



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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February 2013 Worship at Morningside

February 3, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching
"Love"

Texts: Song of Solomon 8:6-7; 1 Corinthians 13
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
Souper Bowl Offering received
Inquirers' Class

February 10, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching
"Unveiling"

Texts: Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.
New Members' Class

February 13, 2013

Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

Baron Mullis preaching
"Confession"

Texts: Psalm 51:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

February 17, 2013

First Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"Wilderness"

Texts: Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

February 24, 2013

Second Sunday in Lent

Baron Mullis preaching
"Promises"

Texts: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.



Dear friends,

So, I just read an article on NPR.org titled "Losing our Religion." It was a round-table discussion of young adults who identified as ag-

nostic or atheist but who had been raised in their respective faith traditions by their families.

In light of recent articles, some of you may have seen, such as "Rise of the Nones" (alluding to those who check "none" when asked what their faith is), I read this article with some interest. We're a place of faith, a place that seeks to nurture and form faith and so when we see folks being honest about why they've left or struggle with faith, I want to understand what's going on. (By the way, should you learn that a friend or child is struggling with faith, sometimes the best answer is to try to understand *why* they are struggling rather than immediately attempting to reinforce - or even force - belief.)

As I read the article the repeated theme that I saw was that either faith didn't give these young folks answers to their questions or gave them answers that were unsatisfactory.

That troubled me. It troubled me on two levels - the first is that my experience of learning - whether about faith or anything else - is such that oftentimes I don't get an answer to my initial question but instead find a better question. And it seemed to me that these folks wanted their faith community to be a place of answers - but only answers that seemed right to them based upon a standard that remained unarticulated.

Which brings me to the second way this realization troubled me - I'm not sure we're as able as we should be to articulate what it is that troubles us when we encounter something problematic. Theology - thinking about who God is - is a discipline. It was formerly thought of as the queen of the sciences. Indeed, at Bodleian Library in Oxford, there is a courtyard lined with doors into the

libraries of various disciplines. You can go through a door and get into the music library or the law library or to the humanities or biology - but to get into this courtyard everyone goes through the largest door - the door of Theology. All understanding comes from seeking to know who God is.

Certainly the world is changing - and has changed significantly since the Bodleian Library was built. But make no mistake about it - understanding who we are, understanding how we relate to the world around us - begins with seeking to understand who God is.

That is why I seek in all of my sermons to teach something. That is why Drew, our most recent staff addition, has teaching as a cornerstone of his job. That is why so many of our fellowship opportunities center on a time of learning. Because when we encounter tough questions - and surely life brings them - we want to know who we are in light of who God is.

Thanks for reading,

Folks in our flock are flocking to Room 201 at 9:45 a.m. Sundays for Drew's adult Bible study. Come learn who God is through the Gospel of Matthew. No reservations required!

Or, encounter God through the Lord's Prayer. Baron's next Third Thursday Theological Throwdown will be Feb. 21 at noon in Room 201. Bring a bag lunch!

Session Rotation Means Ministries Announce New Leaders

On Jan. 20 we ordained and installed our Class of 2015 Elders and Deacons. So that each ministry team has a voice on Session, our team leadership has been reorganized. These team leaders and their sub-committee chairs are committed to finding places on their teams for every member and friend of MPC who wants to become involved in the work of the church internally and out in our world. To step up, complete the "Using Your Gifts" form found in the Narthex, if you haven't already, or be in touch with one of our leaders:

Children and Youth—Laura Fillyaw, team leader, with Sue Ballay leading children's ministries; Facilities—

Michael Perez; Finance—Caroline Tanner; Human Resources—Rob Payne; Discipleship—Jennye Guy, with Brad Odom leading small group ministries; Mission—Tony Fishpaw, with Eleanor Attwood leading community outreach; Commitment—Peter Cobb and Shannon Harris; Evangelism—Van Jensen and Leslie Prince; Worship and Arts—Daisy Ottmann; Congregational Nurture—Mary Chapman and Hillery McNeill; and Planning—Bonnie Daneker. Curt Barrett is the new Moderator of the Board of Deacons.

Plan Your Trip to Paris (on Ponce) to Benefit MPP

The 2013 MPP FUN-Raiser will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at Le Maison Rouge (Paris on Ponce event room). The event will be a fun evening of celebrating our preschool and mingling with our extended MPP family. The centerpiece of our event is a Live and Silent Auction featuring donated items from merchants, families, teachers and of course the art projects from each class! Contact Sarah Tomaka mpp@morningsidepc.org today to purchase tickets.



Morningside Milestones

- *Morningside Messenger* tries to get it right, but...oops! If you'd like to be part of our Pew Crew (and please do volunteer!), the person to contact is Faye McKay Clegg jclegg2473@aol.com.
- Our newest baby faces include Lucas William Benzinger, born Nov. 27 to Leigh Del Grosso and John Benzinger, and William Michael Evans Branon, born to Carrie and Brendan on Jan. 12. Our newest little baptized members, as of Jan. 13, is Marshall Thomas Heaton Johns, son of Bridget Johns and Edward Heaton, and as of Jan. 27 is Emma Caroline Gay, daughter of Michael and Cathie Gay.
- On the subject of our littlest ones, if your own tots have outgrown their high chairs, the church could really use them. Our toddler explosion means we need more seats for them for lunches and other events - so donate if you can. Contact Melinda Sandkam msandkam@morningsidepc.org.
- We extend our sympathy to Ann and John Watson on the death of Ann's brother, Brock (Mack) Therrell, Jan. 9.
- As summer camps throughout Atlanta open registration in February, MPC also posted our summer opportunities on the church website. Registration forms for June 17-21 Vacation Bible School and July 22-26 Mission Camp are now available.

Events Mark Season Leading Up To Easter

The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday and spans 40 weekdays ending on the Saturday before Easter. Originating in the church's fourth century, Lent was the time of preparation, of concentrated study and prayer before baptisms performed at the Easter Vigil. Since these new members of the faith were to become part of a living faith community, the entire community was called to prepare.

Today, Lent is observed as a time of prayer, introspection, self-examination and repentance. Traditionally, Lent was marked by penitential prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the observation of a rigid schedule of fasting, specifically giving up meats, alcohol, and sweets. More recently less emphasis has been placed on fasting and greater focus has been on charitable deeds; helping those with disabilities, providing physical comforts of food and clothing or simply giving financial assistance to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent focus on prayer—repenting for failure and sin—as a way to emphasize the need for God's grace.

But before Lent, we celebrate—and how! To prepare for the fasts of Lent, traditionally Christians got rid of those tempting foods from their larders. “Fat Tuesday,” the literal meaning of *Mardi Gras*, was the day to eat and drink up all those things one gave up for Lent. A pancake supper is one way to use up the fats and sweets before Ash Wednesday. At Morningside PC, we combine the fun of Fat Tuesday—also known as Shrove Tuesday—with the modern tradition of giving, as we collect socks, underwear and PJ's for the Threads outreach (see the article on Page 6). We have ourselves a party.

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Pajama Party (sorry, you can only come in your jammies if you're a kid) will be in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. All MPCers and MPP families are invited to enjoy the free eats and watch Bill Packard the Magic Man. It's not only the conclusion of the Threads clothing drive, it's the kickoff of MPP's Coins for Clowns fundraiser to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Please RSVP for yourself and your family by Feb 6, to jennjames@comcast.net.

And start your Lenten service by volunteering to help! We're looking for a 'kitchen captain'—or expediter—this year. You also can work one shift or stay for the entire evening: 1st shift: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Prep—Hall set-up, prepare all food (pancakes/sausages) and beverages. 2nd shift: 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Serving/Greeting—welcoming, pancake flipping, serving all food/beverages, runners. 3rd shift: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Clean-up—Clean-up Hall and kitchen, prepare leftovers for shelter. Email Jennifer James if you can help or sign-up on the volunteer poster at church.

Lent itself begins with Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. A solemn service of repentance with the imposition of ashes on each forehead will be held in our Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Ash Wednesday is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian.

This Lenten season, 10 Morningsiders have come together to create a youth ensemble that will sing on Palm Sunday. Led by Walter Huff and Rebecca Shipley, they will be preparing music to sing on their own and also music that they will sing with the Chancel Choir. Practicing for six Wednesday evenings, they will wrap up their Lenten segment on Mar. 24 with an outing that afternoon. This group and any other interested youth will be invited to attend the June 9 Youth Opera Concert together to hear what teens just a few years older than themselves have chosen to pursue in the field of music.

The liturgical color of Lent is purple. Purple symbolizes pain and suffering, both of Jesus as he travels toward his crucifixion and the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty and symbolically anticipates the coming resurrection and hope of newness that Easter will bring.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> 9 a.m. MPP	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. Drama Camp
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School ; Inquirers' Class 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Congregational Lunch/Drama Performance 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Wonderful Wednesday	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. MLPA	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir; Higher Ground (Rialto Center) 6:30 p.m. Lenten Choir Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group	<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting 7 p.m. MPP Spring Fundraiser
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>SIS \$10 Card Donation</i> <i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; New Members' Class 10 a.m. Children in Mission 10:40 a.m. Called Session Meeting 11 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Scotland Interest Meeting 2 p.m. Venture Crew 5 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Journey 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	<i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Pulse Church PNC; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	<i>Annual Threads Collection</i> 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Committee	9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 8 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP	9 a.m. AA Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 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.	<i>MPP Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Session Meeting	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Lenten Youth Ensemble 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday	9 a.m. MPP 12 noon Third Thursday Theological Throwdown 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	9 a.m. MPP	<i>Habitat for Humanity Build</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting
24	25	26	27	28		
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Baptism & Cherub Choir Singing 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 4 p.m. Bart Smith Ordination & Reception; 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Parliamentarians; Mandolin Society	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Lenten Youth Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir		



February's 'Heart Month' Encourages Giving Time, Treats

How do we love our neighbors? Let's count some ways--

*** In the Kitchen:** We provide a monthly Sunday evening meal for 30 men staying at Journey. Our next turn is Feb. 10. Sign up on the Mission bulletin board to provide a dish. Or contact shepherd Richard Alexander (rich.alexander@comcast.net) with any questions. Youth Meal Coordinator Tish Woolley is also lining up meals for our active youth group on Sunday evenings through May. Contact Tish to help us feed these growing youth (woolleyt@gmail.com).

*** While Out Shopping:** How about picking up a \$10 gift card for a woman at Shearith Israel Shelter by as a Valentine's Day gift? Cards from locations such as CVS, Walgreens, Target, Kroger or Publix offer the women an opportunity to buy essentials—toiletries, medications, food or clothing. Put your cards in the heart bag on the Mission bulletin board by Sunday, Feb. 10. OR, buy pajamas, socks or underwear for children infant through fifth grade. These items will go to Threads, an outreach of All Saints Episcopal, whose goal is to clothe those in need with dignity. Families "shop" and get help selecting gently used clothes and shoes. Every child leaves with a week's supply of new pajamas, socks and underwear. Bring your gifts to baskets in the Narthex or to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 12.

*** Wearing Your Work Gloves:** You don't need tools—you don't even need skills!—to take part in the joy of building a home for a hardworking family during

Lent. Our annual Habitat for Humanity build with four other area churches kicks off Saturday, Feb. 23, and completes Apr. 13 (with breaks for our adult mission trip and for Easter). We'll also provide lunch Mar. 16. Look for the signup sheets on the Habitat bulletin board or contact Lysley Tyler (lynsley@bellsouth.net) for details and to let her know if you're interested in joining us either as a builder or as a lunch provider.

*** With Your Checkbook:** YOU CAN purchase tickets now for the 25th Anniversary Our House event on Saturday evening, Mar. 16, at The Commerce Club. Go to www.ourhousega.org to purchase tickets.

*** With the Scouts:** You are invited to take a stroll down the trail that was forged by Eagle Scouts to a piece of MPC history - the area of former Troop 455's scout hut, once chartered by MPC. There you will find an outdoor fireplace/BBQ pit. Cameron McIntosh is refurbishing the area in order to create a place for all to enjoy.

Phase I is complete: cleaned area, installed weed cloth and covered with wood chips.

Phase II: build and install 2 picnic tables - workdays are scheduled for this weekend. The build will take place at Cameron's home on Rock Springs Road and then installed at MPC.

Phase III: clean and repair loose bricks in BBQ pit. If you would like to help or for more information, contact Cameron (Rimcin@bellsouth.net)



'Meet the Author' Continues Through March

Daisy Ottmann, chair of our eclectic co-ed group of book lovers, the RHO Readers, says "We're on a roll!" as the group has recruited yet another author to come speak about his work—and this time he's a Morningside member. An elder, even! The special guest for Mar. 17 will be Van Jensen, co-creator of the *Pinocchio: Vampire Slayer* series of graphic novels. (Hey, the group IS eclectic!) Van has offered a link for those who'd like to order the book: http://www.amazon.com/Pinocchio-Vampire-SlayerDustinHiggins/dp/1593621760/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358184794&sr=1-1&keywords=pinocchio+vampire+slayer. Sorry—graphic novels don't work on e-readers!

On Feb. 17, all are invited to join the group as it welcomes Reed Massengill, author of *Portrait of a Racist: The True Story*

of *Byron De La Beckwith*. The book formed some of the story of the movie "Ghosts of the Mississippi," an account of the slaying of Medgar Evers. The author has donated copies of his book to MPC and they may be picked up in the Session Room library (lower middle shelf).

RHO Readers meets in the Session Room at 12:45 p.m. the third Sunday of every month—and they're looking to book their next author for April.

Speaking of books, the Children's Christian Education Committee wants to continue to build up our children's library. This spring, they're especially looking for more books for the collection about Holy Week and Easter.

Your Session at Work: Jan. 22 Meeting

- Starting off the administrative year right, **Caroline Tanner**, Finance chair, moved approval of MPC's 2013 budget. This budget was then presented to the members at our Annual Congregational Meeting, Jan. 27.
- Rob Payne**, new chair of Human Resources, brought forward a new Child Protection Policy, which was approved. The policy will help safeguard children in all church-sponsored activities, on and off MPC property, and applies to employees, volunteers, contractors and outside users of our facilities for both the church and our preschool.
- Groups and activities seeking new leaders were lifted up for notice: a co-chair to serve with **Richard Alexander** for our monthly suppers at Journey shelter, a new shepherd for Shearith Israel as **Becky Medearis** has moved out of state, and new leaders for Lydia Circle to begin serving in September.
- Continuing the annual business, Worship requested approval of communion dates for the year and the ability of our clergy to administer communion to shut-ins as needed.
- Subsequent to the regular meeting, Session joyfully approved holding the Service of Ordination as a Teaching Elder for **Bart Smith** in our Sanctuary Sunday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. A member of our church and under our Session's care, Bart has graduated from seminary in Austin and accepted a validated ministry to be Temporary Stated Supply Pastor of Green Ridge Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA. Bart will then become a member of the Presbytery of the Peaks. Bart also added, "Let me take this opportunity to say how deeply grateful I am to each and every one of you for the supportive roles you've played in my whacky, but wonderful vocational journey. None of this would be happening without God's amazing grace expressed through your kindness, encouragement, and prayers."

Daisy Ottmann for Clerk of Session

Higher Ground Group Invites All to Interfaith Discussion

Morningside's Pastor Emerita Joanna M. Adams will join the other three members of Atlanta's Higher Ground Group for a discussion of how religion inspires positive change, Wednesday, Feb. 6. The "Moving Atlanta to Higher Ground" program will be moderated by WXIA's Ted Hall at the Rialto Center for the Arts (80 Forsyth St., 30303), sponsored by Georgia State's Department of Religious Studies.

We're all invited to come hear Joanna and the other faith leaders--Imam Plemon El-Amin, Rev. Joseph Roberts and Rabbi Alvin Sugarman— explore ways interfaith efforts can contribute to a better Atlanta. A reception is from 5 to 6 p.m. followed by the event from 6 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Alicia Clay at aclay6@student.gsu.edu.

February Birthdays

2 Shanon Burgess
 2 Lee Kean
 2 Tom Daniel
 2 Karen Churchill-Hairston
 3 Helen Schroder
 6 Kerri Markovic
 6 Will Barnette
 6 Gene Turner

7 Julie Zook
 7 William Kitchens
 9 Mike Gay
 9 Nancy Collins
 9 Leslie Grant
 10 Andrew Brady
 10 Martha Krenson
 11 Heather Regnault
 12 Gwyndolyn Brady
 12 Domenick Treschitta
 12 Jim Clegg

15 John Turner
 16 Kayte Pellerito
 18 Todd Jones
 20 Becky Schreiber
 22 Lib Boggs
 22 John Adams
 22 Gus Restrepo
 23 Elsie Adams
 23 Brady Bartis
 23 Bill Smith

24 Ellie Spears
 24 Georgia Marshall
 25 David Mogge
 25 Barbara Ray
 26 Deborah Coleman
 27 Jim Armstrong
 27 Curt Barrett
 28 Beth Baer
 29 Nancy Cunningham

Elder on Call

Brad Odom February 3-9
 Daisy Ottmann February 10-16
 Van Jensen February 17-23
 Peter Cobb February 24-March 2

Deacon on Call

Ann Bowers February 3-9
 Duncan Spears February 10-16
 Link Marx February 17-23
 Ken Sharpe February 24-March 2

Morningside Friends Head to Land of Burns, Bagpipes

The Presbyterian denomination has deep roots in Scotland. But that's not the only reason to visit this beautiful, intriguing and quirky part of the world. There's still time to join Morningside's group for a tour of the best Scotland has to offer, Aug. 3-12.

Our travel coordinator Kaye Carmichael of Carmichael Travel - who planned our 2008 trip to Paris and Geneva - will be here for an interest meeting following worship on Feb. 10. If you want to learn more about what the trip includes, where it goes, and who else is going, this is a great opportunity to learn more. Deadline for registration will be Apr. 19.

And there's an added attraction! For those who wish to extend their trip, there are limited spaces available to continue to the island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides (Baron's favorite place on earth - except of course for the MPC pulpit). In this place of great spiritual influence, the Iona Community lives in the ancient Abbey. Please join us Feb. 10 in Room 201 to learn more. You can also visit our website and click on the main News & Events (www.morningsidepc.org/news/index.html) page to access trip details and sign-up forms.

Or Travel Closer to Home: New Orleans Mission Trip Set

Visit beautiful, romantic New Orleans and work your fingers to the bone! Our next adult mission trip with RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) will continue recovery work from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Mar. 6-10.

If you are still interested in joining the 13 members and friends already committed to our team, contact shepherd Roland Behm (roland.behm@gmail.com). If you are seeking other ways to support long-term recovery work, consider donating airline points so that an attendee could consider taking one less day off work and/or away from family. Also, be sure to let Roland know of your interest in future trips as we are already looking at possible Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work in Tuscaloosa and New Jersey.

