

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information

Please take time today and in the coming weeks to look at the various displays of Morningside’s history.

♦ **Library Window Display  
Through June 11**

Cookbooks, Articles about Jo McGee and Crystal Cromer, Cross-stitch Pattern and Worked Piece of Morningside, and Acrostic Poem Written in 1975 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

♦ **Information Hallway**

History Panel, Written History, Photographs  
Scrapbooks/Pictures of Mission Trips, the Morning  
Glories Clown Troupe, and Valentine’s Banquets

♦ **Trivia Answers**

- First two Pastors of Morningside: Rev. Lewis Brazel and Rev. Fred Dabney.
- The church that purchased Morningside: Thompson Street Baptist Church. Changed name to Cornerstone Baptist Church.
- The first two women Deacons: Frances Dabney and Bee Smith.
- Cornerstone donated the bell (visible from the double hallway) and the stained glass window (hanging in the Prayer Room).
- First couple married at new building: Patsy Gabrels (Lottie Johnston’s daughter) and Larry Cromer (Lawrence and Crystal Cromer’s son).

**Operation Christmas Child  
Items Needed for June**

Combs, brushes, fun band-aids, eating utensils, collapsible water bottles or bowls, nail clippers or files

**Wonder Junction (VBS)**

**June 23-27 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Registration is now open! Use the QR Code.



**We Still Need Volunteers for VBS!**

No teaching is required!

Your main goal is to assist children going from place to place, building relationships and having fun as you go! Please contact Laura if you are interested in helping with Wonder Junction VBS!

*We’re going to have a galloping good time!*

## Calendar

**Sunday, June 8**  
Infinite Mercy Rehearsal.....9:00  
Time of Prayer ..... 9:30  
Clarion Sounds Rehearsal..... 9:30  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... 10:00  
Anniversary Celebration ..... 10:30

**Monday, June 9**  
Children Leave for CentriKid Camp....12:00

**Tuesday, June 10**  
Bicycle Ministry.....8:00  
Staff Meeting ..... 10:00  
Scouts ..... 6:00

**Wednesday, June 11**  
Infinite Mercy Rehearsal.....5:00-6:30  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00

**Thursday, June 12**  
**Friday, June 13**  
Prayer Warriors.....9:30  
Children Return from CentriKid .....12:00  
**Church Office Closed**

**Nursery Schedule - June 1**  
**Please arrive no later 10:15 A.M.**  
Tammy Gillespie, Marie Sawyer  
Lynn Jakob, Greeter  
Zelda Schluder, Helper

**Deacons on Call**  
**June 8-14**  
Jack Dodds, John Rogers  
**June 15-21**  
Malcom McClure, Butch Rhoads

**Ministers on Call**  
**June 6-8**  
Laura White, 828-447-2175  
**June 13-15**  
Robert Mitchell, 864-597-3966

**The Record Speaks - June 1**  
Weekly Needs: \$12,468.62  
General Fund Receipts: \$15,548.97

**Donuts for Dad**  
**Sunday, June 15 9:00 A.M.**  
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall  
for donuts.  
Let’s celebrate Father’s Day together.



*Morningside Baptist Church*

*897 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302*

A Brief History of Morningside

1947 - 1959	Southside Baptist Church purchased one of the Army chapels from Camp Croft for \$2500. It was moved to the corner of Collins Avenue and S. Converse St. as a mission church for the “morning side of town” in 1949. Cost: \$20,000. An additional six classrooms and a basement were added at a cost of \$39,315.53. The first service in the chapel was held July 31, 1949. Rev. Lewis Brazell was named the first Pastor on September 21, 1949 when the mission church requested independence from Southside. Morningside became an official entity with 366 charter members in 1950. 459 people attended Sunday School. Members - Beulah Kilpatrick and Eddie Nunn - were present. Others who attended the first service were Joyce Broome Stewart and family, Rachel Boone and family, and the Alley family. When Rev. Brazell resigned, Rev. Fred Dabney became the second Pastor in 1952. During these years, Morningside built a new Sanctuary (Cost: \$275,000). Membership reached 932 by the end of the decade.
1960-1969	The 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated. Two plots of land were purchased (Cost of \$11,340). Rev. James Gibson was Pastor 1962-1965. VBS students numbered 286 in 1963. Rev. Joseph Crook served as Pastor (1966-1979). A new educational wing was built in the late 1960s at a cost of \$278,000, and renovations were made to other parts of the existing building. Parcels of land used for parking were purchased. Membership: 1037
1970-1979	Morningside celebrated its 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Youth Choir, a very strong group of vocalists, were trained under Minister of Music, David Peninger. An album was made by the choir in 1972. Harold Felmet became the Minister of Music the following year (resigned 1979). In 1973, the church voted to purchase land on S. Pine Street. Membership was decreasing due to urban renewal. Thompson St. Baptist Church (later named Cornerstone Baptist Church) purchased the facilities. Worship services were held at Pine Street Elementary School during the construction that consisted of a new Sanctuary, educational wing, office, choir room, social hall, and kitchen. Rev. Mike McGee was called to serve as Pastor in 1979. Don Nickson began serving as Director of Music that same year. Membership: 918
1980-1989	The church celebrated its 30 <sup>th</sup> and 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. During this decade, great emphasis was placed on mission trips, reaching out to the community, and expanding the church facilities. Sixteen trips were taken internationally and nationally. Activity nights were well-attended. A new wing of educational space was built in 1981. Five cookbooks were published, including one entitled <i>Crystal’s Cooking</i> (by Crystal Cromer, Hostess) and <i>Bread for the Body and Soul</i> (Jo McGee, Pastor’s wife). The Morning Glories Clown Troupe, a ministry of encouragement, was begun in 1985. Bonnie Towery joined the staff in 1987 as Children and Youth Minister, and Keith Taylor, Pastor of Education, came in 1989. The church’s first female deacons, Frances Dabney and Bee Smith, were elected.
1990-1999	The 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated. Jackie Burgess Satterfield served as Music Minister 1992-2006. When Pastor McGee retired in 1996, Dr. Kirk H. Neely was called. With his arrival, membership grew rapidly. Many facilities were refurbished and mission trips continued to be taken each year. Dr. Neely introduced the Growing Together with God Initiative, sending the tithe from the Building Fund to church ministries all over the world. Jack Dodds was called as Pastor of Education and Outreach, Carole Johnson was called as Minister of Children, and Wayne Hyatt was called as Minister of Senior Adults.
2000-2010	The 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a major event. Former Pastors Gibson, Crook, and McGee attended, as did former members. The church voted to ordain women. Morningside began the construction of a new educational wing, Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall, and state-of-the-art kitchen (Cost: \$3,021,275.00). Dr. Neely designed the Gethsemane Prayer Garden following the death of his son, Erik. The Extreme Makeover added a multi-purpose building (making a weekday preschool possible). Major renovations to the office and choir spaces were made (Cost: \$2,205,186.00). Two additional buildings (Reidman and Caine) were purchased or donated. Nathan Neighbors was called as Youth Minister, Holly Irvin became Minister of Music. Almost thirty mission trips were taken during this decade.
2010-2020	Following Dr. Neely’s retirement in 2014, the church voted to enter an intentional period. Larry Jones served as the Pastor. Steve Kibbe served as Youth Director (2015-2020). Administrator Chris Kurtz and Holly Irvin filled in with sermons until the seventh Pastor, Steven Owensby, was called in 2016. By the end of his leadership in 2023), the balance of the Extreme Makeover (\$1,069,940.64) had been paid. Robert Mitchell came in 2017 as Worship Pastor, and Laura White joined the staff in 2019 as Pastor of Families.
2020-2025	The Corona Virus caused a major pandemic throughout the world. Morningside was affected, losing multiple members to the disease. Recovering from that time was a bit difficult. Connor Bastin was called in 2021 and served until 2024 as Youth Minister. The Search Team called Brandon Malone as Pastor in 2024. We look forward seeing what God has in store for us in the future under his leadership.

Morningside Celebrates Its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
June 8, 2025

<i>Prelude: “How Great Thou Art with Majesty”</i> .....	<i>Clarion Sounds</i>	
<i>Welcome and Invocation</i> .....	<i>Rev. Laura White</i>	
<i>Call to Worship and Praise: “Acclamation of Praise”</i> .....	<i>Clarion Sounds</i>	
<i>Percussion: Jana White, Steve Kibbe</i>		
<i>MSide Reflection</i> .....	<i>Lynn Alexander</i>	
<i>Worship in Song: “House of the Lord”</i> .....	<i>Infinite Mercy, Sanctuary Choir, Congregation</i>	
<i>Offertory Prayer</i> .....	<i>Joyce Stewart</i>	
<i>Offertory: Blest Be the Tie”</i> .....	<i>Paula Joye, organ</i>	
<i>Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i> .....	<i>No. 27</i>	
<i>Worship in Song: “Victory in Jesus”</i> .....	<i>No. 426</i>	
<i>“Bless the Father, O My Soul”</i> .....		<i>Sanctuary and Legacy Choirs</i>
<i>Recognition</i> .....	<i>Rev. Brandon Malone</i>	
<i>Worship in Song: “I Love You”</i> .....	<i>Kingdom Kids</i>	
<i>Striker Dodds, Brayden Allen, Declan Malone, soloists</i>		
<i>MSide Reflection</i> .....	<i>Malcom McClure</i>	
<i>Worship in Song: “From Generation to Generation”</i> .....	<i>Sanctuary and Legacy Choirs</i>	
<i>Multi-Generational Reading: The Green/Allen Family</i>		
<i>Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17</i> .....	<i>Kimberly Kibbe</i>	
<i>Message: Colossians: Jesus Is Greater - New Behaviors</i> .....	<i>Rev. Malone</i>	
<i>Invitation</i> .....	<i>Rev. Malone</i>	
<i>Hymn of Decision: “Take Time to Be Holy”</i> .....	<i>No. 446</i>	
<i>Closing Song: “Indescribable”</i> .....	<i>Infinite Mercy and Congregation</i>	
<i>Benediction</i> .....	<i>Rev. Malone</i>	
<i>Postlude: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”</i> .....	<i>Gail Medlin, piano</i>	