



# Morningside Messenger

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## Inside This Issue

- 1 **Worship**
- 2 **Inside Morningside**
- 3 **Spotlight on Groups**
- 4 **Connections**
- 5 **Calendar**
- 6 **Mission Ministries**
- 7 **Morningside Gallery**
- 8 **BackWords**

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## January Worship at Morningside

**January 6, 2013**

Baron Mullis preaching

“Waiting for the Kingdom”

Texts: Mark 13:24-37; 1 Kings 17:8-16

*The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.*

**January 13, 2013**

Baron Mullis preaching

“You Are Mine”

Texts: Acts 8:14-17; Isaiah 43:1-7

*The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.*

**January 20, 2013**

Baron Mullis preaching

“A Little Off-the-Cuff Oenology”

Texts: John 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*Officer Ordination/Installation*

**January 27, 2013**

Baron Mullis preaching

“With Interpretation”

Texts: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21

*The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.*

## MPC Begins Year by Taking Care of Business

In the midst of the holiday bustle, the elders and deacons we elected in November have been undergoing training about their responsibilities and preparing to lead ministry teams. Session's meeting Monday, Dec. 17 was almost completely devoted to 'examining' these new officers, by way of hearing their faith stories. To be ordained and/or installed during worship Jan. 20 will be Deacons Ann Bowers, Juarlyn Gaiter, Katherine Johnston, Faye McKaye-Clegg and Anthony Owens. Elders to be ordained and/or installed include Eleanor Attwood, Laura Fillyaw, Van Jensen, Hillery McNeill, Rob Payne and Michael Perez.

These new officers will formally be accepted at a Session meeting before worship on that Sunday. This also is the final official act for our outgoing Elders Tom Daniel, Jill Davis, Philip Hawkins, Jay Myers, Doug Self and Art Sweum. Deacons completing their terms are Robin Boren (who has moved away from the area with her family), Brenda Fishpaw, Van Jensen, Jeanne McCarthy and Bill Smith. Session thanked all these fine officers for their service to MPC.

Also at the end of the year, our Clerk of Session Ruthlyn Newell reviews and corrects the church rolls and begins work on the Session's Annual Report to the congregation. That will be part of our congregational meeting Jan. 27, where our budget for the year will be presented and we will vote on changes in the terms of call for Baron.

Speaking of that budget, several ministries, including Human Resources, still need final budget numbers. Despite great response and significant increases from many of our pledging units, our church is still well below our needed income from pledges. New members and those who pledged last year but have not renewed their pledges yet could easily put us over the top, according to Commitment Ministry Chair Tom Daniel. Volunteers are reaching out to those who haven't responded and we pray to complete running this race early in January.

## *Preschool Enrollment Opens Jan. 22 for Church Families, Returnees*

MPP will accept applications for the 2013-2014 school year beginning Tuesday, Jan. 22. Currently enrolled families and church members have two weeks for Priority Registration. Open Registration begins Monday, Feb. 4. A Prospective Parent Open House and Tour on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor welcomes families

wishing to tour the preschool, Applications can be found on our website: <http://www.morningsidepc.org/preschool/index.html>. To ask questions or respond for the Open House, please contact Director Sarah Tomaka (404 685.8758 or [mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)).

## Morningside Milestones

- Growing our own new members! Congratulations to Rebecca and Andrew Stewart on the birth of their son Joseph Henry on Dec. 3, and to Emily, Eric and brother Ellis O'Brien as they welcomed another 'E' - Elizabeth Belle on Dec. 20.
- Growing new members in Christ's family! We congratulate Shanon and Nathan Burgess on the baptism of their daughter Piper Grace Nov. 25, and Amy Kayler and David Hampton on the baptism of their daughter Samantha and Julie and Jason Loring on the baptism of their daughter Eleanor Anne, both on Dec. 23.
- With all these perky little Presbyterians, it's a good thing 48 volunteers turned out to support our night of Free Holiday Babysitting, where we gave parents a well-deserved evening off from their 86 kids. Thank you to all those volunteers and chairs Jennifer James and Carrie Branon.
- While we're thanking people, a grateful nod to our marvelous Flower Guild for once again making our whole building festive for Advent and Christmas. If you'd like to be part of this team, please be in touch with Georgia Marshall ([gkmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:gkmarshall@gmail.com)).
- And we extend our sympathies to Mac and Lynn Young on the recent death of Mac's father.

## What's So 'Wonderful' About Wednesdays?

A new item has appeared on our church calendar. You may have noticed “Wonderful Wednesdays” listed on the first and third Wednesday evenings every month and wondered what was going on. The members of this group think their meetings are indeed wonderful—in both meanings of the term—but they also don't think there's anything particularly special about the time or the day of the month.

Wonderful Wednesdays is the name chosen by this group of friends for what started out as the not-so-poetically-named Small Group Bible Study. “After a few months,” says Jack Klotz, one of the participants, “while we center our meetings around discussing Scripture, our get-togethers have taken on a lot of other meanings. But it's the Bible work that really brings us closer.”

Another regular attendee, newly elected deacon Juarlyn Gaiter, recalls the deep and abiding love she still enjoys with a small group of women she met with at a previous church in Washington, DC. “We covered everything from our relationships with our families, problems with our work lives, just about anything you can think of—all informed by prayer and Scripture. I still call these women my ‘covenant sisters’ and we know we can rely on each other no matter what comes our way.”

The original group convened about three years ago under the leadership of Link Marx, meeting in one another's homes for an hour two Wednesdays a month. Initially, the group used one of the many, many booklets for Bible study published both by our denomination and many others. “Even though we had a study guide, I was always surprised by the directions our discussions took,” Link says. “Everyone had something to contribute, whether it was from personal experience, news headlines, a sermon once heard, or even a footnote in someone's study Bible. This fall, we decided we could take turns leading our own discussions and we like it so much we're going to continue that way.”

Link wonders why other groups haven't started up, recognizing that not everyone would feel comfortable joining an existing circle—even though newcomers are always welcome. That's a topic also dear to the heart of Rev. Drew Stockstill, who has small groups as one of his ministry focuses. “I'm encouraging a small number of young adults to start a group like this,” he says. “Finding a group of people to share with not only increases your knowledge of the foundations of our faith, but it makes for richer connections than anyone can ever build sitting in the pews, or attending a large class, or chatting over a cup of punch in Fellowship Hall.”

Membership in Wonderful Wednesdays has shifted over time, but the current group includes nine individuals. Not all can attend every meeting, but the open format makes participation easy. “They used to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays,” says Daisy Ottmann, “but when I had an ongoing conflict on those evenings, they switched weeks. That's the kind of flexibility and closeness that makes a small group so special.”

The group also originally kept to a very tight 7-8 p.m. schedule. “Then someone introduced snacks and beverages and the formal part of the discussion hour remained, but the friendship portion became equally important. I'd encourage anyone to find a few like-minded individuals and start a Marvelous Monday Mornings group or whatever works,” Daisy adds.

Wonderful Wednesdays will start their next study—that of Paul's letters-- Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. at the home of Sue and Joe Ballay (400 Sixth St., 30309). To learn more, be in touch with Link, or discuss group study with Drew ([dstockstill@morningsidepc.org](mailto:dstockstill@morningsidepc.org)).



## Winter Drama Camp Registration Closes This Friday

For the first time, MPC is offering a drama camp for first-through fifth-graders mid-Jan. through Feb. 3. Children MUST be able to participate in all four practices: Sunday, Jan. 13, 12:30-1:30, Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:30-noon, Sunday, Jan. 27, 12:30-1:30 and take part in a workday with the students and one parent each on Saturday, Feb. 2, 9:30-noon.

The ‘campers’ will perform at our congregational lunch Sunday, Feb. 3 at 12:30 (see next story). Amy Lowe,

MPP teacher and experienced leader of children's productions, will direct the camp. Find registration forms on the church website and the bulletin board across from our Nursery. Forms plus a \$35 check payable to MPC must be turned in **NO LATER THAN Friday, Jan 4**. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam ([msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)) for more information or with scholarship questions.

## Congregational Lunch Features ‘Souper Bowl’ Menu, Live Theater

To support our annual participation in the nation-wide Souper Bowl Offering (a collection led by our youth for donations to fight hunger), our congregational lunch menu for Sunday, Feb. 3 includes substantial soups and sandwiches: hearty chicken noodle, tomato basil and broccoli & cheese, roasted turkey and flank steak pinwheels and chicken salad sliders, green salad and crusty French bread. And red velvet cake for dessert!

Remember, your RSVP is key to MPC being good stewards of our finances and ordering enough for our guests. Invite a friend and RSVP to the church office ([office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org)) by Monday, Jan. 28! As ever, we’ll have enough food for you to feel free to invite those sitting next to you in worship to come on down to Fellowship Hall.

## Stretch Your Body, Stretch Your Mind at MPC in 2013

You can be more ‘Sharpe’ this year—all bad puns aside, both Ken and Pam Sharpe are offering ways to shape up physically and mentally.

Deacon Ken Sharpe will launch a Meditation Group in our Welcome Center on Sunday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Ken points out, “We come together, we talk, we read but part of our faith practice is to go deeper into ourselves. Current Christianity has gotten away from the valid part of our spiritual life. Meditation helps restore balance to our hearts, souls, and minds.”

Pam Sharpe, veteran personal trainer and yoga teacher, invites you to join her yoga class on Tuesday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12:15. Classes begin Jan. 8, and will include yoga poses that will help students strengthen, lengthen and relax. Please call or email Pam for more information (404.321.6630, or [yogapam@bellsouth.net](mailto:yogapam@bellsouth.net)).

That evening at 7 p.m., Ken will host the first Theology on Tap men’s gathering of the year at the Sharpe home (1700 Timberland Rd., 30345). Usually held on the first Tues-

day, the dinner and discussion has been shifted back a week to accommodate New Year’s Day. RSVP to the church office ([office@morningsidepc.org](mailto:office@morningsidepc.org)).

All are invited to join LGBT & Friends Tuesday, Jan 15, at 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends welcomes all who wish to grow and be energized through Christian fellowship and service. Joanna Adams will discuss: “Keeping Up With God: My Journey as Parent and Pastor on Matters of Sexuality, Ordination, and Same Gender Marriage.” John and Laura Fillyaw host (280 Bruton Way NE, 30342). RSVP to Michael Siedschlag ([michaelspnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelspnyc@yahoo.com) or 404.254.0706).

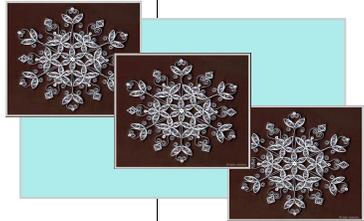
Georgia author George Weinstein’s novel *Hardscrabble Road* has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and is RHO Readers’ first selection for 2013. Everyone is welcome to join the eclectic, co-ed group for a discussion with the author Sunday, Jan. 20, at 12:45 p.m. in the Session Room. So far, RHO Readers has booked authors to come discuss their works for the first three meetings of the year.

### Elder on Call

January 6-12	Sue Ballay
January 13-19	Mary Chapman
January 20-26	Tony Fishpaw
January 27-February 2	Shannon Harris

### Deacon on Call

January 6-12	Link Marx
January 13-19	Duncan Spears
January 20-26	Jeff Peters
January 27-February 2	Jill Klotz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <i>MPP and Church Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> <i>MPP Winter Break</i> 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday	<b>3</b> <i>MPP Winter Break</i> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<b>4</b> <i>MPP Winter Break</i>	<b>5</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting
<b>6</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<b>7</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	<b>8</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Preschool Committee; Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap	<b>9</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir	<b>10</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. MPP Prospective Parent Tour 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>11</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group	<b>12</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m. Moseley/Nelson Wedding
<b>13</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Drama Camp 12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Journey 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<b>14</b> <i>MPC Volunteers at SIS</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Pulse Church PNC; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends	<b>16</b> 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	<b>17</b> 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon Third Thursday Theological Throwdown 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>18</b> 9 a.m. MPP	<b>19</b> 9 a.m. AA Meeting
<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship-Officer Ordination/Installation 12 noon Fellowship 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<b>21</b> <i>MPP and Church Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Session	<b>23</b> 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Luncheon 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir	<b>24</b> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Health Ministries Partnership for Presbytery 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>25</b> 9 a.m. MPP	<b>26</b> 9 a.m. AA Meeting 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon Drama Camp 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries
<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship/Baptism followed by Annual Mtg. 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Drama Camp 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 1:30 p.m. DOOR Bd. Mtg. 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<b>28</b> 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Parliamentarians	<b>29</b> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	<b>30</b> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Treble Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>31</b> 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir		

## How Can I Keep My New Year's Resolution to Be More Involved?

Oh, let us count the ways!

- Give four hours one night Jan. 5-14 starting at 6 p.m. to welcome the residents of Shearith Israel Shelter for Women (SIS), serve dinner (provided by someone else), clean up the kitchen and prepare lunches for the following day and visit with the ladies. Sign up on the bulletin board across from office or contact Melinda Sandkam ([msandkam@morningsidepc.org](mailto:msandkam@morningsidepc.org)). We'll also continue to collect women's winter clothing items (hats, scarves, gloves, coats) for the residents through Jan. 6.
- Or get more involved with outreach to the homeless. As our current shepherd moves out of state, we are seeking a new person to coordinate the needs of SIS with the Community Outreach Committee of MPC. Contact Mission Team Leader Tony Fishpaw ([tony@firstfidelityatl.com](mailto:tony@firstfidelityatl.com)) for more information. We're also seeking a co-shepherd for the men's shelter Journey. Tony can fill you in on opportunities with many outreaches.
- Interested in a Lenten adult mission trip to New Orleans? Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J9JN2LG> to complete a brief survey designed to determine interest in, and preferences for, the New Orleans Spring 2013 Mission Trip. Contact MPC Shepherd Roland Behm [roland.behm@gmail.com](mailto:roland.behm@gmail.com) with any questions.
- How about providing service to our own church? Here are only two of the opportunities:
  - Provide a meal for our thriving youth group one Sunday evening this winter. Ask a friend to help you feed about 15 at 6 p.m. on a Sunday. Contact coordinator Tish Woolley ([woolleyt@gmail.com](mailto:woolleyt@gmail.com)) to fill the winter calendar.
  - Spend about a half-hour after worship on Sundays picking up stray bulletins, lost items and anything else that keeps our Sanctuary from being ready to welcome us again. The Pew Crew needs a few more helping hands. Contact Lynn Daniel ([lgd1@bellsouth.net](mailto:lgd1@bellsouth.net)) to be part of this simple but meaningful service.

## Big January Project Reaches Out to Decatur Seniors

Get hands-on right away by volunteering for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Decatur Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project Saturday, Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll work on senior citizens' homes, making needed repairs and doing yard work that the elderly homeowners have been unable to afford. The MLK Jr. Service Project is sponsored by the Decatur Preservation Alliance, the City of Decatur and other organizations.

Sign up on the hallway bulletin board, or contact either shepherd, Jack Klotz ([jacksklotz@gmail.com](mailto:jacksklotz@gmail.com)) or Lloyd Prince ([LloydPrince@comcast.net](mailto:LloydPrince@comcast.net)). Jack notes, "We want to make this project more environmentally friendly, so please bring a reusable water bottle with you. Since we have a limited number of tools and work gloves available, it would be extremely helpful if you bring tools and gloves with you (hammers, saws, drills, and other tools; rakes or other yard work supplies; etc.). Mark your tools for easy identification!"

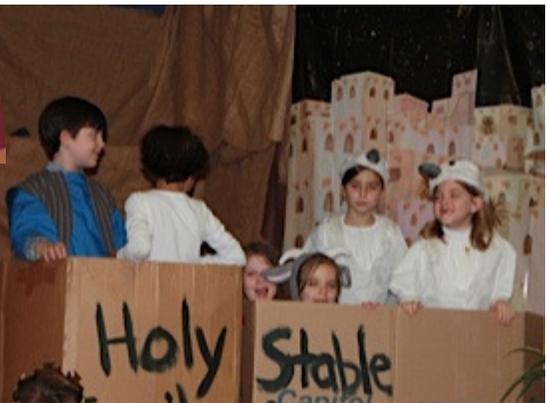
Volunteers will meet at the Solarium at the Community Center of South Decatur (321 W. Hill St. in Oakhurst) before the start of their shift. Breakfast will be provided.

Indicate any specific skills (carpentry, home repair, painting, plumbing, gardening, etc.) when you sign up. Even though specific skills are not necessary, the organizers are looking for a few specialists for key areas:

- Skilled Trades – Several projects require a professional roofer, plumber, electrician, HVAC person, and carpenter. We also are looking for lots of non-professional but proficient carpenters.
- Materials Team – Help purchase and deliver additional materials as the need arises. Materials Expeditors will be stationed at the Edgewood Lowes. This position requires a good knowledge of home repair supplies and familiarity with the layout of Lowes helps. Materials Runners will pick up materials from Lowes and deliver them to the home requesting the supplies. A pickup truck is preferable for this duty.
- Yard Work Supervisors – If you have basic knowledge of gardening and are a good leader, we can use your help to supervise the volunteers at one or more nearby homes.
- Food – Not into repairs or gardening? Other options for you: bake, make sandwiches, deliver lunches in your vehicle, fill coolers, you name it! The food committee is planning breakfast at the Atrium. Individuals or groups should commit to making a minimum of two dozen cookies, wrapped single-serving brownies or sandwiches (label with the type of sandwich, for example, veggie, pimento cheese, etc.). To provide food or help with deliveries, please contact Food Committee Co-Chair Sandy Rice ([sf.rice@comcast.net](mailto:sf.rice@comcast.net)).

# Spotlight on Christmas

## Truly, 'You Had to Be Here' This Holiday Season



### January Birthdays

- 1 Juarlyn Gaiter
- 1 Dale Glendening
- 2 James Klotz
- 3 Jack McNeill
- 4 Kim Perez
- 4 Meghan Keller
- 4 Jack Klotz
- 5 Anne Dantzer

- 5 Ellen Behm
- 6 Suzanne Walker
- 8 Lynn Young
- 8 Katrina Weis
- 9 Ashley Filip
- 10 Gregory Dorsey
- 10 Marshall Johns
- 10 Shari Tant
- 10 Betsy Holland
- 11 Amelia Smith
- 12 Jane Stack
- 12 John Watson

- 12 Monirah Womack
- 12 Carolyn Morton
- 14 Lynn Daniel
- 14 Michael Lampe
- 15 Jim McKelvey
- 17 Kate Scribner
- 17 Heather Scribner
- 18 Vanessa Ryan
- 19 Tish Woolley
- 20 Jim Caudill
- 20 Jeanne McCarthy
- 21 Jonathan Sharpe

- 21 Nick Bellmann
- 22 Stephen Smith
- 24 Jimmy Cleveland
- 26 Brad Millard
- 28 Melanie McKelvey
- 28 Tim Gargis
- 29 Suzanne Macpherson
- 29 Ashley Myers
- 29 Emma Gay
- 29 Emily Healy

## Wrestle with Lord's Prayer in 'Theological Throwdown'

Circle the third Thursday of every month on your calendar for a noonday Theological Throwdown. Why a 'throwdown?' Because it begins with 'th!' Our Third Thursday Theological Throwdown will be led by Baron Mullis from noon to 1 p.m. beginning Jan. 17, as Baron and the group tackle big ideas and important concepts. Bring a brown-bag lunch and prepare to wrestle!

The first series will explore John Dominic Crossan's provocative and controversial book, *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the LORD'S Prayer*. Baron will discuss a chapter a month. To reserve a copy of the book through the church, contact Anna Best by Jan. 7.

Or, carve out some time to explore your beliefs with the Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201. Rev. Drew Stockstill's teaching is drawing quite a following. Come see what's going on beginning Jan. 6 in a study centering on the Gospel of Matthew through Easter. Other topics under consideration for educational opportunities this year include race and fear, violence in the city, homelessness, international mission and campus ministry.

And don't miss the article on Page 3 for some ideas about how fellow Morningsiders find meaningful and intimate connections through independent scriptural studies. Make 2013 the year you take the plunge to deepen your understanding of God's Word.



### Fun Ahead! Note These Upcoming Events!

- MPP Funraiser at Paris on Ponce, Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.
- Our House 25th Anniversary Event, Saturday, Mar. 16
- Intown Collaborative Ministries Dinner and Silent Auction, Sunday, May 5