



MPP Messenger

December 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

December 3 – Free Holiday Babysitting

December 4 – PreK Field Trip to Puppetry Arts

December 5 – Chapel/Toiletry donations

December 6 – Prospective Parent Tour

December 9 – Ms. Amy's birthday

December 12 – Carols & Coffee

December 14 – Staff Christmas luncheon, early dismissal at noon for ALL students

December 16 – Christmas Pageant and Carol Sing, 5:00 pm

December 20-January 6 – Christmas break

December 24 – Family Christmas Eve service at 4:00; Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 8:00 (childcare provided)

Looking Ahead to January

January 7 – Back to school

January 9 – Mrs. James's birthday

January 10 – Prospective Parent Tour

From the Director

It's DECEMBER! This is such a fun month, full of crafts, glitter, special treats, glitter, songs and finger plays, anticipation, and *more* glitter.

We also celebrate the season by participating in many fellowship and service opportunities. One of our most highly anticipated events, Free Holiday Babysitting, is this Monday with a record number of children signed up. Thanks go to Jenn James, Carrie Branon and Melinda Sandkam for arranging this event. I know many of you will enjoy the evening. Another popular fellowship event is the Carols and Coffee. This is a fun, casual sing-along in the Fellowship Hall. So much fun for all! Please join us for the Christmas Pageant on the 16th and the Family Christmas Eve Service. The church is so warm and welcoming and we hope you'll make the time to come on by.

As for service, we are doing several new things as well as collecting for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Chapel donations have gone really well. We thank Melanie Morris for suggesting this once a month collection. It's just so easy to pick up a small item while out and about. The Environmental Committee came up with a great idea to take advantage of the holiday entertaining season. We'll be collecting corks during December and January. Cork is an easily recycled resource and keeping them out of the landfills is a great way to green our holidays. Look for more exciting ideas from the Environmental Committee in the new year.

Encouraging compassion and service is an important element of our commitment to your children. We all enjoy parties, singing and yummy treats. But this season is about so much more and the teachers are sure to help your children understand that. For the fourth year, the teachers have chosen an organization to support. This year it is Gigi's Playhouse Atlanta, a Down Syndrome Awareness Center. So, as always, many thanks to all of you – parents, children and teachers – for your generosity.

Sharing our many blessings with you and your children is the ultimate Christmas gift. I wish you happy times, safe travels and quiet moments of grace.

Sarah Tomaka, *Director*



Congratulations to . . .

Stacey and Joe Guith and big brother Jack on the birth of Abigail on November 11.



New Addresses . . .

Quinn and Sullivan Zern (Andrea & John), 588 Linwood Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306

Eiley Vasquez (Kristin & Michael), 1803 Meadowdale Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306



Thank You . . .

. . . **Jenn James and the many volunteers from MPC** for the wonderful Thanksgiving Gathering. It is always so much fun and the food was great!!

. . . **Georgia Moore** for her leadership and to the many shift volunteers for the All Star Book Fair – we got so many donations for Our House and our Children's Library. Thanks to all of you for your support.

. . . **Jenn Packer, Liz Sommerfeld, Shannon Higgins and Kim Nuckols** for being tour guides for our first Prospective Parent Tour. We got wonderful feedback from the parents who attended.



. . . **Suzanne Macpherson, Emily O'Brien and Amy Millard** for the delicious lunch from the Teacher Appreciation Committee. What a lovely treat.

Reminders . . .



Winter Weather is Upon Us

The teachers have asked me to remind you of some things to do with the colder weather. First, please be sure that your child's change of clothing is appropriate for the colder weather. Also, if it is 40 degrees or warmer and dry enough, the kids go outside to play. Therefore, please make sure they have enough warm clothing for outdoor play. Last, but by no means least, PLEASE label all clothing. That alleviates the confusion when the children are going outside and going home. Thanks so much!



Upcoming . . .

Canned Food Drive for Atlanta Community Food Bank

Through December 14th MPP is partnering with Morningside Presbyterian Church to fill all the Atlanta Food Bank barrels located around the church and school. This is an opportunity for our older children to help shop for their favorite foods to donate or for the little ones to personally place the food in the bins. Let's help our children be a caring part of our community!



Chapel Toiletry Donations – Wednesday, December 5

Please note that Chapel is one week early this month due to Carols and Coffee on the second Wednesday. This month we will be collecting travel-sized shampoo at chapel time. This is a great opportunity to allow your child to pick out the donation while you're out and about! There will be a basket for donations in front of the sanctuary so anyone can participate. Also, remember that parents are always welcome to attend chapel. It is at 9:15 a.m.

Prospective Parent Tours

Our first Tour was fabulous and we are looking forward to two more. December 6 and January 10. They begin at 9:15 a.m. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending a tour, please have them call or email Sarah, 404/685-8758 or mpp@morningsidepc.org.



You are invited to
Carols and Coffee
Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 12
9:15 a.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Morningside Presbyterian is offering two Christmas Eve services this year. The Family Christmas Eve service is from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. Our Handbell Choir will perform and young people will be leading the worship. The Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols is at 8:00 p.m. Childcare will be available at both services.



Save the Corks!



Keep your corks out of the landfill! The MPP Environmental Committee will be collecting corks in the months of December and January. Just drop your corks in the marked container located next to the Preschool entrance when you drop off your child. It couldn't be easier to be a bit greener this holiday season.

Save the Date!

MPP Spring FUN-raiser

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Chris Wilson, chairperson

Sponsorship and Donation letters
will go out in December.

If you have any questions or
would like to volunteer for this important event,
contact Chris at 404/702-9486

Spotlight on Two Year Olds

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool classes follow guidelines that form the foundation of our child-centered teaching philosophy. These goals and objectives help provide developmental building blocks that will help the children progress successfully while at the same time allowing for flexibility and attention to the individual needs of each child. It is important to note that every child is unique and acquires these skills in his or her own time. This month we are sharing our guidelines for Two Year Olds.



Goals and Objectives for Two Year Olds

Independence in:

- separating from caregiver
- sitting & eating at the table
- sitting & interacting during circle time for 10 minutes
- following simple 3-step directions
- cleaning up after an activity
- solving simple problems through trial and error
- self-soothing
- making simple choices, such as choosing between two colors
- lining up

Continued growth in:

- communication skills (vocabulary, pronunciation)
- recognizing feelings and expressing empathy
- sharing and taking turns
- listening to books/pretending to read
- sorting
- potty-training/bathroom etiquette
- singing/learning songs
- fine motor skills (tearing, opening snack containers, playdough)
- gross motor skills (kicking balls, catching balls, jumping, running, climbing)
- self help skills (cleaning snack area, hand washing, dressing)
- understanding the difference between safe and unsafe behaviors & environments
- creative expression (art, music, dance, pretend play)
- cooperative play (with teacher guidance)

Introduction to:

- letters
- numbers
- books
- songs
- calendar, a sense of time (seasons, days of the week)
- shapes
- colors