



Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide



Sabbatical Time

The concept of a sabbatical leave is one that has long been a staple for those in academic life. Professors learned years ago that in order to remain vibrant and engaging in the classroom it's important for them to take a break from their teaching responsibilities to gear up for the next chapter of their academic careers. Churches have begun in recent years to see the value of such leave for their senior staff in order that they might avoid burnout and remain relevant for the important leadership roles they have in their congregations.

When I was in conversation with the search committee at MBBC some seven and a half years ago, we agreed to a sabbatical leave after five years. However, when the five year window drew near, our church was in the middle of the Vision 2020 conversations and I was balancing my church obligations with my responsibilities as Moderator for the Governing Board of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. I simply couldn't find a good time for such a break. There was too much going on.

Now, two years later, I've concluded my time with CBF and we're well into the Implementation phase of our Vision 2020 plan. Moreover, our church is fully staffed and we have good lay leadership in all places of responsibility. Now seems like a much better time. So, for a period of ten weeks, from May 26 to August 3, I'll be out of the pulpit on a sabbatical break. During this time members of the ministerial staff will be handling preaching responsibilities and they

Introduction (*Continued*)

will be joined by lay leadership in handling other church affairs. I will be back in town for two Sundays during that period, June 16 and 23, when we will host special guests in Sunday worship. On June 16, Russ and Amy Dean will be with us for our second Heritage Sunday. On June 23, Paul Baxley, the new Executive Coordinator for CBF, will stay over in Birmingham after the General Assembly to be with us in worship. Since the CBF meeting is in Birmingham June 19-21, I'll be in Birmingham for that meeting.

For those of you not familiar with the concept of a sabbatical, it is a time away. Sometimes one has to break free of the demands of a given situation in order to unwind and unload. Being away not just from Birmingham, but also from the office, will enable me to do just that. However, I'll not be so far away that if I need to come back for a funeral or church emergency, I'll certainly be able to do so.

A sabbatical is also a time off. I've preached pretty solidly for these last seven and a half years. In fact, I don't think I've taken my allotted vacation time at any year during my tenure at MBBC. The old proverb of "all work and no play" at some point does indeed make Doug a dull boy, which as you can imagine is a death knell for any preacher. My hope is that not having to preach for ten weeks will give my mind and voice a much needed rest.

Lastly, a sabbatical is a time out. Just like athletic teams need a break during a contest to refocus and retool, so do congregations and clergy. No one can question the amount of activity that we have seen in our church over the past several years. We've accomplished a lot, but we still have so much more to do. One of the goals I have

for my sabbatical is to try to get to some churches that I think are accomplishing much for the cause of Christ. I'd like to see if there's anything these churches can teach me that I in turn can bring back to MBBC.

I am grateful to our church's Personnel Committee for their approval of this sabbatical leave. The summer months tend to be "down times" in our church, where our people are either away on mission trips or away for much needed personal time. I'd only ask that while I'm away that you'd continue to support our church, our staff, and our lay leadership with your presence, your prayers, and your financial support. While I won't be able to offer much support with my presence over this period, I certainly can and will offer the other.

And of course, pray for me as well while I'm out, away, and off. While I'm pleased with the progress we've made over the last seven and a half years, I feel like there's still some unfinished business. Pray specifically that this sabbatical will feed my soul in that respect so that I can return a better pastor and do a better job of leading us to become even more of an exemplary church. Only then will such time prove to be time well spent for us all.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

Summer Orchestra Opportunity

Do you play a wind or string instrument? Then here is your chance to get back into music! Last year we had a wonderful time during the summer with our newly formed orchestra. With the summer upon us, the music ministry is planning to bring the summer orchestra back for a second season! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We have a good start with at least three violins, two or three trumpets, two flutes, two clarinets, one trombone, and one percussionist. Why don't you get out that old instrument and dust it off and come join us? The first rehearsal will be Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. We will rehearse during the summer and we will plan to play on Sunday, August 18 in the Traditional Worship Service. This can be a really fun summer activity for us all!

Dates of Rehearsals:

May 29 • June 12 & 19

July 10, 17, & 31 • August 7 & 14

Date to Play in Church Service

August 18

Cooks On A Mission Update & May Monthly Sale

Wednesday, May 15 | 2-6:30 p.m.

It's time to stock your freezer for the summer break! Our new dishes will be English Muffins with Sausage and Cheese and that old favorite, Poppy Seed Chicken. 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. Our dishes will keep in your freezer for several months, especially if kept in the colder part away from the door.



For more events visit us online
at mbbc.org/events

If you miss the monthly sale, one of the dedicated church receptionists will be happy to help you during regular office hours.

Finally, make plans to join us on May 3 and 10 for our last two cooking days of this school year. 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. Following the sale on May 15 we will be taking a break until August.

WellHouse Graduates Looking for Used Cars

If you or someone you know has a reliable used car available, please contact Sherrie Futch (sherriefutch@gmail.com). WellHouse graduates are frequently looking for reliable, low-cost transportation.

Is Your Small Group or Sunday Morning Bible Study Looking for a Place of Service?

We are looking for a new team member or small group to lead our Backpack Buddies program, which provides weekend food for children at Tarrant Elementary, McAdory Elementary, and Grantswood Community School. This person or team 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 who have signed up deliver the bags each week. COAM team members will provide training and backup support as needed. This job could be shared among a few individuals or would make a wonderful project for a Sunday Morning Bible Study class or small group. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please email us at cooksonamission@yahoo.com.

Churchwide

Combined Summer Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays in June & July | 9:15 a.m. | Hudson Hall

For the past two summers, we have had a Combined Sunday Morning Bible Study for adults of all ages that has met in Hudson Hall.

We will meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday in the months of June and July, with three different studies. Our first study will be led by Hayden Walker, who was our former Minister to Students, and she will be covering passages from the book of Jonah. Our second study will be led by Amy Hirsch, our Family Ministries Associate, and she will be covering passages from the book of Lamentations. Our final study will be led by Dr. J.D. Payne, Associate Professor of Christian Ministry at Samford University. He will be teaching on missions and evangelism, and will specifically be focusing on other faiths we might encounter in Birmingham, Alabama, what people of those faiths believe, and how we might share Christ with them.

Schedule for the Summer Class:

June 2 - Jonah | Hayden Walker

June 9 - Jonah | Hayden Walker

June 16 - Jonah | Hayden Walker

June 23 - Lamentations | Amy Hirsch

June 30 - Lamentations | Amy Hirsch

July 7 - Lamentations | Amy Hirsch

July 14 - Missions and Evangelism | Dr. J.D. Payne

July 21 - Missions and Evangelism | Dr. J.D. Payne

July 28 - Missions and Evangelism | Dr. J.D. Payne



In the past, these times have been great opportunities for intergenerational fellowship, as classes that might not normally cross paths have the chance to intermingle and get to know one another throughout the series. We also want to provide this as an opportunity for a break and for refreshment for our teachers, recognizing the hard work and effort they put into preparing each week.

If your class is interested in attending this summer study, please let us know by Monday, May 13 by emailing Amy Hirsch (amy@mbbc.org) so that we can make sure we have enough tables and chairs set up for everyone.

Vision 2020 Update / Livestreaming Worship

With spring break behind us and graduations just around the corner, summer break is not far away. As you plan your summer time away from Birmingham and Mountain Brook Baptist Church, we wanted to remind you of our weekly worship livestream available on the website: mbbc.org/watch. If you're on the mbbc.org home page, you can navigate to the livestream page by clicking on "Watch" at the top right-hand corner of the page. Once there, you can access the livestream during worship service hours, or access past events in the "Watch Recent" option on the right. We hope that no matter where you may find yourself on Sunday morning, you will be able to join us in worship.

Missions

Family Mission Trip

The Family Mission Team will partner with Trailhead Church in Wellington, Colorado. Trailhead launched its first service in January of 2017. John Richardson is a church planter and pastor. Since 2017, the church has grown to three services, hired three part-time staff members, and purchased their building. The Lord is truly blessing Trailhead by allowing them to share the gospel with those who need Jesus and connect families into a faith community.

Our church will travel to Colorado on June 22-29. We will do a sports camp, because sports camps have worked extremely well in this community. Many people will send their child to camp to learn a sport but they haven't been willing to send them to "Vacation Bible School." In addition to sports, our church uses VBS curriculum and does Bible study, crafts, and music along with soccer, baseball, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, and football. Coaches have "huddles" and present the Bible study. Each child has the opportunity to read the Bible, receive life application, and take home a "nugget" of truth from God's word.

Every morning, we have an opening rally very similar to our VBS opening rally. Kely Hatley teaches the kids one or two songs that apply to the Bible teaching as well as the theme for the week and Bible verse.

We have a wonderful time getting to know the kids and their families. The last night, everyone is invited to the church for dinner, games and family night. This provides unchurched families an



For more events visit us online
at mbbc.org/events

opportunity to actually come to the church site and for members to connect with them. Everyone receives an invitation to worship at Trailhead. Their pastor, John, is very connected in the community and knows many of these families and their need for a Savior and/or church family.

Please pray for our team as we prepare. Pray for coaches and for the gospel to be clearly communicated. Pray for the children that attend camp to be safe for God to open their hearts to listen to the message of Jesus. Pray for Trailhead Church and their ability to connect with these families. Pray for their pastor, John, who was diagnosed with lymphoma and will begin chemotherapy soon.

Everyone on the Family Mission Team would like to thank the MBBC church family for your generosity to send them to share Christ.



Missions (*Continued*)

Love Grantswood

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 last dates for spring 2019 are May 7 and 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 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).

Children's Ministry

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2. Prayer stations will be set up around the church for families to pray. Pick up the prayer guide in the church office and spend time praying at each station.

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, May 10 | 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. Sign up no later than May 6. Email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to sign up!

In the Wild / Vacation Bible School

July 8-12

Can you help in one of these areas for Vacation Bible School? We need preschool helpers, school-age helpers, a 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.

(more on the next page)

Children's Ministry (*Continued*)

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. Sign up soon by emailing Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).



Student Ministry

High School Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 5

We will be celebrating our soon-to-graduate high school seniors with a breakfast for their families during the Sunday Morning Bible Study hour and will recognize them during both services.

Mid-Week Bible Studies

Our weekly student ministry small groups will have their final meetings of the semester May 7 and 8, and are making some special plans for the final week. Contact your group leader for details.

Chapel Choir Rehearsal

May 5 & 12 | 5 p.m.

Chapel Choir will rehearse two times in May. Please make every effort to be present as we make final preparations for our tour to St. Augustine, Florida which is June 2-8.



Women's Ministry

Growth Groups

Growth groups have been a great way for women to grow in discipleship and friendship in a safe and encouraging environment. In these groups, we challenge each other to learn Scripture, support one another through prayer and concern, and we spur one another on to grow in faith and love for God! The best advertisement for growth groups is to talk to someone who has joined one to learn more. A new growth group was started this semester downtown in the Alabama Power Building. Five other growth groups meet during the week to study and share life together.

This summer, we will host two new growth groups on Wednesday morning and evening. Check out the women's ministry newsletter for more information on this!

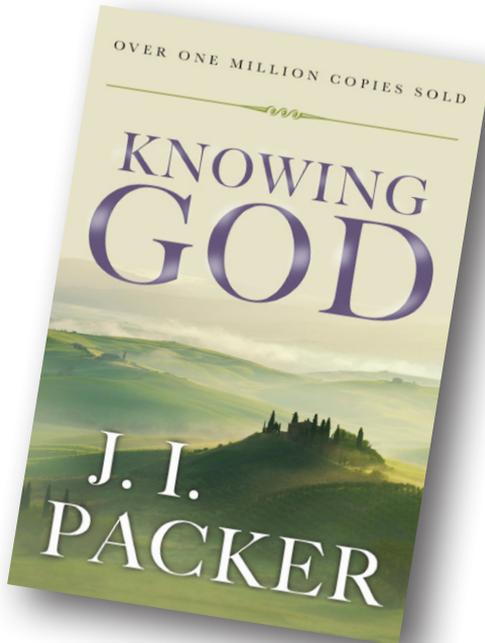
Please prayerfully consider joining a group. For more information, contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

Men's Ministry

Summer Discipleship Series

June 12, 19, 26; July 10, 17, 24 | 6:30 p.m. | Hudson Hall

This summer we are inviting the men of our church to participate in a summer discipleship series on Wednesday nights. Over the course of six meetings, we will commit to read Scripture, memorize three Bible verses, pray for one another, and read a chapter from J.I. Packer's book *Knowing God*. The chapter "Sons of God" addresses the biblical truth that God adopts us into His family through faith in Jesus Christ so that all who are in Christ may call God their Father and enjoy all the privileges of sonship. This intergenerational group is open to all guys who have completed the 9th grade and older. If you would like to participate in this group, please contact Wayne Splawn (wayne@mbbc.org).



ACTIVE Christian Living

May Luncheon: Astronaut Dr. Larry DeLucas

Thursday, May 9 | 11:30 a.m. | \$7

Dr. Larry DeLucas spent two weeks in orbit on the space shuttle Columbia, flying as Payload Specialist on the United States Micro-Gravity Laboratory-1 which launched in June 1992. He has received five degrees from UAB, culminating in a Doctor of Optometry and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. He is currently the head of UAB's Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering, which has 110 people working on the research of new medications as well as more efficient ways to make medicines and vaccines. Call the church office (871-0331) to make reservations.

May Monthly Trip: Alpaca Farm

Friday, May 10 | Depart 9:45 a.m. | Bring lunch money

Blackberry Hill Alpacas is a 60 acre alpaca farm and gift shop. The gift shop contains items made from alpacas and information to read and learn more about them. The tour will include going to see the male and female alpacas while learning fun facts about their lives. To get an even closer look, we will get to feed the female alpacas. We will be eating lunch at Peerless Saloon and Grille when we arrive in Anniston. This is a local restaurant that serves a variety of foods. Make sure to bring money for lunch! After we finish lunch we will arrive at the alpaca farm around 12:30 p.m. and we will aim to get back to the church by 4 p.m.

ACTIVE Christian Living is a ministry for adults age 55+. Please call the church office (871-0331) today and make your reservation



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 journey.



Shirley & John Blackwell

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

We love the Traditional Worship Service and the choir.

Tell us about your faith.

We were born into the Baptist faith and joined the church in our youth.

Where were you born and raised?

Shirley was born and raised near Chapel Hill, North Carolina. John grew up in Scottsboro, Alabama: Shirley has a son who coaches football at Newberry College. John has three sons, two of whom are in business with him. His oldest son has his own business in Montgomery. To make things more fun, each son has a daughter and several sons—he has 10 grandchildren total!

Where did you go to college?

Shirley has degrees from Western Carolina University and Clemson University. John graduated from Auburn University and completed studies from the University of Montevallo, the University of Alabama, and Carnegie Mellon.

Our hobbies and interests are ...

Shirley's hobby is entertaining and teaching the youngest set of grandchildren. John's interests mainly revolve around family. He also enjoys golf and traveling with Shirley and friends.

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

Our favorite restaurant is ...

Shirley's kitchen; she is a terrific cook!

Our favorite Bible verses are ...

John's favorite Bible verse is "O ye of little faith" (Matthew 8:26).
Shirley's favorite Bible verse is "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



Shirley & John Blackwell

Joined MBBC March 17, 2019

shirley7676@icloud.com, john@inkana.net



Ashelynn Falkenburg-Smith

What led you to MBBC?

My daughter started at the Early Learning Center when she was six weeks old, and from the minute I walked through the doors everyone has been so kind and I just felt comfortable at MBBC.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

We have enjoyed getting to know all the wonderful members and we love attending all the church activities (Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, Living Nativity).

Tell us about your faith.

I went to a Christian camp for girls (Greystone in North Carolina) and had wonderful leaders who shared stories of their faith and I wanted to know more about God.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Birmingham. I am married to Andrew Smith, and we have one daughter, McKay, who is five years old.

Where do you work?

I've worked at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for 26 years; I am the buyer for the 10 golf shops in Alabama.

Where did you go to college?

Jacksonville State University

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

My hobbies and interests are ...

traveling, spending time with my family, and reading (when I have some quiet time).

My favorite restaurant is ...

Ollie Irene (but on Wednesday nights it's dinner downstairs).

My favorite Bible story is ...

the Easter story because it is a reconfirming of the Christian faith.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the church?

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone.



Ashelynn Falkenburg-Smith

Joined MBBC March 3, 2019

afalkenburg@rtjgolf.com

MBBC Staff Members



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER
doug@mbbc.org



Mr. Vince Blackerby

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
vince@mbbc.org



Mr. Joel Burks

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER
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Dr. Kely Hatley

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Ms. Anna Lu Hemphill

PIANIST
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Mrs. Sharon Howard

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN &
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Want to find out more about MBBC
and our staff? Visit mbbc.org/staff



Dr. Paul Mosteller

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Mr. Wayne Splawn

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
wayne@mbbc.org



Mr. Ben Winder

MINISTER TO STUDENTS
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Generosity Scorecard as of April 21, 2019

2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$28,198.05
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$1,176,007.49
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$1,060,639.30
Weekly Net	-\$38,091.85
YTD Net	\$115,368.19

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:
\$2,271,070.51

Generosity Sunday as of 4/21/19 \$70,452.00

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE

To give online,
visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE
to 73256.





Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.



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