



Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

“Love In Any Language”

Some years ago, Christian artist Sandi Patty recorded a song that struck a chord in churches both traditional and contemporary. “Love in Any Language” became a stock tune for congregations that felt the need to celebrate the universal appeal of deep expressions of emotion “straight from the heart,” as the lyrics go.

The song’s popularity then gave rise to a book by Gary Chapman, a Baptist minister in North Carolina, who took the concept of “love languages” and identified five such expressions, which he outlined in a best-selling book, *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*. The book lists five primary ways in which people best receive love from others: gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service or devotion, and physical touch. Chapman’s thesis is that even when you are expressing your love for another “straight from your heart,” it’s always helpful to know if what you think is the best way to show your love is the best way for the object of your love to receive it. If you wish to know what your “love language” is, there are plenty of online surveys you can take to identify it.

What I appreciate most about Chapman’s work is how he emphasizes the active nature of love. With apologies to Sandi Patty (and the vast majority of musicians), love is not merely an emotion. Unfortunately, that’s how we define it in our Western culture. We think that love is primarily something you feel. But when you look at how the Bible defines love, you see that it says that love is instead something you do. That’s not to ignore the emotion; it’s just to say that in order for our expressions of love to hit home, they have to be supported by tangible, practical, concrete deeds.

The month of February is known of course for Valentine’s Day. Expressions of love will abound all around, from grade school classes that distribute cards to everyone in the room to poignant displays of affection between adults who have committed their lives to the other. But as everyone knows, what someone says and what someone does aren’t always the same. If we want others to be convinced that we care, it’s always important for us to show it.

February is also a time for us as Jesus-followers to get in on the act. The first Christians burst on the scene in their society with a new way of showing love, something they called agape love, a very different expression of love from the eros (physical) and philos (fraternal) love that first century culture knew. Agape had to do with an unconditional love, which acted for the good of others without expecting anything in return. It was a “God-type” love, which acknowledges attributes in others that they may not even see in themselves. In fact, Christians showed such love to the world because they were compelled by the manner in which God had in Christ showed such love to them (1 John 4:19).

What difference might it make in our relationships if we really took such love seriously? I dare say that our words would touch hearts more because they would be supported by our deeds, and what was said so respectfully about believers in the first century world might also begin to be said about us today: “We know they are Christians by their love.”



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

Winter Discipleship Series: *How to Study the Bible*

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24 | 4-6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Winter Discipleship Series, *How to Study the Bible*, will continue during the month of February. Dr. Ken Mathews, Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, will teach on the Old Testament (February 3 and 10), and Dr. Osvaldo Padilla, Associate Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, will teach on the New Testament (February 17 and 24). Dinner will be served following the study (\$6 adults/\$3 children/\$18 maximum per family).

Sacred Spaces

If you haven't picked up a copy of *Sacred Spaces*, our revised publication honoring our beautiful stained-glass windows, copies are still available in the Narthex and in the church office for a suggested donation of \$20. Willet Hauser is the studio which designed our windows. Mountain Brook Baptist recently sent them a copy of *Sacred Spaces* so that they would have a copy to add to their archives. They returned the favor with a beautiful coffee table book detailing the history of their studio and some background on the stained-glass art form. This will be available in the church library for anyone who is interested in learning more about our windows and the artist behind them.

Grief Support Group

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24 | Fireside Room | 4-6 p.m.

A grief support group will be offered on Sundays from 4-6 p.m. The purpose of this group is to provide encouragement, prayers, and empathy for one another. Several video curriculums will be used to help facilitate the discussion. For more information, please contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

Cooks On A Mission Update & Monthly Sale

Monthly Sale on Wednesday, February 20 | 2-6:30 p.m.

Cooks On A Mission has been busy since the new year. We hosted the second meeting of Overcomers, the ministry outreach we formed at the request of The WellHouse to provide aftercare, connections, and education to WellHouse graduates. Our guest speaker for the January event was Hope Davis, a wellness pharmacist and member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Hope also cooked with us the following day. We also provided support to several WellHouse graduates as they began new jobs and moved on to independent living.

Our First Responders ministry continued to provide cakes to metro Birmingham firefighters, police officers, and state patrol officers, and we continued providing food bags for our Backpack Buddies partners at Helena Intermediate School, McAdory Elementary School, and Tarrant Elementary School. In addition, we packed the bags for Grantswood Community School's Backpack Buddies program. It takes a lot of time to shop, pack the bags, and deliver them, and we could not do this program without volunteers like Maria Bellot, and all those who deliver the food week in and week out. With the help of our congregation we help keep approximately 50 children from going hungry each weekend.

We hope you will continue to support our ministry by participating in our monthly food sale. In February, we will offer Shepherd's Pie, just in time for St. Patrick's Day, as well as our ever popular Chicken and Wild Rice Soup. In addition, we will have our Sourdough Missionary Bread, as well as Southwest Casserole with Beef and Black Beans, English Muffins with Sausage and Cheese, Coq au Vin, Over the Top Macaroni and Cheese, Cheesy Apple Casserole, Squash Casserole, and a few containers of Chicken and Dressing. Our food sale will be Wednesday, February 20, from 2-6:30 p.m.

Finally, please come join us the first two Fridays of each month as we cook. Whether you can only come by for an hour to put labels on containers or stay all day, you are welcome to find a place of service with us.

Staff Throwback Combined Service • Heritage Sunday

Sunday, February 24 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Join us in the Sanctuary as former MBBC Minister Bryant Strain shares a message with us during this Heritage Sunday service.

Increase in Wednesday Night Dinner Prices

Due to rising food costs, beginning Wednesday, March 6, our Wednesday night dinner prices will increase to \$7/adults, \$4/kids, \$20 maximum per family.

BOOK CLUBS

Second Monday Book Club

Monday, February 11 | 12 p.m. | Hudson Hall

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

MBBC Book Club

Tuesday, February 12 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room

Join us in the Fireside Room for fellowship as John Lee Taylor leads our discussion of *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham.

Missions Partner Spotlight: Arab Woman Today

In January, our church had the pleasure of hosting missions partners Ruba and Rev. Dr. Nabeeh Abbassi. Ruba founded and heads Arab Woman Today Ministries, an ongoing ministry whose targeted group is women ages 18-55 in 22 Arabic-speaking countries.



While she was at university, Ruba was surrounded by women without hope, women who would never enter the doors of a church. In 1999, she began the weekly radio program Arab Woman Today for the purpose of reaching and encouraging Arab women with the love of Jesus Christ.

In 2003, Ruba launched the first Network Conference for Women Leaders in the Arab World to become a strategic annual activity in the region. In the same year a website magazine was launched to reach out to the younger generation, giving them a platform to be heard and finding a safe place to ask about their lives and future.

Due to Ruba's perseverance and vision, the radio ministry has grown to include an online magazine, social media, and ground ministry, which focuses on training and equipping women on leadership and life management in Jordan and the Arab region. Today, the Arab Woman Today Ministry serves Arab women worldwide.

Ruba is married to Rev. Dr. Nabeeh Abbassi who heads the Arab Center for Consulting and Training Services and serves as the teaching pastor at West Amman Baptist Church. Nabeeh and Ruba have three sons: Ramzi (26), Rami (23), and Randy (19).

Love Grantswood

Upcoming Events at Grantswood Community School

Fairy Tale Ball (first grade event)

Wednesday, February 13 | 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed to assist with games, snack, a craft, and photo booth

Muffins for Moms

Thursday, February 14 | 7-8:30 a.m.

Volunteers needed to serve or bring muffins, juice, milk, and cases of water

Donuts for Dads

Friday, March 15 | 7-8:30 a.m.

Volunteers needed to serve or bring juice, milk, and cases of water

Go Green (second grade event)

Friday, March 15 | 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed to assist with games, snack, a craft and science experiment

We have several other opportunities where you can be involved:

Reading: Volunteers go to read 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 the winter/spring 2019 are:

February 12 & 26 | March 12 | 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.

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, February 8 | 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 February 3. Email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to sign up!

Daddy/Daughter Dinner

Saturday, February 9 | 6 p.m.

Dads, bring your daughter(s) to our annual dinner. We will have dinner, play games, and have a great time together. Sign up no later than February 4 by emailing Sharon (sharon@mbbc.org).

BCS (Bible Championship Series)

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 | 4-6 p.m.

Students in 1st-6th grade, join your friends as we memorize the Books of the Bible, Bible Verses, and Key Passage Locations. Skills are taught through Bible games and lots of fun. Bring your Bible and join us.

How Do I Become a Christian?

Sunday, February 3 | 9:15 a.m. | Chapel

Is your child ready to make the most important decision he or she can make? We will have the second class on Sunday, February 3 in the Chapel at 9:15 a.m. One parent must attend with your child. YOU are the most important influencer in your child's faith development. We want you to be able to follow up with conversation and prayer at home. Please sign up by contacting Sharon (sharon@mbbc.org).

I'm a Christian Now!

Begins Sunday, February 10 | 9:15 a.m. | Chapel

I have asked Jesus to be my Savior. What do I do now? How do I grow? Can God really use me? What are baptism and the Lord's Supper? Why did I need to wait until I am a Christian to be baptized and take the Lord's Supper? We will have a class on Sundays (February 10, 17, 24, and March 3) at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapel. Sign up by February 4 by contacting Sharon (sharon@mbbc.org).

Looking Ahead

Please make sure you have these dates on your calendar:

- Family Mission Trip - June 22-29
- Vacation Bible School - July 8-12
- Children's Camp - July 21-25

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

Pizza & Pops

Sunday, February 17 | 6 p.m.

We'll gather at the church then head to Pieology at the Summit for pizza (dutch treat) and Steel City Pops for dessert (church's treat). Invite some friends to join us!

Chapel Choir

Sundays, February 10, 17, & 24 | 5-6 p.m.

Join us as we prepare for our upcoming Spring Tour. There's a spot for you!

The Brook

Sundays, February 10 & 24 | 6-7:30 p.m.

You are invited to join us for our weekly time of worship, food, and fellowship for Jr. and Sr. High students. This semester we'll be looking at what we believe and why in a series we're calling *Creo*.

March Mission Summit

Friday, March 15–Sunday, March 17 | Birmingham | \$55

A new event for us this year, we'll stay in host homes and join other students from across the state for worship and serve in hands-on mission throughout Birmingham. Students (and adults who would like to serve with us) can sign up online at mbbc.org/missionsummit.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Growth Groups

Women's Growth Groups started back up in January. We would love for women to join existing groups or one of several new groups that will begin this spring. Groups will meet for 10 weeks of accountability, discipleship, prayer, and studying God's word together. Contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org) if you are interested in more information on joining a group!

Monday Bible Study

Resumes Monday, January 28 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Women's Monday Bible Study will resume meetings on January 28. We'll gather at 11:30 a.m. and begin our study at 11:45 a.m. This winter, we'll be doing a video study on discerning the voice of God by Priscilla Shirer. Here are the dates we will be meeting: January 28, February 4, February 11, February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Sharpen Up

Tuesday, February 12 | 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, Wayne Splawn will be sharing a devotion on one of his favorite passages of Scripture, Matthew 28:18-20; be sure to invite a neighbor, co-worker, or friend to join us!

ACTIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING

February Luncheon: An Undercover Mission to Europe

Thursday, February 14 | 11:30 a.m. | Heritage Hall | \$6

At the height of the Cold War in 1954, MBBC member Dave Carder, then age 21, carried out a successful undercover mission to Europe for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. With maps, letters, and photographs, Dave will share his unique experience with us. Dave has had the opportunity to share his story with several local clubs and organizations. Now our ACTIVE Christian Living ministry has the distinct privilege to hear one of our own members share about his experience!

February Trip: The Piano Guys Concert at the Alabama Theater

Tuesday, February 19 | 7:15 p.m. | \$99 per ticket

Celebrate Valentine's Day by purchasing a ticket to hear the Piano Guys in concert. This group gained enormous popularity through YouTube having some of their videos viewed over a billion times. This group is a fine team of musicians and it will be a delight for all who attend. There are only seven more tickets available in our block, and they're first come, first serve. Join us!

Please call the church office (871-0331) today and make your reservation for the February luncheon and trip.

AARP Smartphone Workshop

Friday, February 22 | Heritage Hall | Free

Attend a free, hands-on technology workshop from AARP and learn how to get the most from your mobile device. We'll offer two classes - Introduction to Android Smartphones (Beginner) will be held at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m., and Beyond the Basics: Android Smartphones (Intermediate Level) will be held at 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call 1-800-213-4587 or visit aarp.cvent.com/tekbirm to register.



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



Hayes Holbert



What led you to MBBC? My family goes to church at MBBC.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? I love going to the church gym with my friends after school, especially on Tuesdays when Tyler does a Bible study for us.

Tell us about your faith. I made my public profession of faith in December and will be baptized in February of this year.

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Birmingham and still live here with my mom (Kelly), dad (Steve), and brother (Pierce).

Where do you go to school? I go to Mountain Brook Elementary and am in the fifth grade.

My hobbies and interests are ... I love football, baseball, basketball, and golf. I also love water sports and going to the lake with my family.

My favorite restaurant is ... probably Taziki's.

My favorite Bible story is ... the resurrection of Christ.

Joined MBBC on December 9, 2018

William Keith



What led you to MBBC? My family goes to MBBC and some of my friends too.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? I love knowing that I am a Christian and that I am one of God's children. I really enjoy Summer Camp and Sunday School.

Tell us about your faith. God made me and I should trust Him every day.

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Birmingham, Alabama at Brookwood Hospital. My mom and dad (Ellen Martin and Alston), my brother

(Charlie), my grandparents (Ellen and Russell Cunningham), my aunt and uncle (Leann and Russell Cunningham), and my cousin (Jane Ellen Cunningham) all attend MBBC!

Where do you go to school? I'm in the fifth grade at Mountain Brook Elementary.

My hobbies and interests are ... playing video games, talking to my friends, golf, skiing, and camping.

My favorite restaurant is ... Blue Moose Pizza in Colorado.

My favorite Bible story is ... Noah's Ark because God takes care of those that follow Him.

Joined MBBC on November 11, 2018

Emma Kathlyn Powell



What led you to MBBC? my parents

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? Children's activities with Mrs. Sharon; going to Sunday School and GAs

Tell us about your faith. I became a Christian in October 2018. I came to faith through my parents and teachers at MBBC. God loves us and forgives us.

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Birmingham and live in Mountain Brook with my parents (Mark and Katie) and younger brother (Rob). Both of my parents are members of MBBC.

Where do you go to school? I am in second grade at Mountain Brook Elementary.

My hobbies and interests are ... tennis, piano, and playing with friends and my brother.

My favorite restaurants are ... La Paz and Surin.

My favorite Bible story is ... the Easter Story because you get to learn about why Jesus died on the cross.

Joined MBBC on September 9, 2018

Generosity Scorecard as of January 20, 2019

2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$180,309.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$459,110.73
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$198,869.82
Weekly Net	\$114,019.10
YTD Net	\$260,240.91

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:
\$2,987,967.27

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE

To give online,
visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text **STOREHOUSE**
to 73256.

MBBC Staff Members



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Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.



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 MBBC Guest (password 803-3452)

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