best. Anna is MPC's office administrator.
- Katherine and David Johnston welcomed newborn Walter Warford Johnston Aug. 19. Walter arrived a bit early, but everyone is fine. And baby Madeleine Elise Harris was born Aug 20. Her parents are Lisa and Shannon Harris. Dad is said to be "over the moon."
- Congratulations to Roy Simpson, who recently earned his doctoral degree. His doctorate in nursing practice is from American Sentinel University. Roy began his career as an R.N. and continued to work as he earned his advanced degrees.
- In other medical news, George Daneker, M.D., surgical oncologist, is the chief of staff and the chief of surgery at the new Cancer Treatment Centers of America location in Atlanta. *U.S. News & World Report* recently named George among the nation's top surgeons.

MPC Celebrates New Staff Position, New Staff Member

The possibility for two ministries to combine to fill their needs has resulted in a minister at Morningside Presbyterian to focus on adult education, our small groups and our young adults, and full-time employment for soon-to-be-reverend Drew Stockstill. His ordination service will be held in our Sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. with a reception to follow in our Fellowship Hall. And we're all invited! We'll also have an informal 'meet Drew' social time after worship and before the congregational strategy session Sept. 30 (see Page 6).

Drew, who received his Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in May, had already been chosen for the half-time position of Presbyterian Campus Minister at Emory University. He and members of his growing Emory congregation have visited MPC and worship with us fairly regularly. (We'll undoubtedly see much more of them going forward.) After being approached with the possibility of adding a part-time pastor on a contract basis, Baron and Session rapidly agreed this offered an undeniable opportunity to enrich our staff with special attention to teaching, revitalizing the Young Adults, liaison to our various small groups and assisting Baron with Sunday morning worship as liturgist and occasional preacher. The quality of Drew's preaching has been recognized nationally.

Many of us had the opportunity to meet Drew when he served as co-leader of this year's Mission Camp with Program Director Melinda Sandkam. Parents were heard to exclaim, "This guy is great! We ought to hire him," and Session was pleased to have the opportunity to do so, thanks in part to a grant from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Because this is a contract position, no nationwide pastoral search or committee was required. Many of us remember that Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann joined our staff on similar terms while Rev. Chris Henry served as Senior Head of Staff in 2010.

Drew says, "I am so excited to be joining the Morningside community! I have been convinced that the Holy Spirit is doing bold and grace-filled work for the Community of God through members of this church. I'm honored and humbled to join the disciples of this community in their work of sharing the love of Jesus Christ with each other and those beyond the walls of this congregation. I'm grateful for MPC's constant warmth and hospitality and look forward to what God will continue to do through all of us together."



A native of Thomasville, GA, Drew did his undergraduate studies at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, majoring in philosophy and theater. One of his professors there was Dr. Peter Hobbie, who led our annual Montreat Retreat last October. Dr. Hobbie says, "I am so happy that you have Drew Stockstill. I got to know Drew during his freshman year, but his

openness and calmness of manner made him a valuable friend to me, and that friendship continues to this day. It is not often that a former student can become a mentor to the teacher, but I value his understanding more each year."

Among Drew's experiences are serving as senior-class president at CTS, and several sojourns in Nairobi, Kenya as a volunteer for The Outreach Foundation and in ministry. As a result, he's picked up some of the Kikuyu and Kiswahili languages. He's married to Ellen, whose father served as pastor at Drew's church in Thomasville. Ellen is completing doctoral work in English and is an elder at Trinity Presbyterian here in Atlanta.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 a.m. AA Meeting
2 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship	3 <i>Church Office closed in observance of Labor Day</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	4 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. MLPA Zoning; Theology on Tap	5 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday	6 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	7 9 a.m. MPP	8 9 a.m. AA Meeting
9 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; Inquirers Class 10 a.m. Children in Mission 10:20 a.m. Mission Trip Meeting 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 12:30 p.m. Post-sermon discussion 1 p.m. Strategic Planning 5 p.m. Youth Kickoff 6 p.m. Journey	10 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	11 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers; Preschool Committee	12 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	13 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Lydia Circle; Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Security	14 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group	15 9 a.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Morningside Mingle
16 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; New Member Class 10:40 a.m. Called Session 11 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Post-sermon discussion 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 1:35 p.m. Braves Game 5 p.m. Youth Group	17 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Session; Mandolin Society	18 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends	19 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Luncheon 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	21 9 a.m. MPP	22 9 a.m. AA Meeting 10 a.m. Big Fun 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries
23 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Post-sermon discussion 3 p.m. Drew Stockstill Ordination 5 p.m. Youth Group	24 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians	25 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	26 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Health Ministry Partnership for Atlanta Presbytery 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	28 9 a.m. MPP	29 9 a.m. AA Meeting

30

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
9:45 a.m. Church School
11 a.m. Worship
12 noon Fellowship
12:30 p.m. Post-sermon discussion
1 p.m. Strategic Planning
5 p.m. Youth Group
6 p.m. Clifton Graduation Dinner



Session Asks You to Describe MPC Five Years into Future

Y'all remember the CAT Scan survey about our church we were all asked to fill out early this year? The results, as promised, have become a major tool in our Session's efforts to draft a strategic plan for the next few years, our Vision 2017.

Here at Morningside, we've been using visioning and strategic plans for 15 years or more. Other churches have taken notice that we not only work together to create a plan, we actually use that plan to help design programs and priorities—one reason MPC has built a reputation as one of the most successful churches in our denomination. Of course, it's always easier to make progress when you know where you're going.

To that end, this month the Strategic Planning team will use several channels for us all to help flesh out a high-level draft plan that the team and Session have been working on throughout the spring and summer. Representatives of the team will be visiting our various groups, such as Theology on Tap and Women's Roundtable, for informal discussions about the major priorities you've helped them identify so far and to solicit your input about when and how these priorities might be achieved over the next five years.

There will be another opportunity for everyone to participate after worship on Sept. 30. At that point, the planners are hoping to have filled in more of the outline thanks to input from the groups and a new entity, the College of Elders, so that participants in our general discussion will have more specifics for consideration and comment.

A College of Elders is a sounding board of ordained church leaders, whether currently serving on Session or not and regardless of when and where they were ordained. Just as deacons are charged with the care of the congregation even beyond their elected term of service, so our elders are also charged with helping

the current session set vision—even beyond their elected term of service. To that end, all elders in Morningside's congregation have been invited to a meeting to review the draft plan on Sept. 9 after worship. Other churches have used a College of Elders to take advantage of the experience these 'presbyters' have gathered during their years of service.

The theme of Vision 2017 is "Living God's Promise: Growing in Welcome, Sprit and Service." To help you think about and discern God's call for where our church should be going forward, here are the five strategic imperatives that have emerged so far:

- Align staffing with the size of our congregation.
- Strengthen the church's infrastructure, both physical and financial.
- Engage people more deeply, especially newer and younger members.
- Enhance program offerings with opportunities for more segments of our congregation.
- Develop our artistic ministry.

When the planning is complete, we will share a series of actions and milestones for the next year and longer-range, a plan that will be updated annually as we move forward toward 2017.

As Elder Tom Daniel said at a recent Session meeting, "I'm excited to see this!" And the roomful of elders said "Amen." Don't miss your opportunities to take part in shaping our future—if you can't attend a meeting, feel free to share your thoughts with a member of the Strategic Plan drafting team, led by Kathy Bremer, or any of our Elders.



One Gray Hair Offers Friendship, Learning and Community Outreach

Morningside hosts One Gray Hair for all who enjoy food, fellowship, and fun and have at least one gray hair. The group was started five years ago and has grown into a bi-monthly forum for social interaction, inspiration and service opportunities.

One Gray Hair attendees enjoy lunch and an informative program, often presented by an MPC member. On Sept. 19, Ken Sapp, longtime Morningside member and a Master Gardener will present “Herbal Plants in the Bible”. The program will include a celebration of Ken’s 87th birthday on Sept. 20.

Jane Stack says, “One of One Gray Hair’s assets is a delicious and healthy lunch prepared by Sarah and Richard Brownlee. Lunch, with its lively conversation emanating from each table, is followed by interesting programs presented by members or guests who speak of travel, hobbies, or might even be Robert Gray reciting poetry in his delightful Scottish brogue”.

Previous programs have included conversations with contemporary writers such as Lynn Coulter, author of *Mustard Seeds*, and Joseph E. Dabney, author of *The Food, Folklore, and Art of Lowcountry Cooking*. Another recent book discussion was with Morningside’s own Bob Wells, co-author of *Mystery of the Trees*. The book is dedicated “to our Indian brethren who lost their homelands, kinfolk, culture, and most importantly part of their pride and dignity”. A contribution was made in Bob Wells’ name to the Mountain Stewards, a non-profit organization located in Jasper, GA.

Dale and Barbara Ray say, “Like most program activities at Morningside, there are strong outreach and service features. Members, friends of members, and community neighbors have been enriched by attendance and often become more involved in opportunities at MPC. As you would expect there are spin offs for further activity and service related to the pro-

grams. Our personal favorite is the opportunity that came for us to learn and to practice Tai Chi. Bob Wells was invited to share his travel to China and his love of Tai Chi. Thus began the three years Bob has instructed a Tai Chi practice group”.

Richard and Sarah Brownlee, shepherds for One Gray Hair, are working with the group to plan several programs and outreach opportunities throughout 2012-2013. “I like the fellowship of it,” comments Gloria Joiner. “I’m certain the programs will continue to be great. I get inspiration and learning from it and love that fellowship and friendship are such an important part of Morningside”.



One Gray Hair members Ann Bowers, Barbara Ray, and Dale Ray enjoy a recent meeting.

“Seniors at Morningside are living it up these days attending One Gray Hair,” says Betty Ray. “Speakers present programs which are both informative and entertaining. The social interaction is also excellent as we greet former members who have returned and meet new members joining our group. Thanks, Morningside, for this special addition to our church program, enriching the lives of our seniors and giving us a true sense of belonging”.

One Gray Hair meets the third Wednesday in Sept., Nov., Jan., March and May from noon – 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Sarah and Richard Brownlee for more information or to RSVP: rsbrownlee1046@att.net.

Contributing writer, Jeff Peters



Hurricane Recovery Still Needs Our Touch

New Orleans still needs help rebuilding from the double whammies of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita - and now Isaac, - and MPC's Fall adult mission trip will be to the gulf city. You have until Sept. 23 to sign up.

To learn more about being part of the team traveling to New Orleans Thursday morning Nov. 1 and returning Sunday, Nov. 4, come to an informational meeting Sunday, Sept. 9, at 10:20 a.m. in Room 107. Roland Behm (roland.behm@gmail.com) is shepherd for this outreach and can answer questions.

Our service project involves a Habitat for Humanity build arranged through RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans), a ministry of St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church. Since 2005, RHINO has welcomed more than 5,000 volunteers and built 26 homes.

Cost will be \$150 (payable to MPC with 'mission trip' on the memo line of your check) for three nights' lodging in the Brent House Hotel (www.brenthouse.com), dinner Thursday and lunch on Friday. We will plan carpools (gas covered by our Mission budget) once registration is complete.

Celebrate New Starts with Clifton Graduates

About this time every year, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries has something to celebrate: the transition of some of the shelter guests to their own living space. This year's dinner to honor the men who have worked to overcome homelessness will be at North Avenue Presbyterian, Sunday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m.

As a long-time supporter of Clifton, MPC is pleased to rejoice with these men in their celebration. Our kids recently made "Welcome Home" baskets for the graduates from member-donated household basics. MPC hosts a table at the dinner, and if you'd like join us, contact Shepherd David Johnston (dmjohnst@hotmail.com) for an inspiring time together.

Kids Take on Feeding Projects This Month

Our younger members benefitting from a grant to support "Kids in Mission" will be making non-perishable brown bag lunches Sept. 9 for individuals and families spending time with young cancer patients in hospitals. They'll further

stretch their culinary skills cooking supper for the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as part of the Big Fun activities on Sept. 22.

Check Your Calendar Now to Reserve These Special Service Dates

Before your October gets too booked up, consider these opportunities for fun and exercise while serving our community:

- Sunday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m.: Walk or run 5K to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS via AIDS Walk Atlanta. Keith Blount is leading the MPC Team and we have our own team webpage for registration and/or donations: <http://aidswalkatlanta.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart?event=999942&lis=1&kntae999942=EDD07AA69BA5457582261D2FCDDDA6D8&team=5178936>
- Saturday, Oct. 27: Let's build a playground! We'll partner with Peachtree and Shallowford churches to help the congregation of El Nazareno Presbyterian Church create a playground for the community in Hapeville. Our shepherds Jack Klotz and Lloyd Prince will have more details next month.

(Brian Johnson delivered this homily in worship on *This I Believe* Sunday, Aug. 5. We invite you to submit your own “*This I Believe*” story to communications@morningsidepc.org.)

I believe in my faith; and my faith is what sustains me. And part of that sustaining faith is music. Yes, music. Those old traditional hymns—they really give me that kick in my Christian foundation.

I cannot remember how old I was or the context of the event, but I just know that at some point in my adolescence, I awoke, and it was the beautiful words and the powerful instrumentals that helped me see. I was saved the old Southern Baptist way: that walk down the middle of the sanctuary in front of lots of people I did not know staring at me. I am pretty sure my paternal grandmother pushed me into the aisle, but that is another story. It was quite frightening from what I recall, but I do firmly remember the music. I am sure that week’s altar call was “Just As I Am”—a powerful hymn. I feel like we sang it every week, but it was “How Firm a Foundation” that jolted me awake and made me feel—well—Christian. The deep music and the strong words helped me to really see that God would never forsake me. I needed to sing—and hear those words.

Christian hymns form such a wonderful and powerful constant in our lives. We know these beautiful lyrics by and through our hearts; they flow from our memories and through our souls with belief and emphasis that for me can be quite emotional. These sweet hymns allow me to feel again the eagerness and excitement of youth and to dwell in the presence of dear friends and family who have left this earthly domain. My grandfather was a music minister; he loved to sing. He used to sing at home, and he loved “How Great Thou Art.” The words really took meaning to me when I was at Young Harris College:

“When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul—my savior God to thee—how great
thou art—how great thou art!”



Brian and his son Austin, one of three brothers he and his partner Bryan Rogers adopted this summer.

I feel such power in those words; nature is God’s domain, and hymns express how it can be seen and embraced. That year my grandfather died, and through the song he loved, I think I first felt that connection with nature. The mountains, the meadows, the rivers, and the quiet of the deep forest is a song unto itself, and don’t think I don’t sing out loud when I am outside. I do. Ask my partner: I am constantly humming, whistling, and singing. I am not sure he enjoys it as much as I do, but I love it.

I love and thrive on how those tunes and lyrics make me feel. It empowers me; it connects me. It helps me maintain memories and allows me to invite emotions that generally hide beneath the surface. The night before my mother died after a long and brave battle with cancer, I stayed awake with her during her last lucid moments. Those hours were so special and intensely spiritual. God was present; I knew it, and my mother told me so. I was 22 and thought I knew everything, but during that night I realized how little I had lived and little I actually knew. She said that angels were in that dark bedroom, and that they were bright—too bright, in fact. My father was there, too, waiting for her; so was her grandmother—with whom she had such a special and close relationship. Both my dad and my great-grandmother had been dead for 17 years. But they were there. There was intense dialogue going on that I could not quite understand. It was very unbelievable, but not

for Christians. In the predawn hours on June 5, 1997, I did not know what to say, so I just sang. The only song that could come to mind was so simple and perfectly pure, and every time I hear it now—it takes me back to that night and that moment.

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!...”

My faith thrives when I am belting out these special lyrics. These are my songs and they depict my story. I believe intensely, and I sing intensely. I will keep on singing. I hope my sons hear my singing and feel the love of Christ in my voice and those special songs. I know I do. When I am singing—I am believing.

Signs of Fall -- Groups Resume Meeting Schedules

They're baaaack! The Morningside groups that meet to investigate, celebrate, eat, discuss and build deeper connections with each other are setting dates for their first fall meetings, joining those that continued to meet all summer.

First up will be the men's group, Theology on Tap, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4, the day after Labor Day. Hosting will be Todd McDonald (835 Rowland St., Clarkston 30021). Format for the men's gatherings are dinner followed by a topical, faith-oriented discussion led by Baron. RSVP to the church office.

"Wonderful Wednesdays" of spending an hour reading and discussing a book of the Bible begins fall meetings Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m. at the home of Joe and Sue Ballay (400 Sixth St. 30308). This small informal bunch began studying the Gospel of John in the spring, but each week's discussion stands alone. If you'd like to check out this group, be in touch with Link Marx (fmarx25@yahoo.com).

After a summer reprieve, Lydia Circle will start up again on Thursday, Sept. 13. Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and

Get Ready for Scottish Trip with 'Scottish Play'

Theater superstition says it's bad luck to name the play in the theater, but we're not superstitious, are we? We've reserved group tickets for the 2 p.m. performance of "Macbeth" at Georgia Shakespeare on Sunday, Oct. 28. Turn in your \$30 check to Melinda Sandkam by Sunday, Oct. 14, to reserve your seat.

Yoga, Tai Chi Classes Begin New Sessions

Healthy stretching, balance building and mind-calming techniques return to MPC Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. Certified yoga instructor and member Pam Sharpe recently updated her kripalu-yoga resume with advanced training in back care. This practice is therapeutic in many ways! Contact Pam (yogapam@bellsouth.net) to register or for more information.

visitors of MPC to join them from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Tamara Nix (732 N. Rock Springs, 30324). Please email Tara Parrish (taraparrish@bellsouth.net) to RSVP and for any other details.

Our Couples Group will meet as usual on the second Friday of the month—Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at the home of Peter and Carolyn Cobb (1850 St. Charles Pl., 30306). All duos are welcome. Bring a side or dessert to share, something to drink and RSVP to the Bremers (kdbremer@bellsouth.net).

Imagine you're a 15-year-old boy and your parents decide to become bank robbers. Somehow that's the situation Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford imagined for his acclaimed novel *Canada*. Our RHO Readers invite anyone interested to come to the Session Room at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16, to talk over the book. Joanna Adams will lead this discussion.

Wednesday, Sept. 19, One Gray Hair's luncheon meeting will feature an exploration of "Herbal Plants of the Bible." See Page 7 to learn more about this group and its September program.

Shakespeare's tale of murderous ambition moves from Scotland to the exotic Caribbean in this stirring re-imagining. This production features a predominately African-American cast, including local favorite Neal A. Ghant as Macbeth. Presented in partnership with the National Black Arts Festival, this show celebrates the strength of a good story in changing times.

Another option kicking off this day is an eight-week series of tai chi classes in Fellowship Hall. Medical research confirms this 'meditation in motion' practice helps alleviate stress, high blood pressure, poor balance — and provides many other benefits. Class time is 4:30 p.m. Member Bob Wells (wellscom@comcast.net) is our instructor.

Mull It with Mullis

As Baron mentioned in his Page 2 letter, his September sermons will consider subjects that typically fall into a category that could be called "The Untouchables." Never one to shy away from theological debate, Baron would like to discuss more deeply the topic of his sermon each week after worship and fellowship. If you're interested in mulling it with Mullis, stop by Room 201 at 12:30 six Sundays in September and October.

‘Living in Three Tenses’ Offers Retreat for All Ages, Interests



This is the month to commit to experiencing the fun and relaxation—to say nothing of spiritual stimulation—offered at Morningside Presbyterian’s annual retreat to the William Black Lodge in Montreat, NC. Starting on Friday evening, Oct. 19, and ending after worship on Sunday, Oct. 21, this short event manages to pack in a lot of activity. Pick up a brochure describing our theme, “Living in Three Tenses,” and our leader, the Rev. Dr. Doug Oldenburg, or visit the church website. Be sure to get your name on the attendee list before Sept. 16.

‘Spring Fling’ Becomes ‘Jungle Jam,’ Moves to Autumn

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool’s annual spring event and fundraiser known as the Spring Fling will happen twice this year—in a way. Embracing the popular “Jungle Jam” theme from previous Flings, MPP will present a second outdoor fair all over our grounds Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to attend: bring the kids and grandkids and neighbor kids. If you’d like to support our preschool

parents by volunteering for an hour-and-a-half shift before during or after the Jam, be in touch with Preschool Director Sarah Tomaka (mpp@morningsidepc.org). It’s a great way to build our relationship with the preschool families and staff.

The move to October for our family fun-fair will be permanent. MPP’s spring event will be an adult party in February.

September Birthdays

1 Leslie Brenner
1 Karen Cox
3 Natalie Johnson
3 Holly Campbell
4 David Johnston
4 George Talley
4 Jennifer Jones
4 Dixon Taylor

5 Gloria Joiner
6 David Cox
8 Roxanne Sullivan
9 Chad Johnson
9 Will Hunter
9 Alan Boren
9 Barbara Jones
10 Baron Mullis
10 Brooke Lampe
10 Trenton Tunnell III
10 Wren Lewis
10 Betsy Armstrong

12 Bryan Davis
13 Lisa Jern
14 KJ Nuckols
15 Sophia Regnault
15 Al Adams
16 Ruthlyn Newell
18 Evvie Bresnahan
19 Jason Williams
20 Shirley Adair
20 Ken Sapp
22 Jim Walker
23 Maggie McIntosh

24 Braxton Jarratt
24 Hugh Bell
24 Jan McMahan
25 Vickie Hunter
25 Daniel White
25 Bobbie McCrackin
26 Lele Ruby
26 Greg Morton
27 Spencer Adams
28 Ellis O'Brien
28 Richard Alexander
29 James Scribner

New Position for Walter Huff Recognizes Choral Excellence

How could our organist/choirmaster pass up such an opportunity? Walter Huff is joining the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, as Adjunct Associate Professor (Choral Conducting) - Faculty Director of Opera and Ballet Choruses. He will continue his work as Organist/Choirmaster at Morningside and Chorus Master at the Atlanta Opera.

Here's what they're saying about Walter in Bloomington: William Jon Gray, chair of the school's Choral Conducting Department, said "Mr. Huff's extensive experience as one of the top opera chorus masters in the United States will be a significant addition to the department as we begin to develop a unique and unprecedented comprehensive professional training program for opera chorus masters within the graduate choral conducting curriculum. His position in the school will continue our mission to train and develop vocal performance majors and conductors to the highest professional standards in all of our opera productions."

Walter's already begun his challenging schedule of commuting, but he's excited to do so. "Indiana is rated as one

of the top music schools in the country, and is very well known for their opera department and professional-quality productions. In fact, they are basically the size of a regional company, producing six full operas a year, and several complete ballets, in an impressive performance venue. I will be preparing and coordinating the ensembles utilized in these productions. One of the most exciting elements of this position is that I will be mentoring Masters and Doctoral conducting students, in the art of opera chorus mastering. Every production will have a student assigned as Assistant Conductor, which allows me also to work in Atlanta. I'm sure you will agree that this is a great opportunity to carry forth the legacy of a very specific art form, established for many years here in Atlanta with hundreds (thousands?) of singers I have worked with."

Such emphasis on preparing conductors to foster operatic choral ensembles is groundbreaking in a music school's program. MPC can't imagine a better groundbreaker than Walter Huff.