



Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

“Getting Easter Right”

Part of the challenge we often face in our discipleship is overcoming our tendency to “mail faith in.” In other words, we sometimes find it easy to fake faith by simply going through the motions of our devotion instead of putting our hearts into it. Of course, nowhere in the Bible is such an approach met with God’s approval.

But there are those seasons when doing the Word becomes much easier, seasons when the moment captures us and the meaning moves us. Easter is obviously one of those seasons. If you can’t get up for the celebration of Easter hope, then you have to wonder if you’re really alive.

I’m excited that for one year we’ve seen the calendar show kindness by separating the Easter season from Spring Break. The fact that we have almost a month’s separation means that we can anticipate maximum participation in all that we do at MBBC as a part of our Easter observances.

This year’s Holy Week schedule is coming up quickly. Palm Sunday will be April 14, where we will have our children begin the week with the traditional Procession of the Palms at both services. Then on Monday, we’ll begin our noon services, which will take us all the way through Good Friday. Our speaker this year will be Dr. Nash Wills, son of Jo Wills and brother of Ed. Nash grew up in this church and is now serving as pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Columbia, Alabama, down in Houston County. I’ve taken the opportunity during these Holy Week services to invite folk who grew up in our church and are now serving in ministry positions as a reminder of how MBBC has been faithful in creating “a culture of calling.” While as Baptists we believe that every believer receives a divine calling in life, we also must recognize that part of our responsibility as a faithful church is to invite members to consider such a calling to vocational ministry. Nash heard that call here at MBBC and we’ll surely be blessed as he shares from it each day from Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week.

The rest of the Holy Week schedule will be as follows. We will have our Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, after which we'll return to the noon schedule with our Good Friday service. Each of the noon services will be in the Chapel, followed by a luncheon in Heritage Hall. It will be a great week, leading up to another inspiring Easter Sunday.

Speaking of Easter, this year is the first one in a while when we've had two services happening at the same time, which will tax our parking capacity. We have secured permission from Mountain Brook Junior High School to use their parking facilities, and the Ministerial Staff, Deacons, and Associate Deacons will be parking there. I'd encourage those of you who are able to join us in doing so in order that we might make available as many spaces as possible here on our campus.

All of these activities and adjustments are intended to help us make Easter everything everyone will need it to be. All of them have the aim of making sure we get Easter right.

But then I don't know that we could get Easter wrong even if we tried. That thought alone holds the promise of eternal hope and a power that will sustain us in spite of our every weakness, infirmity, and shortcoming. It's enough to keep us going not just for one day on the calendar, but for every other day of the year as well.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, April 7

We will celebrate Generosity Sunday on Sunday, April 7. This special offering will go for a purpose above and beyond our generous support of our regular church ministry plan. This year, 100% of the proceeds will be given to missions, and we will collect offerings throughout the month of April. Simply mark “Generosity Sunday” on your gift (check memo line, envelope, online, text giving) for your contribution to be included in this special offering.

Easter Lilies

To give an Easter Lily in someone’s honor or memory, contact Barbara Morgan (803-3443 or barbara@mbbc.org). Cost is \$20 each. Deadline is Monday, April 15. The lilies may be picked up after the services on Easter Sunday, April 21. If you do not want to pick up your lily, please let Barbara know and we will deliver them to our homebound members.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins on Monday, April 15. Consider joining us for our Holy Week services as we meditate on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Holy Week Services at Noon

April 15, 16, 17, 19 | 12 p.m.

Join us for Holy Week services at noon in the chapel on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of Holy Week. Dr. Nash Wills, senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Columbia, Alabama, will be our guest speaker at our Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday services. Nash grew up at Mountain Brook Baptist Church; he is the son of Jo and the late Reid Wills, and the brother of Ed Wills. Our Good Friday service will be led by staff.

Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunch will be prepared by Cooks On A Mission and will be served in Heritage Hall following the noon services for \$8 per person. Here are the menus:

Monday Chicken Soup with Mini French Market Sandwiches, Cheesecake

Tuesday Baked Rigatoni with Ham, Lemon Pie

Wednesday BBQ Sandwiches with Apple Cabbage Slaw & Beans, Chocolate Cake

Friday Shepherd’s Pie & Asparagus, Strawberry Pie

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 18 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday is always a meaningful service of worship during Holy Week as we trace the last steps of Jesus on the way to the cross. The service will include the Lord's Supper and a presentation by the Sanctuary Choir and soloists Chris Farley and Dr. Timothy Paul Banks of Sir John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* (1887). This oratorio provides a meditation on the sacred passion story of Jesus' last moments. The service will conclude with the haunting chant of Psalm 22 which parallels Christ's suffering on the cross. The chant ends with "They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing." At the end of the service, the congregation will exit in darkness and silence. This service will leave an intense desire for Easter Sunday morning's glorious celebration.

Deacon-Led Prayer Vigil

Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, April 21 at 7 a.m.

The Deacons will lead a continuous silent prayer vigil from the evening of Good Friday until Easter morning; please take some time this Easter weekend to join our Deacons in silent prayer.

Easter Egg Hunts

Saturday, April 20

Join us on Saturday, April 20 at 3 p.m. in the lower parking lot for egg hunts and fun for the entire family! Our Preteen Progressive Easter Egg Hunt will happen that evening from 6-9 p.m. Check out the Children's Ministry section for more details about our Easter Egg Hunts.

Easter Sunday Services

Sunday, April 21 | 10:30 a.m.

The Traditional Worship Service will take place in the Sanctuary and will feature a brass quartet and timpani, and the Contemporary Worship Service will take place in Heritage Hall.

College & Career Night

Monday, April 29 | 6-8 p.m. | Student Ministry Area

College students and young professionals, you're invited to our final College & Career Night of the semester. Join us for free dinner and a night of Bible study, worship, and fellowship!

Cooks On A Mission Update & Monthly Sale

Wednesday, April 24 | 2-6:30 p.m.

The April Monthly Food Sale will be delayed until Wednesday, April 24, 2-6:30 p.m., due to Holy Week. Our new dishes for April will be our always popular French Market Sandwiches, and a new item, Chicken Pasta Alfredo. As always, we also will have remaining inventory from the past few months. It's a great time to stock up for summer trips to the beach or lake. Who wants to cook when you are on vacation? Our dishes will keep in your freezer for several months, especially if kept in the colder part away from the door. Make plans to join us on the first two Fridays of each month when we cook. Everyone is welcome, and no special skills are required. There is a job and warm welcome for all! Email cooksonamission@yahoo.com to get involved.

Backpack Buddies Team Leader Needed

We are looking for a new team member to take over overall leadership of our Backpack Buddies program, which provides weekend food for children at Tarrant Elementary, McAdory Elementary, and Grantswood Community School. This person would be in charge of making sure the food items are purchased (with help from other shoppers), scheduling the bags to be packed by RAs and GAs and/or WellHouse ladies, and monitoring the Sign-Up Genius to make sure people deliver the bags each week. COAM team members will provide training and backup support as needed. This job could also be shared among a few individuals. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please email us at cooksonamission@yahoo.com.

VISION 2020

Implementation Update

One of our Strategic Objectives under Discipleship for Vision 2020 was to research and offer online courses in discipleship development that provides users flexibility for spiritual growth.

RightNow Media is an online streaming library of Bible study resources available to every member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church that inspire faith daily. The site has thousands of free Bible studies for both individuals and groups and content for every age, gender, and stage of life.

RightNow Media has been an excellent resource for our Sunday Morning Bible Study classes as well as individual growth.

"It offers countless videos focusing on books of the Bible as well as current topics of application to daily living. We have used several videos for our class as an alternative to the standard lesson books we receive and the videos have been well received." John Scott, Mizpah Class

"I love using RightNow Media for our SMBS. Not only does it provide great videos and topics, it also provides a leader guide which gets our SMBS class in great discussions!" Ginger Phillips, Fellowship Class

Some other suggestions include the "What's in the Bible" series by Phil Vischer, which is an excellent video series for children. Also, the "Read Scripture" series by Tim Mackie has a video for every book of the Bible that outlines its literary design and main ideas, showing how it fits into the entire biblical story.

If you would like to access the content on the website, but have not yet set up an account, simply email Wayne Splawn (wayne@mbbc.org) to request an account. You will then receive an email from RightNow Media with easy to follow instructions on how to set up your account so that you can begin to access the online resources.

One thing you will notice when you log in is that you can click on a link for Mountain Brook Baptist Church that will provide some suggested resources you might find helpful. If you view a study you think is particularly helpful but that is not currently on the list of recommended resources, please let Wayne Splawn know so that we can add it to our recommended resources library. We hope that you will explore this valuable resource.

Meredith Cale, Vision 2020 Implementation Team

MISSIONS

Missions Spotlight: Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS)

ABTS is a part of a broader organization called the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD). LSESD works toward empowering the church and to serve communities in Lebanon and the Arab world. Nabil Costa is the CEO.

ABTS was founded in 1960 in a location overlooking Beirut. Since then, ABTS has trained hundreds of servant leaders for ministry in the Arab world.

The Arab world faces ever-changing ministry needs. Elie Haddad, the president of ABTS, reported that these graduates are serving in ministries that include pastoring churches, teaching the word of God at schools and colleges, leading home groups and Bible studies, training other leaders, serving refugees, leading worship, preaching, planting churches, starting Bible schools, leading youth meetings, serving in women and children ministries, and sharing the gospel through different media outlets.

ABTS classes are taught in Arabic. The residential program offers theological training as well as skill development for specific ministries, along with mentoring and training for personal growth.

In 2009, the ABTS curriculum was revised to be holistic, modular, and relevant for the ever-changing Arab world. The school regularly revises its curriculum to meet needs and challenges that churches in the region face. Online classes were started in 2015 to provide training to those who serve but cannot participate in the residential programs. A graduate said, “The online program has its own challenges, but it’s very effective. The chosen courses are suitable for daily ministry, for knowledge as well as application. The best part is that it’s flexible.”



ABTS founded The Institute of Middle East Studies in 2003. ABTS professor Martin Accad commented, “The annual Middle East Consultation event seeks to breathe new life into our program and to dispel rumors about various cultures and people from other regions. One goal is to bring about positive thinking between Christians and Muslims in the region. One avenue is to pursue educational peace-building and advocacy endeavors. Evangelical churches witness to Muslim communities globally. We seek models of greater faithfulness to Christ in witness through life, work, and speech that will lead to more faithfulness among the Muslim communities worldwide.” Their conference is held the third week in June of each year. This year’s theme is: “Thinking Biblically About Muslims, Muhammad, and the Qur’an: Practical Implications for the Church Today.”

MBBC has proudly partnered with ABTS for many years by making annual donations through our missions budget. In addition to church donations, several MBBC members have donated to specific needs of ABTS.

Dr. Doug Dortch, Martha and Chervis Isom, and Brenda and Doral Atkins recently visited the ABTS campus. In response to this visit Alia Abboud wrote, “We thoroughly enjoyed having you with us. Indeed, thank you for including LSESD/ABTS on your trip to the region. It was both an honor and a pleasure to share with you glimpses of the ministries that we’re involved in today as LSESD. It’s been on our hearts for some time now to see friends from Mountain Brook Baptist Church visit with us and get a closer view of the context where we serve, and the ministries that the Lord has entrusted us with as we seek to empower the Church and serve the local community—including empowering the Church to serve the community. The media has been quite successful in painting a one-sided negative view of our region—we wanted you to see the whole picture: yes, there are many challenges, but there are also many blessings including the blessing of seeing God very much at work both within, and through, our churches.”



Love Grantswood

Go Green

We had a great time at Grantswood helping with Go Green, the second grade's St. Patrick's Day Celebration! Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make Go Green possible.



Reading

Volunteers read to students every other Tuesday morning (9:30-10:30 a.m.); this is a great way to become invested in our community by getting to know students and build partnerships with teachers. The dates for spring 2019 are: April 9 & 23 | May 7 & 21

If you're interested in getting involved in reading in the winter/spring, contact Laurie Bowers (lauriebowers@att.net).

Breakfast Club

Visit with students who come for breakfast and develop relationships with the students; just show up between 7:10-7:15 a.m., sign in at the office, and head to the cafeteria! Cost for breakfast is \$2.25.

Backpack Buddies

Help deliver bags of food each week for students to take home so that they have food to eat over the weekend. If you would like to contribute toward Backpack Buddies at Grantswood, make your check payable to MBBC and note that it is for BPB at Grantswood. Visit mbbc.org/lovegrantswood to sign up to deliver bags of food to Grantswood. Note: we are also in need of a leader or several leaders to take over organizing Backpack Buddies; if you're interested in helping in this way, contact cooksonamission@yahoo.com.

If you would like to become involved with our ministry at Grantswood Community School, please contact Meredith Cale (meredithcale@gmail.com).

BOOK CLUBS

Second Monday Book Club

Monday, April 8 | 12 p.m. | Hudson Hall

Bring a sack lunch and join us in Hudson Hall for fellowship and discussion.

MBBC Book Club

Tuesday, April 9 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room

Join us in the Fireside Room for fellowship and discussion as Meredith Stutts leads our review of *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman. Bring a snack to share!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, April 12 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Parents, mark your calendar for an evening out from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Children can come to the church for dinner and lots of fun with friends. School-age children are welcome to bring a friend. Sign up no later than April 7. Email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to sign up.

Easter Egg Hunts

Saturday, April 20 | 3 p.m.

Join us in the lower parking lot for egg hunts and fun for the entire family! We will have music, crafts, and refreshments followed by age group hunts. Help is needed at different stations: crafts, refreshments, photos, and games. Please email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) if you can help during the hunt or hide eggs before the hunt.

Preteen Progressive Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20 | 6 p.m.

Preteens will meet in the church parking lot. Our first stop is at the home of William Keith for appetizers, followed by the main course at Bryant Diddell's, and we'll finish with dessert at the home of Laura and Mary Spann. We will hunt glow-in-the-dark eggs. Sign up by emailing Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).

In the Wild - Vacation Bible School

July 8-12

Help is needed in Vacation Bible School: preschool helpers, school age helpers, school age recreation leader, greeters, security team, kitchen and snack volunteers, and more. Please pray about how you can help and email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to volunteer.



Children's Camp - YMCA Camp Chandler

July 21-25

Camp is for children who have completed 1st-6th grade. We leave at noon on Sunday and return at noon on Thursday. The camp cost for MBBC members is \$350 if paid no later than June 1. After June 1 and for non-members, the fee increases to \$400. Please sign up soon by emailing Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).

For more information or to sign up for any of our Children's Ministry activities, contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org or 803-3445).

STUDENT MINISTRY

Chapel Choir

Sundays, April 7, 14, 28 | 5-6 p.m.

Chapel Choir will rehearse three times in April. We need you there, as we have limited rehearsals remaining to prepare for our June tour.

The Brook

Sunday, April 7 | 6 p.m. | Student Ministry Area

This will be our last “regular” Brook as we finish up our look at the Affirmation of the Faith.

Camping Trips

April 12-13

We’re going camping! The guys and girls will both be spending the night in the great outdoors, the guys at Oak Mountain State Park and the girls at Lake Martin. The trip is \$20 and you can sign up online at mbbc.org/camping.

The Brook - Easter Experience

Sunday, April 14 | 6 p.m. | Student Ministry Area

As we turn our eyes toward Holy Week, we’ll complete our “walk” through the Affirmation of the Faith with a literal walk through a “Stations of the Cross” experience. You will want to join us for this meaningful time considering what Jesus experienced in His journey toward the cross.

Golf Tournament - Student Day

Sunday, April 14 | Pine Tree Country Club

Students desiring to participate in the golf tournament benefiting our Family Mission Trip who are unable to play on Monday, April 22 may contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to play on Sunday, April 14 instead.

Senior Night at The Brook

Sunday, April 28 | 6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Family and friends are invited to join us for this special night as our soon-to-graduate High School Seniors share testimonies of how God has worked in their lives through Mountain Brook Baptist Church and our Student Ministry. Seniors, remember to let Ben Winder know if you’d like to share.

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 5

We will celebrate our High School Graduates on May 5 with a breakfast for graduates and their families in Hudson Hall at 9:15 a.m. We will also recognize these graduating seniors during both worship services that day. Seniors (High School and College), remember to complete the form at mbbc.org/graduates so your church family can celebrate with you.

Beach Retreat 2019

July 26-29 | Laguna Beach Retreat Center

Remember to save the date for Beach Retreat 2019. Early bird registration (\$175) is open now at mbbc.org/beachretreat.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Sharpen Up

Tuesday, April 9 | 6:30 a.m. | Heritage Hall.

Our hope for Sharpen Up is to provide an opportunity for guys of all ages to gather together for a hearty breakfast, an encouraging message from God's Word, and the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other guys who are trying to be all that God would have them to be. This month, Dr. Dortch will be sharing from one of his favorite passages of Scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6; be sure to invite a neighbor, co-worker, or friend to join us!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Monday Bible Study

Mondays (April 1, 8, 22, 29) | 11:30 a.m. -12:45 p.m. | Conference Room

On April 1, our Monday group begins a new study by Priscilla Shirer called "Breathe" which focuses on Sabbath rest. The group will meet on April 1, 8, 22, 29, and May 6. Bring your lunch and join us. Each week we will watch a video study and then follow it with group discussion and prayer.

Growth Groups

June and July | Times and Days TBA

Many women and men have participated in growth groups in the life of our church. Our hope is that the growth group experience would be a place for discipleship, accountability, and encouragement. We will offer several women's growth group opportunities this summer (one during the day and one during the evening, times to be announced). If you would like to participate, contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

Neighborhood Night

Tuesday, May 7

Save the date for our annual Neighborhood Night on Tuesday, May 7! Look for details to come in upcoming emails about location and sign-up.

April Luncheon: The Last Supper

Thursday, April 11 | 11:30 a.m. | *7

Hannaniah (Oliver) Pinto lived in Jerusalem, Israel, from 1983-2004. He is the Chief Program Officer at the Biblical History Center, a museum featuring the daily life in biblical times, headquartered in LaGrange, Georgia. He currently directs the study programs at Biblical Resources, and co-leads tours to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece. His teaching is focused on archaeology and the Jewish background of the Bible. His published book, *Jesus' Last Night with His Disciples, a Study of the First Century Historical and Archaeological Setting of the Last Supper*, provides many insights into the journeys to Israel.

April Monthly Trip: William Faulkner Home

Monday, April 8 | 8:30 a.m. (depart from church) | Cost \$15 plus lunch money

In 1930, William Faulkner purchased what was then known as “The Bailey Place,” a primitive Greek revival house built in the 1840s sitting on four acres of hardwood and cedar. Faulkner renamed it Rowan Oak in 1931 after the Rowan tree, a symbol of security and peace. Faulkner’s years spent at Rowan Oak were productive as he set stories and novels to paper, ultimately winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949, and the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award in 1954 for *A Fable*. William Faulkner remains one of the most celebrated authors in the world. Note: this trip is currently full, but you can call the church office to be added to the waiting list.

Please call the church office (871-0331) today and make your reservation for these events.



Meet Our New Members

We are so excited to welcome our new members to Mountain Brook Baptist Church. In the following pages, you are going to meet our new members and find out more about their faith journeys.

Interested in joining MBBC?
Talk to one of our staff members or
find out more at mbbc.org/im-new



Rachel & Chris Buechler Bella, Sophia, Giovanni



What led you to MBBC? Shortly after moving to Crestline, we started visiting churches in the area. After just one visit at Mountain Brook Baptist, we knew it was the church for our family; the people, the message, and the facilities all felt right.

Tell us about your faith. Rachel was raised in the church and had a very strong faith—Chris was raised Catholic but had many doubts and he was searching and investigating many philosophies and religions. One day a few years back, Rachel asked Chris to do her a favor and just pray for a sign from God to help his faith. He obliged and five minutes later a rarely-used home phone rang and it was one of Chris' clients, someone he hadn't heard from in years; the client apologized for calling and said he had just got out of a 90 day coma after slipping on icy concrete and cracking his skull. He went on and told Chris how he had died for a few minutes and came back and he just wanted to share how good God and Jesus are. That day was all Chris needed to believe :-). Chris was baptized with their daughter Bella at MBBC on February 24, 2019.

Where were you born and raised? Rachel was born and raised in the Birmingham area; her grandfather was constable of Talladega County for 40 years, and her grandmother was director of a children's ministry. Chris was born and raised in Mystic, Connecticut before moving with his family to Michigan when he was 10.

Where did you go to school? Chris went to Michigan State University and majored in Math and English. Rachel went to Jacksonville State and UAB and majored in Computer Science and Nursing.

Our hobbies are ... Chris' hobbies include photography, guitar, and piano, and Rachel's hobbies include Bible study, cooking, hiking, canoeing, and decorating

Our favorite restaurant is ... Gianmarco's.

Our favorite Bible verse is ... Joshua 24:15: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

Joined MBBC on November 18, 2018
(chrisbuechler@eicsoftware.com)

Generosity Scorecard as of March 24, 2019

2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$17,692.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$925,047.31
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$795,479.46
Weekly Net	-\$48,597.90
YTD Net	\$129,567.85

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:

\$2,522,030.69

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE

To give online,
visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE
to 73256.

MBBC Staff Members



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and Generosity.



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