



**Morningside Presbyterian Church  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Annual Report  
2012**

**Letter from Our Senior Pastor**

Dear friends,

The publication of an annual report can be a great opportunity to pause a moment and reflect on what we've done over the course of the past year – and it can also be the occasion to look ahead at what we believe we are being called to do in the future. It is my hope that both will be the case as we leaf through the pages of this report.

As your head of staff, I believe we are unbelievably blessed by the tireless efforts of the extraordinary women and men who make up our church staff. What can I say by way of gratitude? Our staff deserves to be singled out by name and celebrated for all they do for us – but it's a long enough list of names that space won't permit that. Of course, the most exciting change to our staff was the addition of the Reverend Drew Stockstill – and those who have swelled the Adult Sunday School to bursting at the seams in Room 201 know how gifted Drew is as a teacher.

Our deacons continue to live out their calling to care for the congregation – and we are deeply blessed that Dr. Robert Gray has enriched their ministry by assisting with taking communion to our home-bound members.

Our Session spent countless hours in the early spring and into the summer working on the discernment process that resulted in our newest strategic plan which will carry us into the next five years of our life together – resulting in a newly formed Planning Team as a permanent ministry team of Session to assure our continued awareness of how we are progressing toward the goals that we believe Jesus Christ is calling us to fulfill.

I could go on and on about the myriad ministries of this congregation and what they mean to me, to us, to Atlanta and to the world – but then, you can read about them in the pages following this. But so that it won't be a backward looking document, this is my challenge to you: as you read it, think about what God is calling *you* to do. Living out God's calling on your life can be a huge undertaking – but some of the time it is as simple as picking up the phone and calling your fellow member and saying, "This excites me and I want to help," or "I've benefited from this and I want to give back," or emailing – or texting – whatever it takes to turn *intention* into *action*.

When I pan over what we have done – and think of what we have yet to do – it leaves me with a profound sense of excitement and gratitude. I hope you will feel the same.

Your pastor,



The Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis

### **Clerk of Session's Report**

Ruthlyn Newell served Morningside Presbyterian Church as Clerk of Session from January 2004 until her death in February 2013. Even while undergoing her final illness, she struggled to complete the several end-of-year reports that fall to the Clerk of Session's lot. With this belated Annual Report her work now is completed.

At the close of 2012, our rolls showed 525 members. We welcomed 45 new members in the course of the year and said goodbye to 11 through transfers and at their requests, for a total gain of 34. We baptized 17 children and one adult. We were blessed to not have suffered any losses through member deaths.

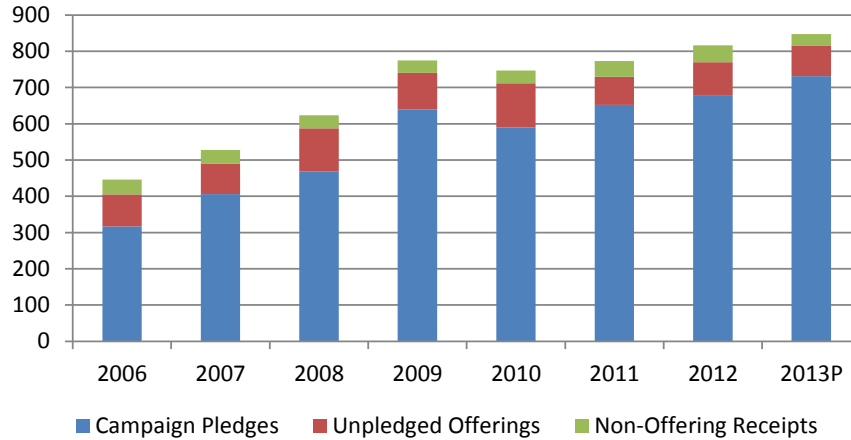
Our Christian Education (Learning) programs served at minimum 135 adults and children and we donated more than \$5,000 to mission (Serving) projects.

The following reports offer more details on individual ministries.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daisy Ottmann  
Clerk of Session, May 2013

### **Finance Committee**

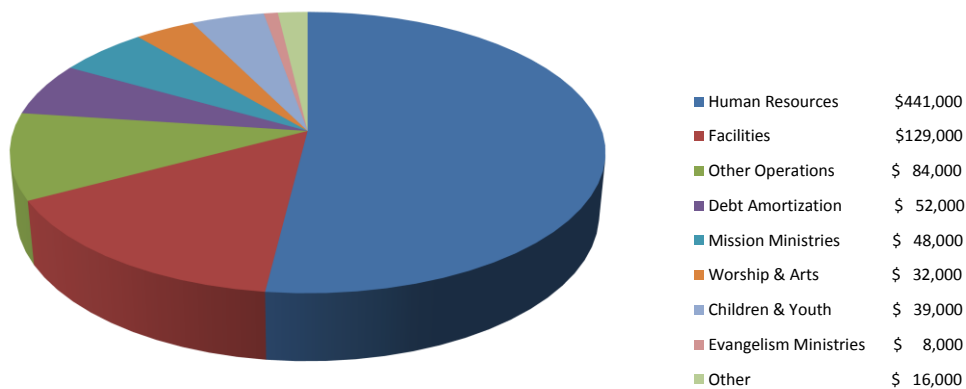
### Actual and Projected Receipts



Morningside again enjoyed strong support from our membership in 2012, allowing us to continue to expand our staff and program offerings. The combination of judicious spending by our ministry teams and staff and an absence of major property needs allowed us to end the year with a surplus. Total receipts of \$812,000 exceeded budget by approximately \$30,000, allowing us to add Drew Stockstill as Minister for Young Adults and Adult Education during the second half of the year while still creating some reserves for future needs.

During the year, we repaid more than \$30,000 on the debt from our *A Time of Promise* building campaign, leaving a year-end loan balance of \$741,000.

### Budgeted 2013 Expenditures



The 2013 budget of \$846,000 represents a 4.2% increase from our 2012 receipts, reflecting the success of our fall commitment campaign. The bulk of the increase is in the Human Resources budget, reflecting a full year of Drew's service, increased hours for our Youth Leader Chris Peters and annual increases for our

staff. The remainder of the increase is going primarily to serve our rapidly growing children and youth groups.

We are pleased to report that Morningside Presbyterian Church remains in sound financial health. This would not be possible without the support of each of you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Self  
Chair, Finance Committee

Randy Parrish  
Treasurer

### **Discipleship Ministries**

Discipleship Ministries is divided into three areas: Adult Education, Small Groups, and the Learning Center.

**Adult Education** – Philip Hawkins, shepherd (January – September). Sunday Morning Adult Class, Small Group Bible Study and Women’s Bible Study

The Sunday Morning Adult Class began 2012 using the “Feasting on the Word” curriculum. Classes were facilitated by Peter Cobb, James Klotz, Jack Klotz, Collier Maxwell, Daisy Ottmann, Ken Sharpe, Sarah Tomaka and Philip Hawkins. During the summer, Chris Peters, then interning at Morningside but now the Director of Youth Ministry, taught the class as part of his internship on July 1, 8, 15, and August 5 and 12.

In late September, Drew Stockstill joined Morningside’s staff as Minister of Young Adults and Adult Education. His responsibilities included teaching the Sunday Morning Adult Class.

Drew started his classes with a nine-week series on The Book of the Twelve (the Minor Prophets). That was followed by an Advent Practices Series which covered Advent from the Reformation into early 20th century; early church origins of Advent; scripture used in Advent; and Advent ritual and reception.

The Small Group Bible Study and the Women’s Bible Study, taught by Joanna Adams, met regularly throughout the year, with a break during the summer.

**Small Groups** – Brad Odom, shepherd. The Small Groups umbrella covers eight groups, which provide social activities as well as learning opportunities across a broad spectrum of interests:

- Couples Group – For those who are “coupled up.”
- Lydia Circle – A social group for young women who work both inside and outside the home.
- Theology on Tap – Men’s Bible study group (taught by Baron Mullis).

- One Gray Hair – Just one gray hair qualifies for membership in this group.
- Red Hat Optional (RHO Readers) – Morningside’s book club
- Women’s Roundtable – Women of all ages gather to hear speakers on various topics, secular and religious.
- LGBT and Friends – For both single and partnered lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members. Straight members are also encouraged to participate with the LGBT and Friends group. This group was revived under the leadership of Jeff Peters and Michael Siedschlag and began meeting regularly with events hosted by various Morningside members, featuring speakers on a wide range of topics.
- Young Adults – This group began reorganizing in 2012 under Drew Stockstill’s leadership. Over time the composition of the Young Adult group’s ages and interests had changed and participation had dropped. Revitalization and redirection of this critical segment of Morningside’s community was a major focus for 2012. Questions such as: How do we include the Emory students? Should there be a “Thirty & Forties” group instead of trying to gather everyone under the heading of Young Adults? What is this group’s primary function– is it more like that of a social group which gathers to participate in city events or social justice actions? were used to guide reconstituting the Young Adult group.

To learn more about this segment’s concerns, goals and ideas, Drew met with Young Adult members and repeat visitors ages 18-35. Drew also met with students in Emory’s Young Adults/Campus Ministry and encouraged their participation in Morningside’s activities. These efforts resulted in significant growth in participation as relationships were developed, especially with Emory students and Morningside members through worship, taking meals on Wednesday nights, and Morningside events. Baron Mullis hosted the student group at his home for the annual Presbyterian Campus Ministry Christmas party.

In addition, Drew explored the idea of creating “small community” gatherings throughout Morningside’s membership to provide opportunities for members to develop deeper relationships in intentionally small groups, thereby allowing for more engaged prayer, spiritual development, and Bible study and discussion. As a trial, a small community group of eight young adults was organized and began meeting. This “pilot group” idea arose from Drew’s conversations with Morningside’s newest young adult members and regular attendees about what they desired in their lives and hoped to achieve as part of a church.

## **Learning Center**

Melinda Sandkam proposed revamping the Learning Center to bring its resources up-to-date and make it more user-friendly. The project involved three phases:

- culling and moving books for adult readers from the Learning Center’s Resource Room to the Session Room to provide easier access;

- creating a Learning Center Committee that would develop a vision for the Learning Center and acquire resources to meet that vision; and
- promoting the Learning Center.

Melinda, with assistance from Sue Ballay and Lib Boggs, coordinated the first phase of the Learning Center’s revitalization project. Volunteers from the preschool and church sorted, categorized and moved books to the Session Room. Some books were sold to a used book store and the proceeds were deposited to the library’s line item in the budget.

Work on phases two and three will be the focus of 2013.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jennye Guy  
 Chair, Discipleship Ministries

Brad Odom  
 Small Groups Coordinator

### **Children, Youth and Families Ministries**

The Children, Youth and Families Ministries team continued to be busy in 2012 with the many children and youth. The committee started the year off with a planning meeting. They also decided that the team leader would also act as the Children and Family Programs chair. By the fall, there were 181 children in the Morningside membership with 15 more regular visitors - 45 are under the age of three! With all of this growth, an additional nursery worker was hired as a floater for either infant or toddler/twos room any given Sunday.

#### Children’s Education

The preschool curriculum was completed in March. The We Believe curriculum was used for Kindergarten-2nd grade children and Worship for Life for the 4th and 5th graders.

Debbi Loomis, Shavon Starling-Louis and Meredith Loftis continued with us in the first half of 2012 as children’s worship leaders. With the new school year, Meredith left us to begin a chaplain internship and we welcomed Kirk Louis to lead the 4th-5th graders.

The first Big Fun of the year was a great success with a focus on communion – 19 children attended along with their parents who met with Baron while the children were learning about the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Many of the children who attended received communion for the first time the next day in worship. They also made pet toys for PAWS Atlanta as a mission project. Big Fun gatherings took place again in March, September and November with cooking becoming a favorite outreach activity in the fall. The children prepared the whole meal for the 30 men staying at the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries shelter in September. And, in November, they baked 500 mini corn muffins and made six gallons of pumpkin ice cream for the Thanksgiving Gathering.

Youth Director Chris Peters served as our summer seminary intern and helped with Vacation Bible School, Mission Camp and the Double Digits bulletin throughout the summer.

“Following the Star: Advent to Epiphany Around the World” Vacation Bible School was a success in 2012 with leadership provided by Kim Perez, Sue Ballay, Maggie Adams, Jennifer James, Vickie Hunter, Chris Peters and the youth and more than 50 children in attendance. Children’s Choir Director Rebecca Shipley led the music, preschool teachers Debbi Loomis and Amy Lowe were hired as five-day leaders and teens Carson Myers and Zoe Bach also served as five-day leaders along with a great crew consisting of Sue Ballay, Cindy Humphries, Sydney Kroner, Georgia Marshall and Scotti Chonko. Chris Peters played guitar and supervised the youth.

Attendance at Mission Camp in July was excellent at 33 children (9 more than in 2011). Chris Peters wrote the devotionals. The overnight to Len Foote Hike Inn was a great favorite again, as was the car wash to raise money for the animal shelter, the trip to visit the seniors and shopping for the food pantry. Rev. Drew Stockstill brought many gifts to the week as the second staff person with Melinda Sandkam.

Sunday School Kickoff in August was extremely successful. The kids had a great time and parents had good fellowship with other parents. Sunday school attendance during the 11:00 hour was off the charts! (And, reviewing numbers of members in each grade beforehand, the 2nd-3rd graders were moved into the larger Room 001 for this school year.)

In the fall, weekly emails similar to the ones received by elementary school parents were started for the preschool age families. Additionally, we hired Kyra Hall, one of the nursery workers, to be the Threes, Fours, Fives Children’s Worship Leader. She provides a consistent presence, which is very important in making children feel welcomed and supported in their church experience. Children’s Education Chair Sue Ballay mentored Kyra throughout the fall to help her settle in.

### Children’s Programs

Children in Mission Chair Rachel Spears kept the children active and engaged in multiple projects in 2012 on Big Fun days, during Mission Camp and many Sunday mornings. The children made food for Journey and Clifton men’s shelters (sometimes providing the whole meal) and had a bake sale to raise additional funds for Atlanta Community Food Bank. Robin Hackney organized the supplies for kids to make lunches for Brown Bag program of Cure Childhood Cancer four times this year and Shirley Adair provided supplies for Bread for the Journey bagged lunches for the homeless three times. Holiday cards were made for seniors and homebound members. In the fall, Maggie Adams joined Rachel Spears to provide mission for children.

The Cherub and Treble Choirs were busy all year, starting with singing in worship in January and at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. They were honored at the congregational lunch on May 20 after their end-of-school-year performance during worship. There was also a meeting with Walter Huff for parents of Fall 2012 Middle School students to gauge interest in a Middle School Choir; ultimately the interest was not great enough and the idea of a middle-school choir was tabled for the 2012-13 school year. In the fall, children's choirs sang in worship, at the Thanksgiving Gathering and at Journey Men's Shelter.

The Double Digits enjoyed an end-of-school-year outing to White Water with Melinda and assistance from Chris Peters.

The Christmas pageant was a success yet again, with 45 children participating. Rebecca Shipley once again provided music leadership, adding even more songs that the children sing on their own.

### Youth

Chris Peters started in September 2011 as MPC's youth leader and continued strong in 2012. The Youth programming had a consistent attendance with Sunday evening activities. The February lock-in and September outing to a corn maze were great fun. Six Youth Advisors were active and engaged all year. The Youth Committee worked to schedule one activity, two Bible studies and one mission project per month, such as preparing and serving the meal at Journey and Clifton men's shelters.

The Youth Auction in April was a great success – raising more than \$6,300 for a summer trip to Montreat Middle School Conference at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, and additional Youth programming. Four youth participated in the mission week and trip to Clinton. They worked on two in-town mission projects (Our House on Monday; FurKids on Tuesday) before leaving for the Montreat Middle School Conference. The stockholder meeting after worship on Aug. 5 was a time for the youth to share their experience with the congregation.

In August, the MPC Youth welcomed the new sixth-graders over ice cream and "icebreaker" games. There were 12 sixth-graders from MPC member families on the roster. Average youth group last year was four and the first gathering already had 12 in attendance. There were 20 actual youth at MPC in the fall! And all six Youth Advisors returned in the Fall.

In the fall, a curriculum for Confirmation to be used in the spring of 2013 was purchased. It is called Re:Form and is published by Augsburg Fortress. Re:Form includes a DVD, leader guide, and workbooks for the youth. Each lesson includes a video, discussion guide, and activity suggestions. Re:Form focuses on theological questions youth ask, and certain sessions will be selected by Chris as the basis of the individual Confirmation class sessions. Unused sessions will be utilized either on Sunday nights or Sunday mornings with the entire youth group.



## Preschool

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool continues to be a strong outreach to our community. Led by Director Sarah Tomaka, the teachers, preschool committee and parent volunteers work together to provide a caring learning environment for almost 100 students each week. After-school activities continue to be a popular addition. Summer Camp has grown stronger in recent years with one-week segments drawing in more attendees. The finances of the preschool remain sound during this tough economic time. As MPP works to offer the best options for our families, there is now a two-day two class and the three-year-olds are now given a choice of either three days or five days. The preschool hosts prospective parent tours that are strongly attended testifying to the solid reputation of the program. Fundraisers, dine-outs and community events such as the Jungle Jam continue to help fortify the Annual Fund of the preschool. The Preschool Committee, chaired by Liz Sommerfeld, is poised to roll out our new Long-Range Plan which consists of five strategic imperatives to guide our work in the next few years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Davis

Chair-- Children, Youth and Families Ministries

## **Mission Ministries**

At Morningside, we believe we are called upon by Jesus Christ to strengthen, support and develop opportunities to engage in God's mission by reaching out to others in our local and worldwide communities, by caring for God's creation and by advocating for justice and compassion. In 2012, the Mission Ministry engaged in the following areas:

### **Community Outreach** (Shepherd: Tony Fishpaw)

- Morningside supported the **Atlanta Community Food Bank** through canned food drives, as well as the Souper Bowl Sunday offering. (Shepherd: Tim Gargis)
- Several times during 2012, Morningside, including the children's ministries, gathered in Fellowship Hall to prepare bag lunches for guests at homeless shelters through **Bread for the Journey**. (Shepherd: Shirley Adair)
- MPC collected canned food items and other household items for **Calvin Court Presbyterian Home Food Pantry**, which provides staples to seniors who find they are approaching the end of the month without enough food. (Shepherd: Robin Hackney)
- Morningside regularly prepared and served food for the guests at **Druid Hills Presbyterian Men's Shelter** (which changed its name to

- Journey** this year) and **Clifton Sanctuary Ministries**. In addition, special collections throughout the year provided new graduates from Journey with needed household items and welcome-home baskets for departing Clifton residents. (Journey Shepherd: Curt Barrett; Clifton Shepherds: David and Katherine Johnston)
- Morningside builders and lunch-makers joined with other churches to build a home in Thomasville Heights for a Liberian family through **Habitat for Humanity**. (Shepherd: Lysley Tyler).
  - Morningside volunteers also worked with **H.O.M.E.S.** to assist seniors with home repairs and participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Morningside also partnered with local churches in the **New Church Development** project to help the congregation of El Nazareno Presbyterian to create a playground for the Hapeville community. (Shepherds: Jack Klotz and Lloyd Prince)
  - Quarterly canned food collections provided food for individuals at the **Intown Collaborative Ministries**. Additional outreach included sorting and delivering food at the food pantry and providing support for the Booth Towers Food Co-Op. (Shepherds: Nancy Collins and Becky Carlisle)
  - Morningside volunteers delivered meals three days a week to homebound individuals through **Meals on Wheels**. (Shepherd: Sarah Brownlee)
  - Collections of scarves, mittens, hats and Halloween costumes supported **Our House**, a preschool providing childcare for children facing homelessness and support for the whole family. (Shepherds: Heather Scribner)
  - To support the women of **Shearith Israel Women's Shelter**, Morningside volunteers served as overnight guests for a week during the month of January. Additional outreach included a collection of Valentine's Day gift cards, winter coats, gloves and hats for the women. (Shepherd: Becky Medearis)
  - Morningside continued working with other churches in the area to help resettle families from around the world through **Six Star Refugee Resettlement Program**. (Shepherd: Holly Campbell)
  - MPC gathered pajamas for children through the **Threads** ministry of All Saints Episcopal Church. (Shepherd: Gail Kitchens)

**Global Concerns and Mission Trips** (Shepherds: Roland Behm and Tony Fishpaw)

Through the "Mercer on Mission" trip, Morningside provided support to the students and teachers of Ricks Institute in Liberia. In May, Mercer Professor and

MPC member Emilie Paille traveled to Liberia with a large collection of school items and books courtesy of Morningside members. Closer to home, Morningside members traveled to Northern Alabama for a Lenten Mission Trip to help with the rebuilding after the devastating 2011 tornado. Morningside volunteers also traveled to New Orleans during the fall Mission Trip to work with Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO). An outreach ministry of St Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church dedicated to helping residents restore their lives both physically and spiritually after the 2005 hurricane.

**Advocacy and the Environment** (Shepherds: Amy Jensen and Shelley Senterfitt)

Morningside supported the work of the Public Policy Advocacy Partnership for the Presbytery focused on: 1) Healthcare: specifically, the question of whether Georgia will expand Medicaid according to the Affordable Care Act; 2) Ethics reform and 3) Criminal justice reform. Morningside also participated in the Presbyterian Rally Day and provided support to Interfaith Children's Movement, Earth Covenant Ministries, Covenant Network of Presbyterians, Emory Campus Ministries, and Interfaith Disability Network, among others.

**Special Offerings** (Shepherd: Lynsley Tyler)

MPC supported four special offerings: Souper Bowl, One Great Hour of Sharing, Thornwell Home for Children, and Peacemaking on World Communion Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Fishpaw  
Chair, Mission Ministries

### **Evangelism Ministries**

The Evangelism Initiatives Ministry sponsored four events this year. In February, we held our annual Shrove Pancake Supper and Pajama Party. In April, more than 100 children from the church, preschool, and neighborhood participated in an Easter Egg Hunt on our front lawn. In November, we hosted our Thanksgiving Gathering. Finally yet importantly, we held our Holiday Babysitting event in December. While the events are fast-paced and somewhat hectic, they all are wonderfully received, and much appreciated by families from our congregation, families from the preschool, and families from the neighborhood. Each of the events epitomizes the mission of the Evangelism team at Morningside.

In addition to daily/weekly/monthly communications via the newsletter and website, the Communications subcommittee participated in several special projects this year. Items included contributing questions and assisting with publicity for the Congregational Assessment Tool, attending the Church Development Commission's workshop on "Taking Your Church's Communications to the Next Level," and revamping the Time and Talent forms to become "Using Your Gifts," and developing brochures for the annual retreat and

funding-raising auction for youth ministries. A project to revamp the Web site and update its taxonomy to be more in line with our current ministry structure is still in progress.

Despite tireless efforts to make the member directory available on line, we have yet to succeed with Digital Faith, our current web site host. The inability to provide a secure and easily maintained online directory with Digital Faith has forced us to stop pursuing the online directory with Digital Faith. The Web site committee has requested additional funding for 2013 to collaborate with our current member database vendor ACS, which has a proven solution available. The Web site team will provide details and in 2013 through the Facilities team.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Myers  
Co-chair, Evangelism Ministries

Shannon Harris  
Co-chair, Evangelism Ministries

### **Congregational Nurture Ministries**

The Morningside Presbyterian Church congregation gathered for food and fellowship throughout 2012 over lunches and refreshments, in the community for special outings, and at our fall retreat in Montreat. Team leaders Mary Chapman and Bonnie Daneker are assembling instructions for the various aspects of Congregational Nurture Ministries in order to facilitate smooth transitions in leadership.

#### Care Initiatives

Tara Parrish, Sarah Brownlee and Georgia Marshall continued to lead our care initiatives. The Meals for Moms program, coordinated by Tara, provided dinner for parents who had just arrived home from the hospital with a newborn. Sarah saw to it that cards, meals, and personal visits reached members throughout the year who were under the weather or recovering from illness or surgery. Transportation to doctors' appointments was also provided as needed. She also coordinated delivery of flowers to those same people with Georgia. Georgia leads the Flower Guild, who break down the Sanctuary arrangements after Sunday services and rearrange them for delivery to members who deserve special attention. This year the Deacons have become involved in flower deliveries.

#### Weekly Events

Gail Kitchens continued to coordinate Coffee and Conversation, recruiting new members to join those who regularly provide refreshments in the Welcome Center before Sunday services.

Ann Watson and Mary Leight coordinated Fellowship Hour. As attendance has increased, many members are reluctant to take on hosting Fellowship Hour. Mary Chapman assisted with lining up commitments from groups in the church to serve once or more on a yearly basis. The Deacons already serve monthly. Session agreed to be responsible for four Sundays. Other groups that hosted

during 2012 include Worship and the Arts Ministries, Theology on Tap, Women's Roundtable, Couples Group, LGBT & Friends, Lydia Circle, RHO Readers, MPC Handbell Choir, One Gray Hair, Mission Camp and Youth Group. We are in the process of recruiting two coordinators for each quarter of 2013, to prevent burn-out and include more people. We have also made an effort to stress that it does not need to be 'lunch' and should be kept simple except for special occasions. We will continue to explore creative and economic ways to offer Fellowship Hour.

### Special Events - Scheduled

Athalie White continued her years of service coordinating congregational lunches in February, May and August. Sandy Bone Jones began coordinating the lunches in November. Bonnie Daneker mustered volunteers to help serve, and Lynn Daniel provided table decorations.

During Easter week Maundy Thursday dinner was coordinated by Melinda Sandkam, and a light breakfast following the sunrise service on Easter was coordinated by Bonnie Daneker.

Youth Advisor Amanda Lewis coordinated a chili supper following the Christmas pageant, and Youth Group served and cleaned up. Also in December, Philip Hawkins provided dinner for the joint meeting of deacons and elders.

Katherine Johnston continued planning outings with assistance from Sarah Brownlee, Jack Klotz and Melinda Sandkam. Outings included a performance of "Carmen" by the Atlanta Opera, two Braves games, two performances by the Georgia Shakespeare Theater and a Christmas Concert at All Saints led by Walter Huff and Atlanta Opera singers.

Two Morningside Mingles, in March and September, were hosted by John and Hillery McNeill and Alan and Becky Medearis. We hope to continue these informal gatherings at homes of members at least twice a year.

### Special Events – Unscheduled

In September, Sarah Brownlee coordinated food for the reception following the ordination of Drew Stockstill. Other special celebrations during Fellowship Hour included the following:

- Tom and Lynn Daniel's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- Robert Gray's birthday
- Link Marx's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Retreat

The Retreat Committee planned another successful retreat to Montreat, NC, attended by 36 adults and five children. Based on information in a financial analysis provided by committee members Temple Elliott and Bonnie Daneker, the committee decided to raise the registration fees slightly. Rev. Dr. Doug

Oldenburg led the seminar, “Living in Three Tenses,” and facilitated much reflection and sharing personal stories in small groups. Daisy Ottmann coordinated publications, Baron Mullis and Jill Klotz planned the worship service, and Sarah Brownlee sent out and compiled the results of an evaluation survey.

Meeting Support

Bonnie Daneker and Mary Chapman coordinated lunch for several meetings and officer training.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Chapman  
Co-chair, Congregational Nurture

Bonnie Daneker  
Co-chair, Congregational Nurture

**Worship and the Arts Ministries**

The Worship Committee at Morningside is empowered by the Session to carry out certain responsibilities as outlined by the church’s constitution and others arising from the execution of those responsibilities.

The committee works with the pastor and staff to provide for the worship of the people of God.

Through its efforts the committee:

- oversees our volunteer usher program,
- provides the elements for and assists in the administration of the sacraments of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism,
- maintains communion service elements, sanctuary hangings and furnishings, pew Bibles and hymnals, offering plates, candles and the like.
- is responsive to the needs of Walter Huff, our organist/choirmaster, and his oversight of the Music Program,
- oversees floral arrangements and seasonal decorations in the Sanctuary
- works with the pastor on adjustments and modifications to the worship service order when appropriate.

During 2012:

The success of our Usher Rotation Program endures and Coordinators Jack Klotz and Shari Tant make adjustments as needed to make services and special events run as smoothly as possible. Ushers are provide for all regular Sunday services, special worship services such as Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunrise and Christmas Eve and for funerals and memorial services.

The Flower Guild remains under Coordinator Georgia Marshall. Beginning in 2012 regular floral offerings to honor individuals and events are handled through Van Jernigan Florist and Office Administrator Anna Best - a sign up calendar is

posted in the main hall outside the Session Room. “Church Family” Sundays such as Mother’s and Father’s days, Easter, and Advent Sundays remain in the capable hands of the Guild with many talented volunteer members, also providing flowers in Fellowship Hall for luncheons and receptions. The Guild and the Worship Team implemented, designed, produced and installed the first in a three-year rotating Sanctuary Advent decoration plan that will hopefully simplify the process of installation and keep the look fresh with minimal advance effort

Work began on design and fabric selection for a new set of purple paraments for use during Lent and Advent with expected delivery in 2013. Discussions for lighting modifications in the chancel is ongoing with Facilities Manager Randy Young. The team continues to be in conversation with Baron about worship needs including the planning of large numbers of baptisms as our nursery grows –a true blessing.

Walter Huff, our Organist/Choirmaster, reports that during the past year of our music program:

- our Chancel Choir has welcomed new members
- our Children’s Choir continues to grow
- we have maintained and continue to maintain our commitment to the highest standards for music in worship as well as hosting special musical events such as the High School Opera program final concert.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip Hawkins  
Chair, Worship and the Arts Ministries

### **Operations Minsitries**

Facilities Committee: Arthur Sweum, Chair; Randy Young, Facilities Manager; Richard Brownlee; Mary Chapman

This has been an especially good year for Facilities, with less emergency maintenance expenses than in previous years. We think this is due to the committee’s constant monitoring of the buildings and grounds, regular preventive maintenance and the lack of unforeseen acts of natural disaster. As a result we have been able to execute a few additional planned projects at the end of the year (more on them later in the report).

2012 was also a good year for our grounds. A complete flagstone garden, with dwarf mondo, ferns and boxwood was donated by a nearby homeowner. Mary Chapman drew plans for adapting these materials to the Sarah Richey Garden and oversaw installation as well as some related drainage improvements. Fortunately we lost no major trees as we have in the last several years. During a spring landscape work day about 20 volunteers assisted in planting 20 new trees donated by Trees Atlanta, and planted ferns, mulched and moved garden furniture in the renovated Sarah Richey Garden. Our anonymous donor once

again kept many large planters around the church filled with seasonal color and greenery.

Early in the year our technology systems were improved with a higher quality copier and several improved computer workstations. We continued to review how our contracts are structured, looking for ways to maintain efficiencies and reduce cost. We were also presented with some opportunities to increase income from outside organizations use of our facilities, where they did not impact church programs. Careful management of monthly expenses brought us a significant year-end budget savings, which will allow us to execute some planned projects that had been on hold, waiting funding. These include repairs to the Welcome Center plaza and front church steps. A camera-monitored door access system will be installed at the Welcome Center doors. Additional stacking chairs were also purchased to improve the efficiency of setups for an increasing number and size of church programs.

The shifting of some responsibilities from our outside custodial company to staff allowed us to be more consistent in the day-to-day upkeep of our facilities. Additionally, we continued to accomplish many modest-sized repairs and improvements by our staff, subcontractors and volunteers around our facilities with special cleaning, painting, waterproofing, electrical, plumbing and carpentry projects. We continued to enhance our emergency procedures with the installation of emergency-egress diagrams throughout all church classrooms and Fellowship Hall.

Our projected budget for next year includes funds for a number of planned expenses that we continue to carry forward as deferred maintenance projects. We have also continued to establish and catalogue estimates for more substantial and longer range projects in an effort to improve our overall building systems and maintain the beauty of our church property and building for decades to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Art Sweum  
Chair, Operations Ministries

### **Human Resources Committee**

The Human Resources Committee is responsible for staffing the church, with the exception of selecting a pastor and associate pastors, which are positions called by the congregation. The committee's work includes setting policies and overseeing benefits and salaries.

We continue to be blessed with the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis as our Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. Rev. Robert Gray continues supporting MPC as Assistant to the Minister. We were able to extend compensation for all of our wonderful staff members: Melinda Sandkam, program director; Walter Huff, organist/choirmaster; Chris Peters, director of Youth Ministry; Anna Best, office



administrator; Randy Young, facilities manager; Ann Benson, administrative assistant, and Gus Restrepo, sexton.

In addition, in September 2012 MPC was approached with a unique opportunity to partner with The Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Emory University to share a contracted staff member. This was a wonderful opportunity to add a dedicated staff member whose focus is adult education, young adults, liaison to our small-group ministries and worship leadership. Rev. Drew Stockstill was ordained in our Sanctuary on September 23 and immediately began his work at MPC.

Other members of our staff include Sarah Tomaka, who has directed Morningside Presbyterian Preschool since late 2009, as well as her staff of 14 teachers. Our music administrator, Dan Altman, and Children's Choir Director Rebecca Shipley have done outstanding work since joining Morningside's staff in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martin Dunlap  
Chair, Human Resources

### **Commitment Ministries**

This year was one of expanding the commitment team with the addition of new members, bringing the total to 28. We are grateful to all of them for their remarkable efforts.

This year's commitment theme was "Running the Race," from the scripture found in Hebrew 12:18, "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...."

The print materials and the video developed in conjunction with that theme were remarkable. So were the eight 'minute messages' delivered each of the seven Sundays prior to and on Commitment Sunday—including one during the church retreat in Montreat, NC.

The results are still coming in but as of January 4, 2013, we had received 175 pledges totaling \$727,380. This included increased pledges of \$46,860 and new pledges of \$87,886. By way of comparison, at this point in 2012 there were 172 pledges total \$679,000.

We were ambitious in setting a goal of increasing pledges by 10 percent—a projected increase of \$67,900. To date, we have increased pledging over last year by \$48,380. So, as of this writing we still need \$19,520 to reach our goal. We still have not received pledges totaling \$76,500 that did come in last year. Bottom line – much success; a bit of a way to go.

The increases in our budget will specifically and principally be targeted to pay for our increase in staff, to expand our educational outreach and to increase the use of our technology. It is now possible to give on-line and we hope an increasing

number of our membership will take advantage of that option. Some education continues to be needed. Next year we will inaugurate on-line pledging as well as giving.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Daniel  
Co-chair, Commitment Ministries

Peter Cobb  
Co-chair, Commitment Minsitries

### **Board of Deacons**

*Each one of us should use whatever gifts you have received to service others, faithfully administering God's grace.*

*I Peter 4:10*

Service to others is the caption that best applies to the work of the Board of Deacons in 2012.

One of the many highlights of our service was the opportunity to contact members of the church twice during the year to encourage them to utilize their gifts in service to the church and members of the community. By sharing information on upcoming church activities, many committed to work on a myriad of projects—ushering, working in the Sunday school, participating in small groups, being part of preparing food for our fellowship hour—to name just a few. Most importantly it gave us time to listen to what's going on in the lives of MPC members.

With a significant increase in new members to the church, Deacons and others were assigned to shepherd them during their first six-12 months of membership and encouraging them to use their spiritual gifts in the work of the church.

Calling on shut-ins, hospitalized persons and homebound individuals has been a staple of our activity to let them know that members of their church family care about them and are willing to serve them in any way we can. In most cases we were blessed through these contacts. In cooperation with the Flower Guild, we had the opportunity to deliver flowers to people as a cheering note from their church.

Session authorized the Deacons to assist Rev. Dr. Robert Gray in serving communion to our shut-ins and homebound individuals.

Deacons were responsible for hosting the fellowship hour the third Sunday of every month,. In asking some of the newer members to serve with us, it marked for some the beginning of service to the church.

The opportunity to interact with members of Session by having a deacon attend a stated Session meeting was an educational experience and a chance to share the activities of the Deacons with the Session.

We continued to serve as Deacon on Call each week of the year, effectively meeting the requirements of the role and responding in a loving and caring manner to serve others.

Members of the Board were 100 percent in financial support of MPC for the 2013 commitment campaign as they did in 2012 so well.

We welcomed Rev. Drew Stockstill as an advisory member to the Board and look forward to his providing interface with the senior pastor, staff and others to make our efforts as successful as possible.

We are sorry to say goodbye to the outgoing members of our Board—Brenda Fishpaw, Bill Smith, Jeanne McCarthy, Van Jensen and Robin Boren—but pleased to welcome new Deacons Juarlyn Gaiter, Katherine Johnston, Anthony Owens, Anne Bowers and Faye Clegg.

Respectfully submitted,  
Link Marx  
Moderator

**Morningside Presbyterian Church  
Church Officers 2012**

**Clerk of Session:** Ruthlyn Newell  
**Treasurer:** Randy Parrish

**Elders/Ministry Team Leadership**

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Tom Daniel/Co- Commitment	Mary Chapman/ Co- Congregational Nurture	Sue Ballay
Jill Davis/ Cobb/Co- Children & Youth Commitment	Tony Fishpaw/ Mission	Peter
Philip Hawkins/ Daneker Worship & Arts	Shannon Harris/Co- Evangelism	Bonnie
Jay Myers/Co- Discipleship Congregational Nurture	Bradley Odom/Co- Evangelism	Jennye Guy/
Doug Self/ Tanner Finance	Leslie Prince Daisy Ottmann	Caroline
Arthur Sweum/ Operations	Randy Parrish	

### **Board of Deacons**

**Moderator:** Link Marx

**Vice-Moderator**

**Secretary:** Jill Klotz

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Brenda Fishpaw Antenucci	Jill Klotz	Pat
Van Jensen Jeanne McCarthy Bill Smith	Link Marx Duncan Spears	Curt Barrett Robin Boren Ken Sharpe