



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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June 2013 Worship at Morningside

June 2, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching

"The God Who Answers by Fire"

Texts: 1 Kings 18:20-29; 30-39

The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

New Members Class

June 9, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching

"A PR Dream Come True"

Texts: Psalm 30, Luke 7:11-17

June 16, 2013

Drew Stockstill preaching

"A Game of Gardens"

Texts: Galatians 2:15-21; 1 Kings 21:1-21

June 23, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching

"A Few Thoughts on Exorcism"

Texts: Luke 8:26-39; Isaiah 65:1-9

The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

June 30, 2013

Baron Mullis preaching

"For Freedom"

Texts: Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Sing with the Choir Sunday



Dear MPC Family,

When Baron invited each of the staff to write one of the communications in the newsletter this summer, I thought that I might write about all the upcoming children's programming, as Vacation Bible School

and Mission Camp are right around the corner. But then I considered other areas of the church that are also part of the Program Director's responsibilities and I wanted to do justice to each of them—congregational nurture, evangelism initiatives for families, and mission. I became worried that I couldn't keep it brief, but after more consideration, I realized that they are all intertwined and that they actually could be summed up in one statement: I get to meet many people, get to know them, introduce them to others and watch the cycle continue as we all travel in our faith journeys.

In children's programming, we seek many, many volunteers to help us run our programs—some help with childcare or children's worship, others prepare VBS snacks or build props for the pageant. We have drivers for Mission Camp, youth advisors, those who organize events or prepare materials; the list could go on and on. What I see happening in the midst of fulfilling our vows to these children at their baptisms is the community of MPC getting to know one another better. We serve alongside one another and learn of the joys and trials of our lives. We learn to pray for someone that we now know or we can offer a meal or childcare to someone in need. We meet individuals through one activity and then recognize them when their child is baptized or confirmed or graduates. Through our work, we have formed new friendships, growing our community.

Likewise, when we do service projects together, we chat while we cook, plant, build, serve on committees. We forge deep relationships while also reaching out to our local, national and global communities. We may attend fundraisers together, collect Halloween costumes for children or travel to help rebuild New Orleans and during all of these activities, we get to know one another. We recognize gifts and talents among new and old friends and in-

vite them to join us in a project or begin a new initiative. We are furthering the work of God while supporting each other.

Working with many volunteers to make congregational nurture events happen, I am blessed to know each one better. Whether we are planning the church retreat or a congregational lunch, I rejoice that we are providing opportunities for the congregation and its friends to gather for an hour or a weekend, for 10 minutes at Coffee & Conversation or even to connect outside our time together when reading the names of those to keep in our prayers. I see long-time members sitting down to eat with someone who joined last month and know that they will remember details of each others' lives the next time they meet.

All of these opportunities to interact are always open to our friends and neighbors, but four times a year, we specifically reach out to the families in our community. With the Easter Egg Hunt, Free Holiday Babysitting, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Thanksgiving Gathering, we focus on providing a fun event for the families to engage in the same sense of community that we experience year round. It is a joy to watch neighbors walk up the day before Easter and join in the fun, to see the parents in conversation with volunteers, to see kids recognize one another from school.

I am fortunate that my occupation involves getting to know people and working alongside them. I feel this is a vital part of what we all do as the MPC Community, as members of a faith community. We build relationships through the everyday activities that are part of us living out our faith. And through those connections, we care for all of God's people.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I hope that you will make a new friend through the life of the church this month!

Melinda Sandkam
Program Director

It's a Milestone! MPC Welcomes First Confirmation Class Since 2003

Although they agree that it 'feels freaky' to be full members of Morningside Presbyterian Church with all the privileges pertaining thereto, the seven youth members who were confirmed May 19 also agree that the process was 'awesome' and they were excited to have participated. These youth and their families also gave high marks to our Youth Director Chris Peters and the individual mentors who worked with each confirmand to make the experience one of deep learning, spiritual growth and—even fun.

If you haven't yet congratulated our Special Seven, be on the lookout for...



Zoe Bach



Joseph Cochran



Lucy Grant



Lindsey Howell



Cade Lawson



Nicholas Lazzaro



Taylor Morton

Prayer Concerns

Members of our community have asked for individual prayer and for the names of those for which to offer prayers. To be on the prayer list—public or private—use prayer cards found in the pew racks or speak with Baron. *Morningside Messenger* will carry the list from the most recent weekly *Life@* insert: Irless Aviles, Becky Carlisle, Grier Christenbury, Jackie Cleveland, Max and Ann Herndon, Finley Holaway, Buster Jenkins, Jan McMahan, Alan Nichols, Chuck Thagard.

Morningside Milestones

- We welcome all ages to our church family through the Sacrament of Baptism—most recently Natalie Holler and the infants Walter Warford Johnston, son of David and Katherine; Lucas William Benzinger, son of John Benzinger and Leigh Gobel; Charlotte Gaare, daughter of Michael and Lara; and Emmett Paul Garrison, son of Ed and Kelly.
- We share condolences with Elder Rob Payne as his father Bob recently passed into the Church Triumphant.

MPC Steps Up Program to Protect Our Children

Many, many MPC members volunteer with children and youth. That's why many of you received an e-mail from Kimberly Nuckols or Shari Tant recently sharing our new Child Protection Policy (CPP). We salute them for helping us implement these policies that are mostly 'best practices' we already follow.

If you're a general volunteer (childcare, children's worship volunteer, VBS, etc.) you received an e-mail from Kim with the policy itself and a signature sheet. We are so excited at how fast many of the responses have come in, but help us wrap this huge project soon. Take some time to thoroughly read our policy and then sign the form, returning it to the folder in Melinda's mailbox in the church office or emailing a scanned version to Melinda.

If you work with our youth or drive for Mission Camp or have ever done off-site or overnight events, you're consid-

ered a lead volunteer. You all received an email from Shari Tant with the policy (to be read) and signature sheet. You also should have received an email from Ministry Safe, our partner in CPP training. This e-mail prompts you to watch a video and take a quiz with important information that helps us in our efforts to create the safest environment for our children and youth. Allow an hour for the video and quiz. Again, many lead volunteers did this right away and we are very appreciative. Help us complete the process! And thank you!

Questions? Contact any member of the Child Protection Policy Implementation Team (Sue Ballay, Laura Fillyaw, Baron Mullis, Rob Payne, Melinda Sandkam, Sarah Tomaka). Melinda can specifically answer any logistical questions.

Sally Horne Joins Us to Lead Elementary Classes

We welcome our new children's worship leader, Sally Horne. Sally will lead the third-fifth graders while Debbi Loomis continues with the Kindergarten-second graders this summer. Children's worship will return to three groups Aug. 11.

Sally comes to Atlanta by way of Charlotte, NC and Rock Hill, SC. A recent graduate of Agnes Scott College, she enjoys studying Southern History and spent a year in Rennes, France, studying the French language. A lifelong Presbyterian and the daughter of two PC(USA) ministers, Sally has years of experience leading children in worship in the US and Canada. She served as a Young Adult Advisory

Delegate to the 220th General Assembly in 2012. She enjoys spending time exploring Atlanta with friends, going camping and rafting in the mountains, and visiting family in the Carolinas. Sally works with Literacy Action Inc. helping functionally illiterate adults become readers.

Note for third-graders: the older elementary class (just completed grades 3-5) will continue to attend worship on the first Sunday of each month - June 2, July 7 and Aug. 4. You are welcome to sit with your families or with Sally.

Hey, Grown-Ups—It's All About Our Kids During Summer

With 50 kids registered for Vacation Bible School June 17-21, we need lots of help—and lots of different types of help:

*Loan or donate items to help us make our very own marketplace. We need clay pots and pitchers, rustic looking rugs and blankets, out-dated spices (not super spicy ones, since kids will be "buying and selling" them—think oregano, not cayenne), material, yarn, anything that you think may lend itself to a "biblical times market". We are also collecting newspapers (no shiny fliers please) to help us make our village well. Bring any items to Room 001. Be sure to put your name on any items you want back (and leave a note, too).

*Donate food and paper products for snacks and closing day lunch. See the requests and instructions on the VBS donation board in Welcome Center. Take one of the two slips

of paper home with you as a reminder to bring item in by Sunday, June 16 (Room 001 beforehand, Kitchen on June 16).

* Volunteer to work with kids one, two or even ALL five days (8:30-12:15). We can't do it without our volunteers to lead kids, be craftspeople in the marketplace, help in nursery (for younger siblings) and prepare snacks (this one is a shorter shift).

*Help with set up Thursday, June 13, 9:30-12:30, Saturday, June 15 (flexible hours) or Sunday afternoon, June 16, 2-5 p.m. Or help with closing day lunch 10:45-1:15 or clean up Friday, June 21, 1-3 p.m. Contact Program Director Melinda Sandkam msandkam@morningsidepc.org with questions or to be part of the team to make VBS a reality as we share our "Jesus is" messages. **See Page 6 for more ways to serve our children's programs!**



Morningside

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 a.m. AA Meeting
2 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School; New Member Class 10:35 a.m. Called Session Meeting 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. 4th/5th Bowling Outing 12:30 p.m. Young Adult Lunch 4 p.m. Wessington Block Party 5 p.m. Youth Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	3 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society	4 <i>MPP Camp</i> 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. High School Opera Institute Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:30 p.m. MLPA Zoning	5 <i>MPP Camp</i> 12 noon Retired Old Timer's Luncheon (DFCS)	6 <i>MPP Camp</i> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. MLPA Public Safety	7 <i>MPP Camp</i> 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. High School Opera Institute Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	8 9 a.m. AA Meeting
9 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 4 p.m. Atlanta Opera High School Institute Concert 6 p.m. Journey 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp. <i>High School Montreat Trip</i>	10 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7 p.m. Pulse PNC; Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA	11 <i>MPP Camp</i> 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 6:45 p.m. Preschool Committee (offsite) 7 p.m. Scotland Dinner Meeting (offsite)	12 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	13 <i>MPP Camp</i> 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. VBS Setup 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	14 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7 p.m. Couples Group	15 9 a.m. AA Meeting 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. VBS Setup & Volunteer Orientation
16 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. VBS Drama Workshop 2 - 5 p.m. VBS Setup 12:45 p.m. RHO Readers 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	17 <i>VBS Week</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Session	18 <i>VBS Week</i> 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	19 <i>VBS Week</i>	20 <i>VBS Week</i> 12 noon 3 rd Thursday Theological Throw-down 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	21 <i>VBS Week</i> 12 noon VBS Closing Program and Lunch 1 - 3 p.m. VBS Cleanup	22 9 a.m. AA Meeting
23 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Baptism 12 noon Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.	24 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians	25 <i>MPP Camp</i> 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	26 <i>MPP Camp</i> 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 <i>MPP Camp</i> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7 p.m. Handbell Choir	28 <i>MPP Camp</i>	29 9 a.m. AA Meeting
<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship /Sing with the Choir 12 noon Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.</p> </div>						

More Ways To Serve Our Church by Serving Our Kids

This fifth year of our “It’s Not All About Me” Mission Camp, July 22-26, promises to be a great one. But, making these hands-on service experiences happen takes a lot of adults as many of the outreaches are off-site. Monday-Wednesday, we need approximately 10 driver/chaperones. Thursday and Friday, we head to north Georgia and hike five miles to the Len Foote Hike Inn for our overnight adventure. We always need adults willing to take this exciting journey with us. Contact Melinda msandkam@morningsidepc.org to help us continue this

great experience of learning how to help others.

We also started this spring with a dedicated team of children's program volunteers that has been a huge help. We still seek more volunteers—at least one volunteer for two or three hours each week in June and July. Projects vary widely from internet research to changing bulletin board displays, preparing crafts and so much more. If there is one week that you can help, contact Melinda now to get on the calendar.

Commodious, Empty Closet Needs Some Summer Love

There’s a commodious closet—but empty-- in the Lower Level elevator corridor. Your generous winter donations—pajamas, socks, and underwear—are now being distributed to children in need all over town through the Threads clothing ministry of All Saints Episcopal Church.

"It was wonderful to receive your contribution of pajamas and underwear at Threads," Elizabeth Robertson wrote in a recent note to MPC. "Please accept my thanks on behalf of Threads for your help in fulfilling our mission to clothe children with dignity."

So take note: That empty closet cries out for gently worn children's clothing all year long. Threads always needs clothing for kids referred by social service agencies: clothes for school, summer camps, playgrounds, indoors or outside. When you are sorting through outgrown children’s items, bring the ones in good condition to church. You'll find tax receipts attached to the door of that now-yawning closet.

Contact MPC Shepherd Gail Kitchens gailkitchens@gmail.com with any questions.

Serve Aces in These Shorts!

•Saturday, June 8, is gardening day with other churches at a New Church Development project in Clarkston. Talk with Jack Klotz (jacksklotz@gmail.com) or Lloyd Prince (lloydprince@comcast.net) to get involved. •On June 9, we provide our next meal for 30 men staying at Journey Night Shelter. Sign up on the Mission board and pick up an empty pan to fill or contact new shepherds Tamara Nix and Bryan Smith (tamaranix@yahoo.com) to bring a certain dish. •At the end of the month, volunteer Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m.—1 p.m. at the Intown Collaborative Ministries Food Pantry. See Mission board or contact Shepherd Nancy Collins (ncollins0209@gmail.com). • Immediate donations to aid in Oklahoma tornado recovery can be paid to MPC with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the memo line or via the PDA website (www.pcusa.org).

June Birthdays

1 Anna Best	9 Ben Samuels	16 Cynthia Holzheimer	24 Herb Grodemange
1 Lisa Harris	10 Carrie Brandon	16 Quinn Jarratt	24 Amy Millard
1 Jill Davis	10 David Bothwell	17 Carol Southwood	25 James Attwood
1 Athalie White	10 Sarah Tomaka	17 Martin Dunlap	25 Keith Blount
2 Mary Johnson	11 Derek Metz	18 Graham Lewis	26 Kent Balch
5 Betty Treschitta	11 Anne Barnette	18 Grace Gay	27 Patty Nelson
5 Jackson Markovic	13 Kathy Bremer	18 Ken Sharpe	28 Andy Anderson
8 Joanna Irwin	14 Temple Elliott	19 Rich Boggs	28 Mary Michael
8 Bill Humphries	14 Maggie Blake	20 John Keller	29 Lloyd Prince
8 Kyle Behm	14 Roy Simpson	21 Valerie Baginski	29 Bart Engram
9 Holly Greene	14 Grace Lazzaro	22 Jennifer Powell	
	14 Lysley Tyler	22 John Hawkins	
	15 Rebecca Stewart	23 Elaine Tomkinson	

Your Session at Work: May Meetings

- Our elected Session officers do far more than attend a monthly meeting. Every serving elder chairs either a ministry team or a subcommittee. In addition, Session convenes as necessary in ‘called meetings’ to further the goals of the church. This May, Session held its regular meeting May 13, met May 19 to examine and accept our class of seven confirmands (see Page 3) and May 20 to begin work toward developing a Master Plan for our facilities and consider the feasibility of launching a capital campaign. Session will meet again June 2 to welcome new members. In addition, **Hillery McNeill** and **Bonnie Daneker** represented us at the quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and reported back. Our Session does work!
- In addition to preparing for confirmation, **Laura Fillyaw** reported that the Children, Youth and Families Ministries are lining up summer worship leaders, and that **Shavon and Kirk Louis** will stay with us until Shavon, who recently graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary, receives a ministerial call. Session approved the ministry team’s motion to use the “We Believe Awesome Adventures” curriculum this summer for our elementary-age kids.
- **Drew Stockstill** said that the Sunday morning adult group would have two special classes in June: a two-week study “Unmasking the Book of Esther,” led by **Melanie Johnson**, a PhD candidate in Old Testament theology, and a program on “The Bible and Homelessness,” led by Drew, **Bill Smith** and **Anthony Owens**.
- Bonnie called Session’s attention to the new configuration of pews to allow wheelchair seating. The Planning Committee has other projects under consideration to better accommodate near the front of the Sanctuary those with difficulty seeing or hearing.
- Planning was also the focus of the called meeting on May 20. Session met with **Mike Mascheri**, who will be the lead architect in developing our Master Plan. The purpose of the plan is to take into consideration all the wants and needs of our congregation and our church programs looking forward about 20 years. We all will be invited to express our opinions and desires for how we see Morningside changing and growing. Some of the necessities we already see are the need to accommodate the expansion of our youth program, more staff space, additional repairs to stop continuing water intrusion and retiring debt from the *A Time of Promise* campaign, which created our Welcome Center, the elevator and other accessibility improvements, restored the organ, and dealt with many ongoing water-damage issues.
- Other partners in assessing our future are **John O’Kane** and **Steve Siler** from the firm of Coxe Curry. They will consult on how and in what order we will be able to finance various phases of the Master Plan. All of this work is a direct result of the CAT Scan congregational survey conducted last year. Morningside received amazingly high marks for our worship, our music and our openness; however, we did identify areas where we could do more—and these are the issues being addressed through this Master Plan. Everyone will have opportunities to tell Session more as the work gets underway. This promises to be an interesting and exciting time to shape our church’s future.

Daisy Ottmann
Clerk of Session

Elder on Call

Brad Odom	June 2-June 8
Daisy Ottmann	June 9-June 15
Tony Fishpaw	June 16-June 22
Sue Ballay	June 23-June 29
Daisy Ottmann	June 30-July 6

Deacon on Call

Jill Klotz	June 2-June 8
Duncan Spears	June 9-June 15
Curt Barrett	June 16-June 22
Faye McKay-Clegg	June 23-June 29
TBA	June 30-July 6

Come Listen to Great Music Or Sing It Yourself

Music-lovers among us need to save the dates Sunday, June 9, and the last week in June, leading up to 'Sing with the Choir Sunday,' June 30.

June 9 we host the free 'graduation' concert of the Atlanta Opera's High School Institute. The 16 young vocalists chosen to participate in this eight-month program, directed by opera chorus master Walter Huff, will offer a potpourri of solo and ensemble works. One of the singers is Rosie Hughes, daughter of Rev. Dana Hughes who served MPC as interim pastor earlier in the 2000's. All are welcome to attend, but members of the Lenten Youth Ensemble (or future members) are especially encouraged to attend and to go out to dinner together afterward.

Our own voices - at least the first 10 or so to sign up - will be raised in song as members of the congregation have the opportunity to join the Chancel Choir for one worship service. Walter chooses familiar music and choir members are enthusiastic and kind to their guests, some of whom have gone on to become regular members of the group. Attendance at Wednesday night rehearsal, June 26, is required. Sign up by emailing music@morningsidepc.org to make your choir dreams come true.

Couples, Readers Continue Through Summer

Morningside's Couples Group will enjoy a social evening beginning at 7 p.m. June 14 at the home of Art and Linda Sweum, (1556 Fama Drive NE, 30329). Be in touch with the Bremers (kdbremer@bellsouth.com) to RSVP and find out what you can bring. Any and all couples are welcome.

Pam Sharpe will lead a new six-week yoga series Tuesday, June 11, at 11 a.m. Email Pam at (yogapam@bellsouth.net) to register.

Meanwhile, pick up a copy of Walter Mosely's novel *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* and prepare to join our eclectic, coed reading discussion June 16 at 12:45 p.m. in the Session Room. Gail Kitchens will lead the conversation. Daisy Ottmann (dazette@bellsouth.net) can answer questions about our programs to which everyone is invited.

Our small but persistent group of folks from 3rd Thursday Theological Throwdown will keep reading John Dominic Crossan's book on the Lord's prayer through the summer. We're half way through, but you can jump in any time! Bring a brown-bag lunch and join the conversation.



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