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Church Office Hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

January 2008 Worship at Morningside

January 6, 2008

Preaching – The Reverend Dave Henry

Sermon: “Called to Equip”

Text: Joshua 24:14-15; Ephesians 4:11-16

**Epiphany/Ordination and Installation of
Chris Henry as Associate Pastor**

January 13, 2008

Preaching – Joanna Adams

Sermon: “Hit Send”

Text: Acts 2:43-47; Matthew 28:16-20

Installation of Elders and Deacons

January 20, 2008

Preaching – The Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Roberts

Pastor Emeritus, Ebenezer Baptist Church

Atlanta, GA

**Sermon: “Dr. King: Everlasting and
Evergreen”**

Text: John 15:5

**The sacrament of baptism will be
celebrated.**

January 27, 2008

Preaching – Joanna Adams

Sermon: “Facebook.com”

Text: Psalm 139

**The sacrament of baptism will be
celebrated.**

New Member Sunday

Annual Meeting after church

MPC Seeks Your Input for Vision, Plans

"You can't get anywhere if you don't know where you're going." An old saying proved true by Morningside's 2005 strategic planning initiative, the output of which was a planning document known as Vision 2010.

As we enter 2008, your Session, noting that many goals have been met as much as three years ahead of schedule, has convened a new Strategic Planning Committee. But this group can't—and won't—work alone. They're seeking your ideas, opinions and visions for a new five-to-ten year plan.

The committee, headed by Kathy Bremer, is offering multiple ways to hear your thoughts. One will be a series of "listening sessions," which have been effective in encouraging participants to share, spark enthusiasm and jog memories. The first will be held at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 16 and the others following worship on Jan. 20 and Feb. 3. All sessions will be in Fellowship Hall. There also will be questionnaires available at the church and on-line and written notes are always welcome.

"The goal is for everyone to be heard, members and visitors as well," Kathy says. "We want to understand our congregation's long-term hopes as well as immediate needs."



Results from the idea-collecting efforts will be considered at the Session's February planning retreat.

Messenger Changes Focus, Distribution Method

Noting the growth in content and popularity of our newly redesigned church website, the bulletin insert Life @ Morningside, and our weekly e-mail, News from Morningside, the Communications Committee has reconsidered the mission and production realities of *Morningside Messenger*. To speed delivery, free up staff resources, save postage—and save trees!—everyone who has an e-mail address on file in the church office will receive the newsletter electronically as soon as it's published.

Those who do not have an e-mail address will continue to receive paper copies of the *Messenger*, as will anyone who requests it by regular mail. A request form is available.

The content also will change to reflect the availability of many of the calendar-type items now easily found on-line or in Life @ Morningside. Instead, the newsletter will feature longer, deeper articles with more theological and mission focus, plus a new column, a monthly pastoral letter.

Morningside Milestones

- *Morningside Cooks*, the first-ever collection of treasured recipes from our congregation's kitchens, went on sale just in time to solve Christmas shopping dilemmas. But what about upcoming birthdays and other giving occasions, to say nothing of finally finding out how Ruthlyn Newell makes those Cheese Wafers? Copies are \$12, benefit our mission outreach, and are available from the office.
- A Christmas gift to Morningside! Joining us on Dec. 16 were Barbara Brooks, Martha Jondle, Laura Marshall, Loretta Pinkston and Shelley Senterfitt.

Construction Scrambles Offices, Meeting Spaces

The inevitable prices of progress are change, disruption and confusion until the dust settles. The good news is that work begins now to make all levels of our church accessible and secure, thanks to the *A Time of Promise* capital campaign. Until the construction is finished, however, we're all going to need to be flexible as the staff and Space Allocation Committee work to assure that there's a place for everything until the project is completed this summer.

Beginning Dec. 27, a fence running from the front sidewalk to the choir entrance sidewalk will seal off the south entrance and the row of parking spaces closest to the building. Both sidewalks will be open and usable, however. Signs will direct us to follow the church's front sidewalk to the main door for entry. Parking alternatives to the south lot are on the other side of the church, near the preschool entrance, the church driveway and, for overflow parking, to use Morningside Drive and Wessington Road.

Classrooms on the south end will relocate. Chris Henry's adult Sunday school class, *Exploring the Book*, will meet in the room formerly called the Parlor, at the other end of the hall from where the class has been meeting. The Parlor will be reconfigured into a classroom. Elementary-age children will find their Sunday school class downstairs in Room G1, once known as the Venture Crew Room. Youth will meet in Room G3, also Melinda's office. Not every classroom will change: Preschoolers will stay in Room 204, Toddlers and Twos will stay in Room 112 and the Nursery will remain in its current location.

The pastor's office and the church office will stay put during construction; however, one of the

benefits of the work will be moving those offices to the area now designated as the Morningside Room, giving those who use the new main entrance direct access to our church headquarters.

However, Melinda Sandkam is temporarily working out of G3 downstairs, which doubles as the Youth Room, and Ray McCullough has temporary quarters in a converted storage room below Joanna's office. It's expected they will move upstairs to newly configured spaces in Room 203 upon completion of the project. The counseling center upstairs will relocate permanently to another address. Contents of our library and church archives are being stored in a climate-controlled facility off-site for the duration.

In a move that will be permanent—and more accessible once the elevator is installed—the after-worship fellowship time now takes place in Fellowship Hall, below the Sanctuary.

Finally, during construction some meeting logistics remain fluid. The church office assigns all meeting rooms and is the best place to call to find out where your January meeting will be held. We'll essentially have three meeting rooms: the Parlor, the Session Room and Room G1. Larger groups may choose to reserve Fellowship Hall.

Here's a summary of likely room assignments:

RHO Readers – Parlor/"new Morningside Room"
Prayer Group – Room G1
Venture Crew – Room G1
Session Committees – Session Room
Women's Bible Study – New Morningside Room

Morningside Calls Chris Henry as Associate Pastor

Worship services will be especially joyous Sunday, Jan. 6, as Christopher A. Henry is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and installed as Associate Pastor of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Chris has served Morningside as seminary and pastoral intern since April, 2005, and was called to his new position by unanimous vote of the congregation. In November, he passed final examination by the Presbytery and received approval for ordination.

Many important contributors to Chris' faith journey will either take part or be present for the ordination ceremony. Not the least is his father, the Rev. David Henry, who will preach the ordination sermon, "Called to Equip." He currently serves as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City, MO.

In all, nine members of Chris' immediate family will attend, including his psychologist mother, Jackie, who also was present for his presentation to Presbytery; his sister Elizabeth and her husband Kevin from Boone, NC; his brother Josh, a freshman at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO; and his sister Emily, a senior at Jefferson City High.

Chris literally grew up in the church, mostly in Woodleaf and Greensboro, NC. "I loved the life of a pastor's kid," he recalls, "so much so that I often accompanied by father back down the aisle at the end of services and greeted each member alongside him." Chris entered Duke University with the intention of preparing for a career in elected office. However, courses and influences turned his thoughts toward a major in Religion.

One transforming experience was a student trip to Haiti, where he witnessed poverty "that defies description." While working with and for persons in such different circumstances, he first felt God's call to ministry. Another was the depth and power of his studies of scripture, particularly the Letters of Paul.

In his sophomore year, Chris accepted the opportunity to preach for the summer at a church of 17 members. Instead of being a 12-week assignment, the experience led him to join the church and preach there every week for almost three years. "I was able to work with Dr. Orval Wintermute, a retired Duke professor and stated-supply pastor of that small church," Chris says. "Orval taught me the meaning of pastoral care, compassion, and concern. In a very real way, the small congregation in Warrenton, NC, opened my eyes and my ears to God's call in my life."

The Rev. Dr. Wintermute will be one of the witnesses to the service of ordination, Chris is proud to announce.

Chris entered Columbia Theological Seminary in the summer of 2004 and graduated last spring, when he received numerous awards as an outstanding scholar. He adds, "But some of my greatest lessons were taught in hospital rooms, prison cells, congregational meetings, homeless shelters and countless other places where glimpses of holiness can be found."

During the summer, Chris became engaged to Sara Hayden, who is in her third year at
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MPC Calls Associate

(continued from Page 4)

Columbia, and they are planning to wed later this year. Sara, too, will take part in the ordination, leading the congregation in prayer.

Joanna is amazed at the path taken since she and Carolyn Morton initially interviewed Chris for an intern position. “Morningside is blessed to have Chris as one of our pastors and I feel personally blessed to have him as a colleague and a friend,” she says.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, chaired by Carolyn Morton and including Ian Bresnahan, Bart Engram, Collier Maxwell and Emilie Paille, received and considered numerous applications and interviewed other candidates for this half-time position. “We concluded we could not offer the position to a more outstanding person than Chris Henry,” Carolyn said in presenting the committee’s recommendation at the congregational meeting Nov. 4.



Born to the Pulpit? Chris Henry accepts Morningside’s call as Associate Pastor

Responding to the congregation’s call, Chris quoted from the PC(USA) Book of Order’s charge to officers to serve with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love” and claimed that as his charge for service at MPC. Members present also responded—with not one, but two standing ovations.

Excerpts from Chris Henry’s Statement of Faith

“I believe in one triune God who exists mysteriously as one substance in three persons. Those three persons, traditionally called Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coexist in a perpetual relationship...The loving relationships among these three persons create both unity and diversity within God’s very being. God is sovereign, just, merciful, and seeks to be in covenantal relationship with all of humankind. The Triune God is active within the world, both inside and outside the bounds of the institutional church...

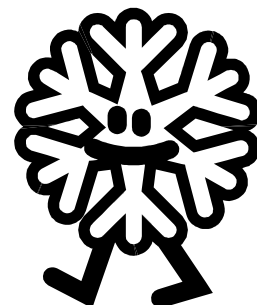
“I believe in God, the creator and sustainer of the universe...time after time, God offers divine forgiveness in answer to human sin...I believe in Jesus Christ, fully divine and fully human....I confess with my lips and

believe in my heart that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, and that he will return in final victory over the powers of sin and death....I believe in the Holy Spirit, who exists in all places as the giver of life and of new life....The Spirit compels us to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, to seek and save the lost, to reach out to those in deepest need, to welcome the stranger, to honor all people, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

“As I await the coming of a new heaven and a new earth, where tears will be no more and the Triune God will be all in all, I rejoice in the belief that there is nothing on the earth, above the earth, or below the earth, that can separate me from the love of the Triune God.”

Up and Coming

- Start 2008 with a Wednesday morning of fellowship and Bible study led by Rev. Joanna Adams on **Jan. 2** at 9:15 a.m. to look at the *The Most Majestic Psalm*. Childcare provided in Room 105, with the Bible study moved to the “new Morningside Room,” our former Parlor at the exact opposite end of building from our former classroom. Park on either side of the building, and enter either through the front door or pre-school side entrance.
- Elementary age children begin the year with a treasure hunt at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, **Jan. 6**, exploring their new classroom downstairs in Room G1. Youth will meet in their new location, Room G3. In January, the Youth welcome volunteer leaders for Sunday school while our Youth Intern Rebekah Diehl takes a seminary trip to Hungary and The Czech Republic. In the “new Morningside Room,” the adult class *Exploring the Book* will open a five-week series “Let Justice Roll: The Old Testament Prophets speak to the Church of Today” led by Chris Henry.
- Another special event featuring our wonderful Wicks-Coulter pipe organ will be a recital at 8 p.m. Tuesday, **Jan. 8**, in conjunction with the American Guild of Organists’ annual meeting. The concert is free and childcare will be provided.
- The results are in: The RHO Readers conversation and book club moves its monthly meetings to the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the “new Morningside Room.” **Jan. 13** we will discuss Beryl Markham’s *West with the Night*. All women are welcome.
- A growing number of men gather for social events and “Theology on Tap” studies. On Tuesday, **Jan. 15**, meet at 7 p.m. at the home of David York (3460 Kingsboro Rd. NE #835, 30326). Chris Henry will lead a discussion of “Faith & Politics.” Our next social gathering will be at Manuel’s at 5 p.m. on Sunday, **Jan. 27**.
- Our 3rd-5th graders now gather for their own children’s worship. We also began going on outings together with the Atlanta Community Food Bank as our next stop Saturday, **Jan. 19**. These youngsters represent the future youth of MPC and we invite volunteers to contact Melinda Sandkam if you would like to help on Sunday mornings or for special outings. We are seeking Sunday morning volunteers willing to take two weeks at a time.
- Throughout the winter, we continue to provide meals on second Tuesday evenings for the men at the Druid Hills Night Shelter and lunch for Common Ground. Sign up with a group or some friends! We’ll serve supper for the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on Saturday, **Jan. 26**.
- Rebuilding just doesn’t happen overnight. Fortunately, organizations such as the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance realize this and plan for building needs for years to come – the average plan for a major disaster such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is seven years. With this in mind, volunteers from Morningside are returning to Pearlinton, MS, this Lenten season to continue our work with a community that is gaining ground bit by bit. The Mar. 10-14 mission trip for adults will cost \$80-\$100. Sign up so we can meet our commitment of 15 spots by the **end of January**. Contact Richard Brownlee for details.



Your Session at Work: December 17 Meeting

Our *A Time of Promise* campaign and work continues. (See story Page 3) Minor inconveniences are signs of progress as construction begins to make our church safer and more accessible. In the meantime, **Kathy Bremer**, campaign chair, reports she and **Hillery McNeill** are working on grant applications and other external outreach to close the funding gap between our \$1.5 million in pledges and the \$1.95 million needed to complete construction.

Kathy and **Leslie Prince** are leading a team working to update MPC's strategic plan. Listening sessions are set to begin in January and conclude in early February. The team is anxious to hear from everyone, so don't be reticent about sharing your ideas about our church's future. (See story Page 2)

Property Chair **Lloyd Prince** and Facilities Manager **Ray McCullough** have drafted a thorough and thoughtful facilities usage policy for MPC and submitted it to Session for review and comment. The Session will share comments with Lloyd and Ray in the coming weeks and then vote on the policy at the January meeting.

Christian Education Chair **Emilie Paille** did a most unusual thing at the meeting. She introduced the idea of a non-class class Sunday mornings. Rather than conducting a second adult Sunday school class, why not just let folks gather in fellowship over coffee and pastries? So many of us enjoy our Sunday morning conversations in the Narthex, which is just way too crowded, so Emilie's plan is to encourage conversations in the Session room and nearby hallway where we can spread out a bit.

Sarah Tomaka announced that **Kim Perez** will chair the Preschool Committee in 2008. Thanks, Kim.

Communications Chair **Lynn Hogue** and Newsletter Editor **Daisy Ottmann** shared plans for the newsletter: it's going electronic. (More details on Page 2)

Morningside Messenger will be available primarily only via e-mail and on the church's website, with paper copies going only to those who do not have e-mail or request *Messenger* by mail. Lynn also reminded everyone to check out the church's new website at www.morningsidepc.org. The information such as the monthly calendar you're used to seeing in the *Messenger* will now be available only on the website.

Joanna Adams will convene a task force to identify ways to better address emergency health care needs that might arise during worship. Among the things the group will discuss is a weekly physician/nurse on-call list. Security also is at the top of Joanna's list and she will be working to identify improvements we can make to better protect our safety and our property.

The Session unanimously re-elected **Randy Parrish** as Treasurer. Randy has dutifully and capably served five terms as MPC's Treasurer to date. Thank you, Randy.

Ruthlyn Newell

Clerk of Session

Michael Perez Spearheads MPC's Advocacy Mission

Elder Michael Perez, an attorney at the Mark F. Dehler law firm, chairs a new committee to investigate and encourage a mission of advocacy for justice at Morningside. As the 2008 Georgia General Assembly convenes, the Morningside Advocacy Committee will share information on the status of bills of concern to our faith community.

Two opportunities to get informed and get active are coming up. One is our next Community Forum, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m., featuring Rev. Wendell Phillips, public policy advocate for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who will discuss the current legislative session. As always, neighbors and friends are invited to this open meeting, held in Fellowship Hall.

Deadline to register for the annual Presbyterian Rally Day at the State Capitol is Jan. 23. The \$10 fee, made out to Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, goes to 1024 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta 30306, Attn: Gay

Alston, and includes the cost of lunch. Rally Day will be Thursday, Feb. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. at Central Presbyterian, 201 Washington St, across from Capitol. Speakers, discussion groups and expert facilitation will center around legislative issues related to children and water policy. There'll be a hymn sing on Capitol steps at noon after visit to the Capitol and an opportunity to meet with representatives. Lunch will be served at 12:30 at the church, followed by the afternoon discussion session.

"The Advocacy Committee will be providing opportunities to dig deeper into issues of concern, and most important, we'll be learning together how we best can have our voices heard by our elected officials," Michael says. For more information or to join the committee, contact Michael at 404 483.4465 or michaelperez@yahoo.com.