



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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March 2013

Worship at Morningside

March 3, 2013

Joanna Adams preaching
"What the Gardener Said"

Texts: Luke 13:1-9

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

March 10, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching
"Into the Far Country"

Texts: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

March 17, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching
"Rivers in the Desert"

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14

March 24, 2013

Palm Sunday

Baron Mullis preaching

"The Rocks are Gonna Cry Out!"

Texts: Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:45-53

Lenten Youth Ensemble Singing

March 28, 2013

Maundy Thursday

Drew Stockstill preaching

"A Lingering Dinner Party"

Texts: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

March 31, 2013

Easter Sunday

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

11 a.m. Traditional Service

Baron Mullis preaching

"He Arose Again From the Dead"

Texts: Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



Dear friends,

So, how's it going?

Seriously, how is everything in your life? Are you able to do the things you want to do? Are you able to see friends? Is your marriage/

relationship on solid ground?

These are important questions. The answer of "no" to any one of them should be grounds for looking for strategies to bring a little more living into your life, wouldn't you say?

If I can't do the things I want to do due to some physical or emotional obstacle, that's worth paying attention to, wouldn't you say? I imagine you'd answer the same way on the latter two questions as well – or I hope that would be the case. It's important to know what's going on in our lives.

How's your spiritual life? Are you able to worship God with your family of faith? Do you have time to pray? Are you giving back financially or in kind?

These are important questions too. Our spiritual lives aren't divorced from the rest of life. Just as relationship problems bleed over and impede time with friends or keep us from doing the things we need to do, so too do spiritual challenges (or spiritual absences) bleed over and affect the rest of our lives.

Lent is a season in which Christians have historically taken stock of our faith lives. We might engage in practices to sharpen our awareness, such as fasting or adding a new discipline to our lives, so that we think about what is important. Some take it as a time to contemplate the nature of sin in our lives and how we can be more aware of the calling that Jesus puts before us to seek to be what God has created us to be.

I hope perhaps you're entertaining at least a few of these questions this Lent. It's six weeks, and Easter will come at the end of it regardless, but my question for you is, "What more will you know about yourself when it does?"

We're two weeks in – there are four to come. I hope you'll give these questions some thought.

Thanks for reading,

March Birthdays

1 Cade Lawson	14 Finn Bresnahan
2 Melinda Sandkam	17 Nan Payne
3 Hap Howell	17 Bryan Rogers
3 Lacey Berreth	18 Ibbly Bailey
3 Linda Jenkins	18 Gail Kitchens
4 Bart Smith	20 Aaron Bertrand
4 Phyllis Grimes	20 JoAnn Bertrand
5 Ann Watson	22 Brenda Fishpaw
6 Sarah Brownlee	22 Jamie Jones
6 Betty Ray	23 Hillery McNeill
7 Bryce Gay	27 Piper Burgess
8 Joan Starks	27 Carolyn Wingfield
10 Sawyer Barnette	28 Dale Gustafson
10 Brian Bartis	29 Brian Mills
11 Ava Arepally	
11 Austin Smith	
11 Emilie Paille	
12 Kelly Goldsmith	
12 Lindsey Howell	
12 Drew Kimball	
12 Ellen Cleveland	
13 Carolyn Corr	
14 Guerry Mashburn	
14 Jan Strickland	
14 Mary Leight	



Elder on Call

Bonnie Daneker	March 3-9
Philip Hawkins/Jenny Guy	March 10-16
Leslie Prince	March 17-23
Sue Ballay	March 24-30
Mary Chapman	March 31-April 6

Deacon on Call

Jeff Peters	March 3-9
Link Marx	March 10-16
Duncan Spears	March 17-23
Anthony Owens	March 24-30
Curt Barrett	March 31-April 6

Mid-March Weekend Offers Multiple ‘Green’ Opportunities

Grab your gardening gloves and a shovel and join us for a workday on the grounds, Saturday, Mar. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon. It’s a good way to spruce up our campus for spring and to get to know other members of the congregation. We’ll be working primarily in the Sara Richey Memorial Garden and around the Welcome Center entrance. Anyone up for a celebratory sandwich at Alon’s after we finish? No reservation required—just come!

Also on that Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. and until noon, Morningside Presbyterian Preschool will partner with Atlanta Paint Disposal (<http://www.atlantapaintdisposal.com/>) to collect household items to recycle or dispose of in an environmentally friendly manner. Bring those items to the preschool parking lot. MPP will earn 15 percent of the profits from items collected which will go to help fund preschool environmental projects.

Morningside Growing ‘Crop’ of Seven Confirmands

Youth Director Chris Peters is leading a group of seven middle-schoolers toward confirmation and full participation as members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

The seventh- and eighth-graders participating are Zoe Bach, Joseph Cochran, Lucy Grant, Lindsey Howell, Cade Lawson, Nicholas Lazzaro and Taylor Morton. Confirmation classes take place selected Sunday afternoons and will culminate on Confirmation Sunday, May 19.

Each confirmand has an adult mentor - Miranda Brownlee, Carolyn Cobb, Van Jensen, Jack Klotz, Hillery McNeill, Lloyd Prince, and John Watson who acts as guide and adviser throughout the journey.

Please keep the kids, their leaders and mentors in your prayers.

MPC Gets Ready for Another Season of Braves Baseball

Come out to Turner Field for an early-spring game and see all the new players in Braves uniforms so you can assess our chances for another pennant—or more—this year.

Thanks to Jack Klotz, we’ve reserved good outfield seats overlooking the two Upton brothers for the Sunday, Apr. 7, game against the Cubs. The first pitch is at

1:35 p.m., so there’s plenty of time to get there and get your first hotdog after attending worship.

Tickets are \$22 per person. Email Katherine Johnston (kecjohnston@gmail.com) for more information or get tickets directly from Katherine or Jack. Also, Jack can get some parking passes for those who might want to carpool.

Morningside Milestones

- We remember and celebrate the life of Ruthlyn Spring Newell, elder and Clerk of Session, who inspired all who knew her by her valiant and unprecedented 12-year fight against ovarian cancer. Her memorial ‘birthday party’ will be held in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, Mar. 5 at 11 a.m.
- We baptized Marshall Hollis Williams, son of Brooke and Milton, Feb. 10, and Emmerson Marie Millard, daughter of Amy and Brad, Feb. 24. Welcome to God’s family!
- Congratulations to Ansley Powell on the birth of her little brother Brooks Thomas on Feb. 13. (Mom and Dad are Jennifer and Rich.)
- Your generosity in filling those ‘soup-pots’ held by our youth after worship on Souper Bowl Sunday raised \$438 to fight hunger in Atlanta. And, many thanks to all for a record contribution of \$10 gift cards for the ladies staying at Shearith Israel Shelter for Women. The guests received two cards each with a few additional cards going to further help women in need.

Our House Celebrates 25 Years of Making a Difference in Lives of Youngsters

Despite all the wonderful work done by night shelters for the homeless, everyone gets turned out early in the morning, rain or shine, regardless of health, or whether there's anywhere else to go. In the late 1980's, a group of local area citizens noticed the effect this had particularly on homeless mothers and their children. These mothers were given a relatively short amount of time to secure both employment and other housing before being required to permanently leave the shelter.

Our House founders (including MPC's Pastor Emerita Joanna Adams) envisioned offering homeless parents more than free childcare: they wanted to provide a loving, safe haven where a parent could confidently leave her child while she sought employment and permanent housing. They realized that without reliable childcare, homeless parents, especially single women, were trapped in the cycle of unemployment, poverty and homelessness. And, they further understood that to effectively combat homelessness, programs and services had to address the root causes of homelessness: lack of child care, lack of education and lack of work skills.

Our House, Inc. was founded in March 1988 with the mission to break the chains of homelessness by providing quality early childhood education and comprehensive support services for families experiencing homelessness. Today, Our House has evolved into a full-day, year-round, nationally-accredited early childhood education center, serving up to 81 children daily and offering services to parents that help them to improve their situations and attain greater self-sufficiency. Their vision statement is "a self-sufficient family for every child."

The issue of homelessness among individuals and families is complex. There is no simple reason why a family be-

comes homeless. Instead, family homelessness is often the result of compounded factors that eventually overwhelm a parent's ability to sustain housing and independence. Our House strives to understand these complexities. By understanding and addressing the root causes of homelessness among families—lack of dependable childcare, lack of education and lack of employment skills—the staff and volunteers are better able to help families change their situations and move from a place of crisis to one of stability.

Morningside Presbyterian Church and Morningside Presbyterian Preschool have been in partnership with Our House for many years and continue to work closely with this important outreach. Each spring, we collect diapers and wipes and gently used clothing for spring and summer (see below!). In October, we fill our Mitten Tree with many warm items for the children to receive before the first frost. In the past, we have provided food for their Thanksgiving luncheon or costumes for 100 children at Halloween. For a number of years now, many members of MPC have been on the planning committee for the fundraiser and this is again the case this year.

The Community Outreach Committee of MPC along with the many co-chairs and sponsors from MPC and MPP invite you all to celebrate 25 years of work with the community at the silver-anniversary event at The Commerce Club on Saturday evening, Mar. 16. Go to www.ourhousega.org to purchase tickets and plan to bid on many exciting items in the silent and live auctions. Contact the church's new Our House shepherd here at MPC with any questions. Becky Schreiber (becky.schreiber@gmail.com) will be glad to share how you can be a part of the support team for Our House.



OUR HOUSE SPRING COLLECTION ENDS PALM SUNDAY

Now's the time to clean out your kids' rooms of those gently-used and outgrown spring or summer clothing for infants through age five. And also buy some diapers and wipes to stock up supplies at the Our House preschool in Decatur. Bring your donations to baskets in Welcome Center by Palm Sunday.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					<i>MPP closed for Preschool Confer- ence</i>	<i>Habitat for Humanity Build</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 10:10 Youth Group 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Harmony Chorus; Venture Crew 3 p.m. Confirmation Class 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society <i>Our House Collection</i>	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Ruthlyn Newell Memorial Service 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	<i>New Orleans Mission Trip</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Lenten Choir Ensemble 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday	<i>New Orleans Mission Trip</i> 9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	<i>New Orleans Mission Trip</i> 9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Couples Group	<i>New Orleans Mission Trip</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting 7 p.m. Young Adult Get-Together (Brad Odom's home)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>New Orleans Trip</i> 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; Confirmation Class 11 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew 3:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Journey 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp. <i>Our House Collection</i>	9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Committee	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Lenten Choir Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group; Six Star Board 7 p.m. Handbell Choir; Lydia Circle	9 a.m. MPP	<i>Habitat for Humanity Build</i> 8 a.m.—12 noon MPP Paint Recycling Project 9 a.m.—12 noon MPC Work Day 9 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m. Our House Fundraiser
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Georgia Marathon</i> 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 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp. <i>Our House Collection</i>	9 a.m. MPP 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Session Meeting	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 <i>MPP Dine Out at La Tavola</i>	9 a.m. MPP 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Lenten Youth Ensemble 7 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	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 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Lenten Ensemble Choir 12 noon Fellowship 2 p.m. Venture Crew; Harmony Chorus 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp. <i>Our House Collection</i>	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 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Luncheon 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 a.m. MPP 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper followed by Worship Service	<i>MPP Closed for Good Friday</i>	11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 12:30-2:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Easter Rehearsal
31						
 <p>7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service followed by a light breakfast 10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 11 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship/One Great Hour of Sharing received 12 noon Fellowship</p>						

Lenten Journey Continues with Service, Outreach Activities

Use a hammer, paintbrush or pimento cheese for good. Our annual spring build with Habitat for Humanity began Feb. 23 with a great team of volunteers including many from our Young Adult group. The Young Adults will volunteer again on Mar. 23 to join forces with the young adults from First Presbyterian, one of our partner churches. On Mar. 16, it's MPC's turn to provide lunch for all 50 workers on site. Signup sheets for the build dates (all Saturdays): Mar. 2, 16, 23, Apr. 6 and 13 can be found on the bulletin board across from Session Room 103. You may also contact our Habitat Coordinator Lynsley Tyler (lynsley@bellsouth.net) with any questions.

Please keep the 13 MPC members and friends in your prayers while they work in New Orleans Mar. 6-10 through the RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) program. Whether on the road or in the air, the following folks will be traveling on Wednesday and Sunday and working Thursday-Saturday: Shirley Adair, Roland Behm, Richard and Sarah Brownlee, Shawn Holoway, Todd Jones, Jack Klotz, Leslie and Lloyd Prince, Melinda Sandkam, Doug and Martha Selph, and Raymond

Tovo. During the trip, they will also be welcomed to dinner by St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church members two evenings and will worship with them on Sunday morning. St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian is the home church for RHINO.

If you're still looking for a hands-on opportunity to serve this season, check out the Mission board in the hall. There you'll find some of our ongoing outreach and church-centered volunteer choices, including

- Supply a dish for men at the Journey shelter (Sunday evening, Mar. 10). Questions? Contact shepherd Richard Alexander (rich.alexander@comcast.net).
- Meals on Wheels (every Monday, Wednesday, Friday). Check with Sarah Brownlee (rsbrownlee1046@att.net).
- Provide a dish for men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (Saturday evening, Mar. 23).
- Feed our Youth Group and their advisors on a Sunday evening by cooking or catering a meal. Can you believe kids get tired of pizza? Contact Tish Woolley (woolleyt@gmail.com) for specifics.



An Event to Remember

Plan to attend Intown Collaborative Ministries Arts & Eats on Sunday, May 5, 4-7 p.m. at Miller Ward Alumni House at Emory. Mark your calendars now to support this fundraiser.



Help (Help! Help!) Wanted - One Day a Month

So the kids are now in school most hours during the day, or you've just retired, you have a flexible work schedule or you just have an urge to get out of the house once in a while? We have such a deal for you!

Melinda Sandkam is recruiting a small cadre of volunteers to work with her weekdays on projects, running errands, and organizing for our children's programs. If you can commit a few hours just once a month, that's all she needs.

Here are some examples of the kinds of tasks involved: ordering VBS crafts or Christian-ed supplies, unpacking orders, picking up banners or t-shirts from the vendors,

on-line research, sprucing up Sunday school rooms, inventorying costumes, creating a bulletin board display, running an errand to Michael's.

Contact Melinda (msandkam@morningsidepc.org) to find out more. Ideal workdays would be on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday for two or three hours. Volunteers could choose a regular commitment such as "second Wednesday 10-1" or being on tap to fill in once in a while during busy times of year such as the summer camps, fifth weeks or when another volunteer is unable to help out.

- Laura Fillyaw, Team Leader, Children and Youth

We continue our journey through the Lenten season toward the triumph of Easter throughout March. Our Mission Ministries and BackWords pages offer some ideas for how you can not just take away but also add something to your life of faith during Lent.

The culmination begins Mar. 24 with Palm Sunday, and the Easter season actually carries forward until May 12, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Worship on Palm Sunday opens with our Double Digit youngsters handing out palm branches to everyone at the Sanctuary doors. Our children's Sunday schoolers will line the central aisle, waving their palm branches for the morning processional. Music on this day celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem will feature the special group which came together for this season, the Morningside Lenten Youth Ensemble, singing "Lo, He Comes" and joining with the Chancel Choir for "Hosanna". The Chancel Choir will offer a selection from Mozart's "Requiem".

On Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week, the kids in Morningside's preschool community turn in their Lenten "Coins for Clowns" collections. Each year, we kick this off at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and children are invited to take home a bank to fill during Lent. The funds raised support the clown program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Our Mediterranean meal on Maundy Thursday at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall has become a congregational favorite. The worship service following at 7 p.m. commemorates Christ's mandate to his disciples to bring the good news to all nations. In addition to the Lord's Supper served at the dinner tables, the Morningside Handbell Choir with vocals and accompaniment will present an arrangement of "On the Willows" from the musical "Godspell." To volunteer to help serve the meal (please!), contact Mary Leight (m.leight@comcast.net) and to RSVP (please!) for the dinner, let the church office know.

Our Good Friday observance will be held jointly with Central, Druid Hills and Shallowford Presbyterian churches in Central's Sanctuary (across from the state capitol) on Friday, Mar. 29 at 7:30 p.m. See our MPC website for carpool information and more details.

After the solemnity of Good Friday, take a break to bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids to our annual 'Running of the Eggs'—the mad scramble for goodies more formally known at the MPC Easter Egg Hunt. This year, the activities will begin at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, Mar. 30, with face painting, Easter masks, cookies and Vacation Bible School signup. And, of course, oodles of eggs. Children should bring their own baskets for the hunt which begins at 11 a.m.

Support this community outreach by donating candy-filled-eggs (none with peanuts, please!) by Mar. 24. Event chair Jennifer James also needs volunteers for two shifts: Setup/Egg hiding 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and Event/Clean-up 10:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m. Sign up on the posters at church or contact Jen (jennjames@comcast.net).

Easter Sunday

•7 a.m. Sunrise Worship on the Lawn followed by a light breakfast
Megan Mashburn, soloist

If you'd like to help with the breakfast, be in touch with one of the coordinators: Anne Menefee (anne.menefee@comcast.net) or Rhonda McIntosh (Rimcin@bellsouth.net).

•11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
Special Music by Handel and Brahms
Mark Mashburn, trumpet

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received

These funds go to such relief efforts as those in Tuscaloosa, AL working to recover and rebuild from last year's tornados and to the recently damaged Westminster Presbyterian Church and community in Hattiesburg, MS which was hit by a tornado on Feb. 10 of this year.



(This is an excerpt from the homily Lloyd Prince delivered in worship on This I Believe Sunday, Aug. 5. We invite you to submit your own "This I Believe" story to communications@morningsidepc.org.)

In high school: One day, while getting some solo flight time, I took my hand off the throttle to change the fuel mixture (or something). The "macho" chain I wore around my wrist caught the throttle lever. There I was, nose up, near the ground and engine idling. I slammed the throttle forward, listened to the engine sputter and cough, pushing the nose of the airplane down to preserve airspeed and look for a landing area. The engine came to life and I got to live to tell. I thanked Mary and Joseph for helping me.

Years later at the Academy: My lab partner did not show up for our afternoon session late one semester. Word came later that he was killed along with his instructor in a small plane crash while training that morning. I don't recall praying then. But I did ask the question: Why him and not me?

In flight school: While standing in formation for inspection one Monday morning, a classmate collapsed. Later that week, he was diagnosed with acute leukemia. We had a blood drive and spent as much time as we could to be with him. We held his memorial service a week later. I thanked the Saints for my good health. Months later, I completed my last flight before receiving my Navy wings. As I turned off the runway, I pulled the lever of my ejection-seat arming mechanism. Seat disarmed, I reached to undo my parachute riser attachment and discovered I had never connected my harness to the parachute. If I'd had to eject, I would have free-fallen to my death. Again, that question came to mind: why him and not me?

Fast forward to later in my Navy career: We were flying a non-standard landing approach to the ship. I was getting ready for my approach when I heard on the radio 'wave it off,' then 'WAVE IT OFF!' I looked toward the ship just in time to see the airplane ahead of me hit the water in a huge spray of water and debris. I circled overhead while they cleaned airplane and ordinance parts off the flight deck. I landed later. I may have done some praying that night – I don't recall.

Flash forward many years to Sept. 9, 2001. I flew a round trip to LGA on an absolutely beautiful day. There was a sailing regatta in the New York harbor near lower Manhattan. My first officer was flying. I got out my camera and took a few pictures. I didn't download the pictures until late Monday night, Sept. 10. They turned out beautifully, especially the view of the World Trade Center twin towers and the wake of the boats on the calm water. We all know what happened the next morning. About a month later, my Naval Academy alumni magazine arrived in the mail. Scanning through it, I came upon a list of the alumni who died that

Tuesday morning, Sept. 11. There were 14 names, two of whom I knew very well. After the shock wore off, again I asked the question: Why them? Why not me? This time, I thought I knew the answer.

You see, I learned to pray in pre- and elementary school. The standards. You say your prayers, ask for stuff, ask for stuff not to happen and off you go. But as I got older and into high school, I realized that I was looking for more than just rote phrases. Then college and a career happened. I forgot to pray and how to pray. And I surely was not listening. My epiphany came slowly. I was sitting in worship in a small Catholic church. I had been struggling for years with relationship and career issues. I found myself looking up at The Risen Christ and thinking "I have no idea what to say." Then I noticed that I couldn't hear the hymn being sung. The people around me and the rest of the church faded to gray. The only light was on The Risen Christ. And I heard a voice: "Lloyd, they will be okay. I have things for you to do." I recalled looking around, then asking "What am I supposed to do?" and the voice repeated "I have things for you to do." Then once again I could hear the hymn and my awareness of the sanctuary returned. I looked around and no one seemed to notice what just happened. I walked around in a daze for weeks— couldn't tell a soul. That experience faded . . .

Until I read those 14 names. That's when I realized that my relationship with God wasn't about anyone else and what they were experiencing. It was about me. It was ALL about me. I was struggling with the wrong question. It wasn't about guilt for surviving while the bad things happened to others. It was about my having a personal relationship with Him. Here. Now. In whatever time and whatever place. For as short or as long a time as it takes.

I believe: That fundamentally we each have a personal relationship with God. We know it in our hearts, our souls, our bones. It may sound self-evident to most of you. But it wasn't for me. I grew up with priests and saints as intermediaries. It was never personal.

My relationship with God has been nurtured and developed here at Morningside. This relationship has nothing to do with who I am, what I do, who I live with or what religion or creed I grew up with. I believe that we gather here, in this place, at this time, to express our faith in Jesus the Christ, as our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. And we draw our strength from Him and each other in order to go out into the world to love all. The kind of love where the well-being of others is essential to one's own well-being.

My personal relationship with Jesus is ALL about me. My relationship with each one of you and those outside this place of worship, as well as, Mission Camp youth know: it is NOT all about me. There's the difference.

Your Session at Work: February 18 Meeting

- Morningside's website is ready for another evolution. Commitment Team Co-chairs **Peter Cobb** and **Shannon Harris** are leading a subteam to review the church's technological needs and capabilities. One early outcome is a redesign of our website content led by **Derek Matthews**. Derek reviewed three 2013 initiatives affecting our online capabilities. The new content, based on current website best-practices, will debut this month. Derek, along with Shannon, **Daisy Ottmann** and **Carol Southwood**, developed the new site organization and language.
- For Human Resources, **Rob Payne** announced that an implementation team and an on-going committee are being put in place for the church's new Child Protection Policy approved by Session last month. The policy, with training and procedural details, will be fully in place by July 31. Session voted to approve this implementation plan. (See item below.)
- **Drew Stockstill** reported current small-group news. Young Adults will hold a planning meeting Mar. 9 at the home of **Brad Odum**. All are invited to offer their ideas on how the Young Adults can become an even more vital force in the life of Morningside. **Becky Schrieber** is the new shepherd for Our House (see story Page 4), and **Peyton Chambers** is the new coordinator for the Women's Roundtable.
- Evangelism Ministries Co-leader **Van Jensen** offered a note of special thanks to **Jennifer James** for another wildly successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Having chaired the event for three years, Jen also has facilitated preparing **Claire Burke** and **Tish Woolley** to lead next year. Session has been emphasizing identifying, training and encouraging success-
 sion among committee chairs as a way to develop new leadership and fresh approaches to church activities.
- **Bonnie Daneker** heads a new Planning Committee charged with overseeing implementation of the 2017 MPC Strategic Plan. Their first approved motion before Session addresses improved accessibility and comfort of the Sanctuary for those who have difficulty walking.
- Daisy was elected Vice-Clerk of Session, acting for **Ruthlyn Newell**. From the Deacon's Report, Session noted that **Juarlyn Gaiter** was elected Co-Moderator of the diaconate.
- All members of Session present took part in a general discussion based on comments from members that it is difficult to share or receive word of illnesses or other concerns among the congregation. Word-of-mouth connections worked well for a membership of 100 but not for a church of 500-plus. Many suggestions were offered, always bearing in mind that some members want to reach out and others prefer privacy for their concerns. As a beginning, the Prayer Request Cards found in the pew racks will be modified to include a check-off box if the request can be shared with the congregation. Baron will encourage the use of the cards during his Concerns of the Church. The overall topic was assigned to the Congregational Nurture Ministries for ongoing action in consultation with the Board of Deacons. A meeting was scheduled for Feb. 27.

Daisy Ottmann
Vice-Clerk of Session

Attention, Volunteers With Children, Youth

All volunteers with children and youth programs should keep an eye out for an email from MPC members Kimberly Nuckols and Shari Tant, who are serving on the implementation team for our Child Protection Policy. Formalization of the best practices while working with children and youth programs will include a few different steps for both our general and lead volunteers. Kim and Shari will be getting those details to you and seeking your responses in the month of March. Thanks for helping us make this implementation easy by replying as soon as you are able.

Check Calendar for What Groups Are Up To—Then Join In!

The March calendar on Page 5 is full of opportunities to learn, dine and socialize. Maybe this is the month you sample a new activity? Below are a few highlights. Visit our website's homepage at www.morningsidepc.org for specifics on events of the week or go to the Upcoming Events page for happenings a little further out.

- Theology on Tap invites the men of our congregation to dinner at the home of Brad Odom (2183 Ellwyn Dr., Chamblee, 30341) Tuesday, Mar. 5, at 7 p.m. RSVP to the church office.
- Brad also will host a dinner gathering for anyone interested in our Young Adult group and activities on Saturday, Mar. 9, at 7 p.m. RSVP to Brad (jbradleyodom@gmail.com).
- Lydia Circle, a group of young female professionals and moms, welcomes members and visitors of MPC to join them on Thursday, Mar. 14 from 7 p.m. at the home of Amanda Lewis (1363 Northview Ave, 30306). Email Tara Parrish (taraparrish@bellsouth.net) to RSVP and for any other details. Lydia Circle will next meet in September. They're looking for a new leader or co-leaders to step up before then.
- Round up your family or a few choice friends to enjoy Italian cuisine here in the Highlands while supporting our preschool. Make reservation at La Tavola for Tuesday evening, Mar. 19. Mention that you are with MPP—if we bring in more than 40 guests, the preschool gets 20 percent of the whole evening's earnings.
- Our eclectic co-ed group, The RHO Readers, welcomes Elder Van Jensen at 12:45 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 17, in the Session Room. Van will discuss writing his successful series of graphic novels, starting with *Pinocchio: Vampire Slayer*. Come support one of our author members!
- One Gray Hair invites anyone who has one to their noon lunch meeting Wednesday, Mar. 27—a week later than their usual monthly gathering. Get some insight for the church's summer trip to Scotland as our own Baron Mullis discusses "Celtic Spirituality" after lunch. RSVP to Sarah Brownlee (rsbrownlee1046@att.net).