

Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

“At The Cross”

Someone once told me that you could tell the strength of a congregation’s faith by how prominently they display the cross in their place of worship. What he meant by that statement was that there once was a time when seeing a cross in a church sanctuary was a given; every church had one in the most visible of locations. But as time went by and church worship spaces began taking on a less formal feel, somehow the cross either went away or took a back seat in the hopes of creating a more relaxed worship setting. In too many cases what resulted was an exchange of the sacred for the secular—an exceedingly poor exchange in my thinking.

While I certainly can appreciate the desire of congregations to strive for more relevance in how we create more welcoming environments for new folk, particularly unchurched ones, minimizing the cross seems a giant step in the wrong direction. After all, the cross is no minor accouterment or unnecessary trapping for followers of Jesus; it is instead the core symbol of our faith and the ultimate reminder of the extent of God’s love for us, not because of who we are, but in spite of who we are. The cross represents the troubles and transgressions that were placed upon Jesus for which He was in no way responsible and how in His supreme sacrifice Jesus took those troubles and transgressions and in the power of God made atonement for them all.

The month of March marks our faith journey into the season of Lent, which is a time for us to reflect upon our flaws and imperfections and how as sinners left to our devices we always fall far, far short of the glory of God. The cross of Christ confronts us with the harsh realities of our spiritual helplessness and how by turning to Jesus, high and lifted up at Calvary, we find grace sufficient for our every need.

Our Ash Wednesday service, which begins the Lenten season, takes place on March 6 at 6 p.m. A new worship tradition at MBBC, this important Ash Wednesday service enables us to yield our most paralyzing wrongs to Jesus in the confidence that He will take them with him to the cross and blot them out so they may be without hint or trace. The other Sundays in the month will involve a series of sermons that identify signal sins that set us back and show how the good news of Christ’s atoning death puts them all in the rear view mirror. The

aim of these experiences is to call us back to our “first love” by reminding us of how the cross is the place where things change for the better by making wrong things lose their luster, thus making Calvary for us the sacred ground where new life can finally form.

I'm proud to be a part of a church that doesn't shy away from the cross, in spite of how we live in a time when so many seem to be on a path they hope might lead them to a painless, cost-free Christianity, a Christianity that leaps from one victory to the next. But that's not how life or faith works. You can't celebrate the dawn until you have endured the night. You can't rejoice over restoration without having felt the sting of separation. You cannot fully know Easter until you have first been floored by Good Friday.

So, let us take every opportunity in these coming days to gather at the cross where Jesus died for us and our salvation. While the cross may be sheer folly to those who are perishing, for us who are being saved, it is nothing less than the power and the pardon of God.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

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.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary

Since 2013, our congregation has found our Ash Wednesday service to be a significant way to enter the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday speaks the message to us all that yes, we will pass from this life, but it matters how we will die in that we all need Jesus. We can die apart from Him as non-believers, or we can embrace Him as our Lord and Savior and be united with Him through all eternity. Until that time, it matters how we live our lives on this earth...letting Christ be in control of our thoughts, words, and deeds. This day and the service we observe jolts us out of our daily routines to remind us how far each of us misses the mark. It is a service of reflection and repentance before the Lord. Afterward, we are each given the gift of the 40 days of Lent to pray, fast, and seek the Lord with renewed devotion and dedication to Him as our Savior and Redeemer. The season of Lent is a good, old-fashioned Baptist 40-day revival!

We will have our Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. As in past years, we will focus on repentance and will use the small pieces of flash paper as part of the service. The service should last no more than one hour. The Sanctuary Choir will provide four anthems to aid us all in our personal reflection: "Call to Remembrance" by Renaissance composer Richard Farrant, "Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)" by Chris Rice, and two beautiful settings of deeply rich hymns, "Purer In Heart, O God" and "I Am Thine, O Lord." The service will end with that last hymn arrangement in which we plea to the Lord to "draw us nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to Thy precious bleeding side." It's a meaningful way to begin our Lenten journey together. Come and take part in this service of renewal.

New Member/Guest Orientation

Sunday, March 17 | 9:15 a.m. | Hudson Hall

Are you a recent MBBC member or a guest who needs more information about how to join and become involved in our ministries? Join us for orientation led by the Ministerial Staff. Each staff member will tell about his or her ministry and how you can become involved. You will also have the opportunity to join MBBC that morning! If you can join us, please email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).

***Nailed It!* Young Musicians Musical**

Wednesday, March 13 | 6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Young Musicians Choir (children in grades 4-6) will present the musical *Nailed It!* at 6 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Come support our children as they bring to life the parable of the wise man building his house on the rock. This construction-themed production teaches us important lessons about the joys and challenges of building faith through the story of friends who set out to build a fort. The Young Musicians are directed by Sarah Rich and their accompanist is Anna Lu Hemphill. Dinner will be served prior to the musical at the new Wednesday night prices (\$7 adults/\$4 kids/\$20 maximum per family).

Cooks On A Mission Update & Monthly Sale

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

In March, Cooks On A Mission will designate proceeds from our March food sale to sponsor two children with Type 1 Diabetes to attend Camp Seale Harris, which is Alabama's only diabetes camp. In March of 2017, the family of Lori Turner Carmichael made a generous donation to Cooks On A Mission in her memory. We subsequently became a sponsor of Camp Seale Harris, making it possible for two children to attend the summer camp.

Last month, we had the opportunity to support Grantswood Community School, as we made muffins for their Muffins with Mom event at school. We also helped several former WellHouse residents move on to independent living by purchasing basic pantry items, kitchen supplies, etc.

In March, we will be debuting a brand new dish—Baked Rigatoni with Ham. A long-time favorite from the Junior League of Birmingham cookbook *Tables of Content*, this dish is loaded with creamy goodness, and features ham, diced tomatoes, and feta cheese. In addition, we will again offer customer favorites like Chicken Pot Pie, Cherry Almond Scones, and Missionary Bread, plus any remaining inventory from the past few months. The food sale will take place on Wednesday, March 20, from 2-6:30 p.m. When you make a donation to our ministry by supporting our monthly food “sale,” you make all of the events mentioned above possible.

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.

MISSIONS

Builders for Christ / Groton Bible Chapel

June 8–15 | Groton Connecticut

This summer, the Builders for Christ Mission Trip will be to Groton Bible Chapel in Groton, Connecticut. What an opportunity we have to go to Groton and show the love of Christ through our actions. Groton Bible Chapel needs a larger worship space because the church has outgrown their existing space. The picture below is a rendering of the new worship space we will be constructing. It is our hope and prayer that this new addition will be a tool to reach lost souls in Groton and the surrounding communities. During our week in Groton, our primary responsibilities will be to set the HVAC units, run the duct work, install shingles on the roof, run electrical wire, and cook. We cook our own meals and eat at the job site, so our cooks are vital to our week on mission. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to participate in this mission trip. The friendships you make on these trips will last a lifetime and you get to participate in building a tool to win souls for Christ.



Our team will leave Birmingham on June 8 and return on June 15. No experience is necessary. We will train you. In order for us to make the travel arrangements, please sign up by April 15 by contacting Amy Hirsch (amy@mbbc.org or 803-3471).

Missions Spotlight: Grace House Ministries

One of MBBC's newest ministry partners is Grace House Ministries, which has provided stable, Christian homes to Alabama girls in foster care since 1992, with the commitment to developing mature, godly women. Their eight-property residential campus in Fairfield, Alabama can currently house up to 28 girls ages 6-21. All of the girls who call Grace House home have been removed from the custody of their families due to abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect. While the total number of girls residing on campus at one time is 28,

Grace House also extends services to an additional 15 girls, all former residents who are now enrolled in college or working. Their ultimate goal is to acquire 16 more properties in their block and have the ability to serve 100 girls on campus.



GRACE HOUSE
ministries, inc.
giving hope to girls in foster care



Grace House's vision is to equip girls with the educational, emotional, and spiritual tools they need to break generational cycles of poverty and abuse. By providing 24/7 family care in a Christian environment, a life-changing education, and services that extend beyond high school, Grace House works every day to empower girls to effect transformational change in their own lives, families, and communities. With more than 2,500 girls in the Alabama foster care system, Grace House exists as a necessary safe haven, and as the only program in the Birmingham area dedicated entirely to meeting the needs of Alabama girls in foster care, Grace House is meeting a critical need in our community.



Grace House relies on the support of valued church partners like Mountain Brook Baptist Church to help fulfill their mission of giving hope to Alabama girls in foster care. Church members can get involved at Grace House in many different ways. They are always in need of individuals to become tutors or mentors for the girls, and welcome groups to campus for Serve Days or fellowship opportunities with the girls. Grace House also encourages groups to hold supply drives to collect items for the girls, including twin sized bedding, gently used clothing, and toiletries. Members can get more information by visiting their website, grace-house.org, or by contacting Katherine Connell, Development Director, at 205.703.2099 or katherine@grace-house.org, or MBBC member Susan Waldrop, susanwaldrop12@aol.com, who is on the Grace House board of directors.

Love Grantswood

Upcoming Events at Grantswood Community School

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

Reading

Volunteers go 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:

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.

If you would like to become involved, please contact Meredith Cale (meredithcale@gmail.com).

Fairy Tale Ball

Thanks to everyone who helped at our Fairy Tale Ball on February 13. We had a fun time with our Grantswood friends! Check out the photos here and on the next page to see some highlights.





VISION 2020

Implementation Update

It is hard to believe that it has been almost four years since we began Vision 2020. God blessed us when He called Dr. Doug Dortch to be our minister. Dr. Dortch is the person who inspired us to begin this journey of faith in order to truly help us discover what wonderful things God has planned for the congregation of MBBC. Dr. Dortch has become our CVO, Chief Visionary Officer. Our Vision 2020 Implementation Team has accomplished a lot in the past few years. For instance, the guide you are currently reading which contains this article is one of their initiatives. Implementing God's vision should always be our most important mission.

I, along with our staff and other lay leaders, attended a seminar in October at Samford University. The seminar was entitled "Faith Soaring Churches" and it was conducted by Dr. George Bullard. We learned that churches who create impactful disciples and provide exceptional ministry are congregations which by faith are led by God's vision. These congregations are willing to journey into a future known only by God in order to arrive at a place where they have never been before and they could not envision at the beginning. These are congregations which follow 2 Corinthians 2:9: "We live by faith, not by sight".

We also learned that in order to "live by faith, not by sight" there are four qualities which a congregation must possess and weave together with synergy. Those four qualities are vision, relationships, programs, and management. Vision is the most important of the four. It establishes your core values and purpose. It is a movement fueled by God through the congregation which is

memorable and inspires the congregation. It charts the future. Relationships are the experiences, engagement, and discipleship among the members of the congregation. Programs are the various activities created to accomplish the vision, build relationships, and create disciples. Management is the basis for governance and the allocation of people, finances, facilities, and resources. As mentioned, all of these must work together in order to achieve God's vision. Church leadership will implement this framework as we journey into the future.

Speaking of the future, we also learned at the seminar that every five to seven years a congregation should reassess its vision. This allows a congregation to determine if it is still on track with what God has planned or whether the congregation should look to redirect its focus based on what God is revealing at that time. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for all of us to gather again in the near future to reassess God's vision.

Since MBBC must follow God's vision, church leadership has decided that it will seek approval to make Vision 2020, or a similarly named committee, a permanent committee of our church. Also, the leader of that committee will become part of the church leadership executive committee so that church leadership will always be influenced by God's vision. Currently that position is held by Caleb Haynes.

I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Deacons this year, and I am excited about the future that God has planned for MBBC!

Baker Crow, 2019 Deacon Chair

BOOK CLUBS

Second Monday Book Club

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

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

MBBC Book Club

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

Join us in the Fireside Room for fellowship and discussion as Jo Wills leads our review of *The Professor* by Robert Bailey. Bring a snack to share!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, March 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

March 3. Email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to sign up!

BCS (Bible Championship Series)

Sundays, March 3, 10, 17 | 5-6 p.m.

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.

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

Chapel Choir

Sundays, March 3, 10, & 31 | 5-6 p.m.

Chapel Choir is preparing for Spring Tour to St. Augustine, Florida, and we'd love for you to join us. Believe it or not, there are only a few rehearsals left until the tour!

The Brook

Sundays, March 3, 10, & 31 | 6-7:30 p.m.

The Brook this semester is focusing on the Affirmation of our Faith we recite each week as a church family, also known as the Apostles' Creed.

We'll be considering the claims it makes and the biblical foundations for those truths. Join us each week for dinner together, fun, worship, and teaching.

Birmingham Iron vs. Orlando Apollos

Saturday, March 9 | Legion Field | \$15

The MBBC Student Ministry family is going to see Birmingham's own professional football team! If we have 25 from our group sign up, we even get to go on-field before the game. So bring your whole family and invite your friends. Tickets are \$15 and you can purchase yours online at mbbc.org/ironfootball.

March Mission Summit

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

We will join other youth from across Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for a mission weekend in Birmingham. Our group will stay in host homes together and join the other groups for worship and mission during the weekend. This is a great opportunity to be on God's mission right here in our own city! The Summit is \$55 for students. We also need adults willing to come serve alongside us. Both students and adults can sign up online at mbbc.org/missionsummit.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Conference at Shades Mountain Baptist Church

Friday, April 5-Saturday, April 6 | \$25

Jen Wilkin, who is a member at The Village Church in Texas, will be speaking at the Shades Mountain Baptist Women's Conference on April 5-6. We've bought a block of tickets so that we can have the opportunity to get to hear her live! Join us for a weekend of worship, Bible study, and fellowship. The conference will take place Friday night (6-9 p.m.) and Saturday morning (8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.); cost is \$25. Register online at mbbc.org/jenwilkin or by calling Amy Hirsch (803-3471).

MEN'S MINISTRY

Sharpen Up

Tuesday, March 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, Ben Winder will be sharing on one of his favorite passages of Scripture, Romans 12:1-2; be sure to invite a neighbor, co-worker, or friend to join us!

March Luncheon: Memory Care—Tips and Support for Patients and Caregivers

Thursday, March 14 | 11:30 a.m. | Heritage Hall | \$7

Dr. Kellie Flood, Assistant Chief Medical Officer for Care Transitions and Geriatric Quality Officer at UAB Hospital, will speak on what dementia is and how dementia impacts patients and caregivers. We will hear about opportunities to 1) help preserve memory when possible, and 2) support patients and families experiencing memory loss.

March Monthly Trip: Alabama Safari Park in Hope Hull

Tuesday, March 19 | 9 a.m. (depart from church) | \$14.95/ticket + money for lunch

This park is a 350 acre preserve where animals are free to run, play, jump, and swim as they please. Drive your vehicle over three miles of maintained gravel road and feed the animals from your windows! You'll see the animals as never before! Visitors can purchase buckets with specialty grains for the animals.

We will take our tour of the park and then go to eat at Montgomery's famous Chris's Hot Dogs. Considered one of the top nine must-try restaurants in Montgomery, this diner first opened its doors on May 1, 1917, and now at over a century old it's one of the state's longest-operating restaurants! Run by the children and grandchildren of founder Christopher Anastasios Katechis, a Greek immigrant, the spot originally made its name with hot dogs, like the famed Chris' dog (with mustard, sauerkraut, special sauce, and chili), and local boy Hank Williams was a regular visitor. The diner does serve more than hotdogs. Visit their menu at chrishotdogs.com.

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



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

Dina & Walter Burnett, Ethan



What led you to MBBC? We visited many churches after moving to Birmingham and Mountain Brook Baptist Church felt like home.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? So far what we've experienced the most is the Early Learning Center program our son attends. We love that he is getting the opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Tell us about your faith. We were both raised Southern Baptist.

Where were you born and raised? Walter was born and raised in Rotan, Texas. Dina was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and raised in Dallas, Texas. Ethan was born in Dallas, Texas and is being raised in Mountain Brook.

Where do you work or go to school? Walter works at the Southern Bank in Mountain Brook. Dina is a stay-at-home mom. Ethan attends the ELC program at MBBC.

Our hobbies and interests are ... we love traveling—overseas especially!

Our favorite Bible verse is ... Jeremiah 29:11.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the church? Now that we've bought a house in Mountain Brook, we hope to get more involved. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us at MBBC.

Joined MBBC on December 9, 2018
(dinacwhatley@aol.com, walterkburnett@gmail.com)

Mae Helen Toranto



What led you to MBBC? my parents

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? I have really enjoyed being a part of The Brook this year.

Tell us about your faith. I have known for a while that I wanted to become a Christian. I was baptized in January when my brother and sister were home from college.

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Birmingham, Alabama. I live in Mountain Brook with my parents (Steven & Melanie) and my siblings (Will & Ellie).

Where do you go to school? I attend Mountain Brook Junior High and I am in the 7th grade.

My hobbies and interests are ... I enjoy dance, cheerleading, and spending time with my family.

My favorite restaurant is ... California Pizza Kitchen.

My favorite Bible verse is ... “Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed’”(John 20:29).

Joined MBBC on January 6, 2019

Bentley Sloan



What led you to MBBC? We became involved through the ELC. Both of my children have been in the ELC program since birth. Cobb “graduated” from the ELC and is now in 1st grade and Miller will “graduate” from 4K this May and begin kindergarten in August. We met so many friends through the ELC and began attending MBBC several years ago.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? I love the friends we have made! My kids love the children’s programs and I really enjoy the Wednesday night Women’s Life Group.

Tell us about your faith. I was raised in a Christian family and accepted Christ as my savior at summer camp in the 3rd grade.

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Birmingham and grew up right down the road from MBBC on Montevallo Road. I can remember coming to MBBC as a child each Christmas to see the live nativity! I have two children, Cobb and Miller, and a sweet Labrador Retriever.

My hobbies and interests are ... exercise, cooking, and sewing (children’s clothes).

My favorite restaurant is ... pretty much any Mexican restaurant!

My favorite Bible verse is ... Romans 12:12. I find a lot of strength in this verse.

Joined MBBC on December 2, 2018
(bentleysloan@gmail.com)

Generosity Scorecard as of February 24, 2019

2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$30,282.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$665,398.71
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$530,319.62
Weekly Net	-\$36,007.90
YTD Net	\$135,079.09

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:

\$2,781,679.29

Ways to Give

 PLATES	 ONLINE To give online, visit mbbc.org/give .	 TEXT Text STOREHOUSE to 73256.
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MBBC Staff Members



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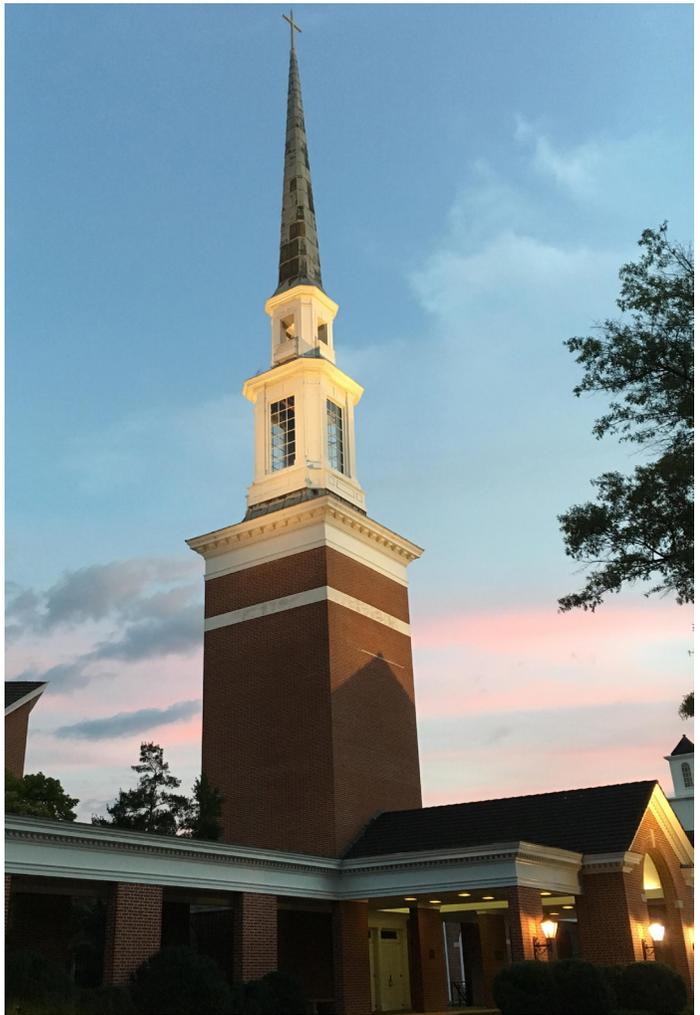
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and Generosity.



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