



Morningside Messenger

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Serving You

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January 2014 Worship at Morningside

January 5, 2014

Baron Mullis preaching
"Tidings of Comfort and Joy"
Text: John 1: 1-18; Ephesians 1:3-14
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

January 12, 2014

Baron Mullis preaching
"A Dimly Burning Wick"
Text: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Acts 10: 34-43
Officer Ordination and Installation

January 19, 2014

Baron Mullis preaching
"Lamb of God"
Text: John 1: 29-42; Isaiah 49: 1-7

January 26, 2014

Baron Mullis preaching
"Repentance, Discipleship and Fishing"
Text: Matt. 4: 12-23; Isaiah 9: 1-4
The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.



Dear friends,

A while back, I preached a sermon wherein I advocated deliberateness in the living of Christian faith. I called it discipline in that sermon. It wasn't a sermon I particularly enjoyed writing; it wasn't a sermon I anticipated

preaching with great relish. I wouldn't have argued it had any great literary or homiletical merit – it was the Word of God, or I wouldn't have brought it, but I wouldn't have put it in the category of my favorite Word of God. To my astonishment, your feedback was overwhelming. What you all said to me over and over was: *I needed to hear that...*

I suppose we all need to be reminded to be deliberate from time to time, myself included. Otherwise, I suppose we wander through life letting it happen to us rather than working to make the lives we live a means of grace for others. And that is essentially the Christian vocation in a nutshell: to live our lives as a means of grace for others.

It is so easy to slip into the habit of simply letting life, or faith, or relationships happen to us rather than working to shape what we bring into our lives, our faith and our relationships. During the holidays in particular it seems at times as though the whole world, everything we encounter around us, is designed to make us passive recipients of what someone else thinks is good for us, the latest thing, the most pressing engagement. We rush through the days of December and then all of a sudden, January stretches before us, almost empty, questioning what we've just finished doing. January leaves us wondering what we've done with our lives, our faith and our relationships.

So, after the rush of the season, as we rush out of the season, let's think of what really matters. Let's take a step back and work to be deliberate, to live disciplined lives with the goal of making our living a means of grace to those we encounter. It takes work. It's not easy... in the immortal (?) words of Tom Hanks' character in *A League of Their Own*, "Of course it's hard. If it weren't hard, everyone would do it."

Everyone won't do it. Most folks will just let life happen to them and let grace break in where it will. But our calling is to be the ones bringing grace. It's work. It takes discipline. But it's worth it.

Happy New Year,

Baron

Adult Sunday Morning Classes Resume This Month

One group meets in Room 107 at 9:15 a.m., working their way through the Bible using the History Channel's series "The Bible" as a guide, while enjoying breakfast and coffee (Jan. 12, 19, 26). The class in Room 201 meets at 9:45 a.m. starting Jan. 5. Child care is available during both these sessions.

Prayer Concerns

Members of our community have asked for individual prayer. 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: Judy Brooks, The family and friends of Grier Christenbury, Jean Clark, Jackie Cleveland, Tarrance Eatman, Travis Drake, Kristi Ferrick, Brenda Fishpaw, Ann Herndon, Finley Holaway, Kaitlin Andry, Ron and Ann Reggio, Peggy Johnson Smith, Warren Johnson, Sr., and Sharon Foote, Gayle Jones, Holly Klotz, Jan McMahan, Meghan Pauls and Alex Page, Anne and Nate Reid, Emil Sanders, John Vytal, and Katrina Weis.

Elder on Call

Michael Perez	January 5-11
Sue Ballay	January 12-18
Peter Cobb	January 19-25
Bonnie Daneker	January 26-31

Deacon on Call

Jill Klotz	January 5-11
Duncan Spears	January 12-18
Ann Bowers	January 19-25
Curt Barrett	January 26-31

Summer Stuff Already? Youth Activity Forms Due Now

Registration for two out-of-town 2014 Youth Summer Trips are due on Sunday, Jan. 5 for the Montreat High School Conference (June 1-7) and "Rising 8th and Up" Mission Trip to Government Street Presbyterian, Mobile, AL (July 13-18).

There also will be a new Youth Track Mission Camp (completed 6th-12th grade only) July 21-25, for which registrations are due Feb. 2. (Regular Mission Camp registration forms for completed 2nd-5th graders will be made available starting Feb. 1 with a later due date.)

MPP Announces Dates for Registration, Tours, FUN-Raising

Early registration for currently enrolled families and MPC members begins Tuesday, Jan. 21. You can now download the necessary forms at www.morningsidepc.org/preschool/registration_procedure.html. Please submit your application no later than February 2 as open registration will begin the next day. Applications should be completed and returned to Sarah Tomaka, Preschool Director. Our preschool's final Parent Tour for the term will be Monday, Jan. 13, at 9:15 a.m. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about our Preschool Program, please contact the director at mpp@morningsidepc.org or call 404/685-8758.

It's also time to hold your calendars (and get ready to open your hearts and wallet) for the 2014 MPP FUN-Raiser beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Le Maison Rouge (inside Paris on Ponce). The event promises to be a fun evening of celebrating our preschool and mingling with our extended MPP family. Much as in previous years, the centerpiece of our event is a Live and Silent Auction featuring donated items from neighborhood merchants, MPP families, teachers and of course the art projects from each class. Tickets will go on sale this month.

Don't Overlook Social and Service Choices This Month

- Tuesday, Jan. 7—Men are invited to dinner and discussion at Theology on Tap, hosted by Alan Bremer (785 Cumberland Rd., 30306). RSVP to the church office for this 7 p.m. event.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8—One Gray Hair will meet at noon for lunch in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Officer Reddick, an Atlanta police officer and member of the Morningside/Lenox Park Security Patrol, who will talk with us about crime prevention and ways to keep safe.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8, through Sunday, Jan. 12—Come serve dinner (prepared by others) and visit with the residents at the Shearith Israel Women's Shelter from 6–8 p.m. Men are welcome to help and overnight stays are no longer required. Sign up with our shepherd Phyllis Grimes (grimes2230@bellsouth.net).
- Sunday, Jan. 12—The Couples Group will serve at Journey shelter for men.
- Saturday, Jan. 18—Roll up your sleeves from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. offering basic repairs to help senior citizens in Decatur maintain their homes and independent lifestyles. No tools required! Sign up on the bulletin board or reach out to Jack Klotz or Lloyd Prince for more info and plan to meet at the Solarium at the Community Center of South Decatur (321 W. Hill St, 30030, in the Oakhurst section), by 8:30 for breakfast and then to travel to your assignments.
- Saturday, Jan. 25—Provide a dish and/or help serve at Clifton shelter. See the bulletin board for more info on what to bring or contact our shepherd David Johnston (dmjohnst@gmail.com).
- Monday, Jan. 27—Last day to RSVP for our Congregational Lunch on Feb. 2. Suggested donations are \$10 adults, \$5 for children. We ALWAYS allow for some visitors on the day of, so never hesitate to invite your pew neighbor to come down to lunch, but RSVPs help us not have an overabundance of food.
- Monday, Jan. 27—Women's Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Leslie Grant, MPC member and newly elected to the Atlanta School Board, will be our speaker. Location to follow.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 <i>MPP & Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>2 <i>MPP Winter Break</i> 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>3 <i>MPP Winter Break</i></p>	<p>4 9 a.m. AA Meeting</p>
<p>5 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion 12 noon Fellowship 1:30 DOOR Board Meeting 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Group</p>	<p>6 <i>MPP Winter Break</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society</p>	<p>7 <i>MPP Winter Break</i> 11 a.m. Yoga 2:15 p.m. Parkinson Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Pulse PNC Worship Service; Theology on Tap 7:30 p.m. Troop 455; MLPA Zoning</p>	<p>8 <i>Shearith Israel Shelter for Women</i> 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon One Gray Hair Luncheon 1 p.m. MusiCanopy 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 <i>Shearith Israel Shelter for Women</i> 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Playball Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir</p>	<p>10 <i>Shearith Israel Shelter for Women</i> 9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. KidzTennis 7 p.m. Couples Group</p>	<p>11 <i>Shearith Israel Shelter for Women</i> 9 a.m. AA Meeting</p>
<p>12 <i>Shearith Israel Shelter for Women</i> 9:15 a.m. The Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship/Officer Ordination and Installation 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Children's Worship Leaders' Meeting 5 p.m. Youth Group 6 p.m. Journey 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.</p>	<p>13 8:15 a.m. MPP Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 9:15 a.m. MPP Parent Tour 1 p.m. Ballet/Tap 7 p.m. Mandolin Society 7:30 p.m. MLPA</p>	<p>14 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets Art Class; Playball 2:15 p.m. Parkinson Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Preschool Committee 7:30 p.m. Troop 455</p>	<p>15 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MusiCanopy 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 9 a.m. MPP 12 noon 3rd Thursday Theology 1 p.m. Playball Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir</p>	<p>17 9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. KidzTennis</p>	<p>18 9 a.m. AA Meeting 8 a.m.—1 p.m. MLK Senior Project Day</p>
<p>19 9:15 a.m. The Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 12:30 p.m. RHO Readers 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.</p>	<p>20 <i>MPP and Church Office Closed</i> 7 p.m. Mandolin Society</p>	<p>21 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets Art Class; Playball 2:15 p.m. Parkinson Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. Session 7:30 p.m. Troop 455</p>	<p>22 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MusiCanopy 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Youth Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Playball Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir</p>	<p>24 9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. KidzTennis</p>	<p>25 9 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m. Clifton Sanctuary</p>
<p>26 9:15 a.m. The Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Worship 12 noon Fellowship 5 p.m. Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Meditation Grp.</p>	<p>27 <i>RSVP deadline for Feb. 2 Congregational Lunch</i> 8:15 a.m. MPP Yoga 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Ballet/Tap 6:30 p.m. Women's Roundtable 7 p.m. Mandolin Society; Parliamentarians</p>	<p>28 9 a.m. MPP 11 a.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Mini Monets Art Class; Playball 2:15 p.m. Parkinson Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers 7 p.m. LGBT & Friends 7:30 p.m. Troop 455</p>	<p>29 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. MusiCanopy 6 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Youth Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30 9 a.m. MPP 1 p.m. Playball Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir</p>	<p>31 9 a.m. MPP 9:30 a.m. Creative Movement 1 p.m. KidzTennis</p>	

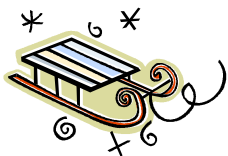
Your Session at Work: December 16 Meeting

- Outgoing and newly elected officers enjoyed supper prepared by **Philip Hawkins** to start off the annual joint meeting of deacons and elders. Examinations consisting of faith-journey stories, what brought each to MPC and how each planned to serve as a deacon or elder were conducted and Session voted to install or ordain and install each of the candidates on Jan. 12 (**Bobbie McCrackin**, who was not present, will be examined on Jan. 5) . Congratulations to new deacons **Shirley Adair, Sarah Chatel, Robin Hackney, Sandy Jones, Peter Tuuk** and **Nathan Zook** and elders **Beth Baer, Will Barnette, Lisa Jern, Jack Klotz** and **Duncan Spears**.
- This year elders completing their terms were recognized with gratitude for their service and original renderings of the church building created by **Durf Humphries**. Presentations were done by **Bonnie Daneker** for **Mary Chapman, Eleanor Attwood** for **Tony Fishpaw, Laura Fillyaw** for **Shannon Harris, Van Jensen** for **Daisy Ottmann** and **Leslie Prince** for **Randy Parrish**.
- **Hillery McNeill**, on behalf of the Planning Committee, opened a discussion of the availability of the house next to the preschool parking lot for purchase. Rarely is there an opportunity to acquire property adjacent to our current church campus. Session agreed to gather additional information about rezoning that land to commercial use, as well as to its potential uses as a building site.
- Kudos to **Melinda Sandkam**, the youth who acted as stage crew, the young actors and singers, and all the

parents and friends who helped prepare, stage, cook and serve the wildly successful Christmas Pageant/ Soup and Chili Supper. Every year, this evening is rated “the best one yet.”

- New committees have formed to steer Young Adult activities and to expand and strengthen our Adult Education programs. In February there’ll be a four-week joint call on service (or ‘mission’) in conjunction with the February Season of Service (see Page 6).
- Finance Committee Chair **Caroline Tanner** and Treasurer **Randy Parrish** shared their sense of where our church would end the year financially and the effects on next year’s programming. Historically, the gap between the pledged amounts on which we base our annual spending and the amount actually collected during the year is closed by year-end gifts. This year our larger-than-usual deficit most likely will not be covered; however, our ministry teams have managed their budgets carefully and with the expected holiday giving we should come out close to even for 2013. The Commitment team reports that even with the modest request for increase needed to support staff and activities for 2014, pledges are lagging and plans may need to be re-evaluated. (Editorial note: if you still plan to catch up your 2013 pledge or enter a new pledge for this year— please do it now! You can manage it conveniently on line in the Member section of our www.morningsidepc.org website.)

Daisy Ottmann
Clerk of Session



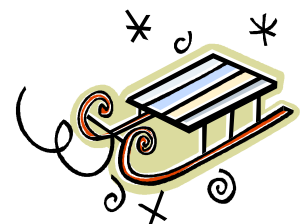
January Birthdays

- 2 James Klotz
- 3 Jack McNeill
- 4 Kim Perez
- 4 Meghan Keller
- 4 Jack Klotz
- 5 Ellen Behm
- 6 Suzanne Walker

- 8 Lynn Young
- 8 Katrina Weis
- 9 Ashley Hoffman
- 10 Gregory Dorsey
- 10 Marshall Johns
- 10 Shari Tant
- 10 Betsy Holland
- 11 Amelia Smith
- 12 Jane Stack
- 12 John Watson
- 12 Monirah Womack
- 12 Carolyn Morton
- 14 Lynn Daniel

- 14 Michael Lampe
- 15 Jim McKelvey
- 17 Kate Scribner
- 17 Heather Scribner
- 18 Vanessa Ryan
- 19 Tish Woolley
- 20 Jim Caudill
- 20 Jeanne McCarthy
- 21 Jonathan Sharpe
- 21 Dale Glendening
- 24 Jennifer Wise
- 26 Brad Millard
- 28 Melanie Davidson

- 28 Tim Gargis
- 29 Suzanne Macpherson
- 29 Ashley Myers
- 29 Emma Gay
- 29 Emily Healy



This February, Help Those In Need and Connect With What's Most Meaningful About Being a Christian

Morningside's first **Season of Service** will be at full speed throughout February. We challenge you and your friends to get involved in the wide variety of service opportunities offered through MPC. Take time to check out a new outreach ... or bring an old friend or new member along with you as you help out your regular outreach. Enrich your February by using your time and talents to bless the lives of others. Important dates to put on your calendar:

Sunday, Feb. 2:

- Season of Service Kickoff Souper Bowl Offering Congregational Lunch
- Welcome Professor John Azumah from Columbia Theological Seminary who will lead a joint adult Sunday School class on global outreach (the first joint adult class this month with a service focus)
- Sign-up deadline for March 12-16 Lenten Mission Trip to RHINO. (Turn check written to MPC for \$225 into trip leader Roland Behm by Feb. 2.)

Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 5-9:

- Volunteer at Shearith Israel Women's Shelter. Help from 6 to 8 p.m. warming up dinner (provided by others) and serving as the women arrive from their daily work or job searches. Kitchen cleanup follows. Men are welcome. If you wish to help, contact Phyllis Grimes at grimes2230@bellsouth.net or sign up on the mission bulletin board.

Saturday, Feb. 8:

- Families Serving Together (mark calendars to serve with your children) MPP will do a special SOS February collection

Saturday, Feb. 15:

- Serving with HOMES for seniors

Saturday, Feb. 22:

- Kickoff for our next Habitat for Humanity Build Our House Fundraiser Event
- Celebration for Season of Service



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