



Glory to the Newborn King

The miracle of Christmas is that our God came down to be with us in the person of the Bethlehem baby. What makes that Incarnation such an extraordinary event is the manner in which the entirety of God's majesty and power was poured into a tiny infant, Who in the words of the Christian novelist Frederick Buechner, "was born with a skull you could crush one-handed" (*Whistling in the Dark*).

But there's another implication of the Incarnation I'm not sure we always emphasize as much as we should. Because of how in coming to be with us in Jesus God "got carnal" (the technical meaning of Incarnation), God's movement into our material world shows us that real stuff actually matters. Contrary to what some people claim when they make statements about being "spiritual, but not religious," the birth of Jesus the Messiah affirms our everyday existence and infuses it with sacred meaning. Notice the ways in which the details of the Christmas story work to teach us this truth: a baby born to an unwed mother, the sounds and colors and smells of labor and delivery, the pungent odor of straw and animals and unwashed shepherds, and the aromatic gifts of the wise men from the east. They are all in the story to invite us to celebrate the good news that God is supremely interested in us and our little lives. He was interested enough to become one of us and He remains committed to us so that we might be able to relate to Him and know the joy of His salvation. These foundational truths form a summons to reverence and worship that good Christians take seriously in this special season of the year.

Introduction (*Continued*)

You'll notice that our church has planned a host of such times to give you plenty of opportunity to reflect on how God's abiding presence can add hope, peace, joy, and love to your life, among other gifts only God can make possible. There will be a series of combined worship experiences, beginning on December 10 and lasting throughout the remainder of the year, which will bring us together to raise our hearts to God in gratitude for taking the initiative in drawing near to us in Jesus. There will be a churchwide brunch after worship on December 10 that will give us the chance to be drawn closer to one another. There will be the annual presentation of the Living Nativity on December 20-22, which we see as a "bringer event" designed to remind our community that not everything this time of the year can be captured in commercial garb. And of course, there will be once again two Christmas Eve services, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., to accommodate the demand to acknowledge how Christmas must ultimately lead to "the worship of Christ."

My hope and prayer is that these Christmas offerings will enhance your holiday plans, which I know have already begun to fill up your calendar. But know that each of them is not just another something to take up your time and energy. Know instead that each is designed to help you appreciate how the whole earth "is full of the LORD's glory" (Isaiah 6:3) and to stir you that you might join with the angelic chorus in proclaiming, "Glory to the Newborn King!"



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Events & Small Groups

CHURCHWIDE

December Worship Opportunities

Be sure to visit mbbc.org/december for a full listing of our worship opportunities in December.

Poinsettias

Due by Monday, December 11

To give a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, contact Barbara Morgan (803-3443 or barbara@mbbc.org). The price is \$20 each and the deadline to order is Monday, December 11.

Project 119 Advent Guide: Worthy is the Lamb

Monday, December 4

On Monday, December 4, we will begin a new churchwide reading plan on the book of Revelation during the season of Advent. Pick up a copy of our Advent guide in the narthex or by the receptionist's desk. You can also view the plan online at mbbc.org/project119.

Christmas for Children in Perry County

Due by December 13

This season, please add the children of Perry County to your gift list. Once again, we will be partnering with Sowing Seeds of Hope and Judson Faith Based Learning to help make Christmas a little merrier for some of the children living in Perry County. Boxes will be provided for gifts for boy and girl toddlers (ages 1-4), children (ages 5-9), and tweens (ages 10-13). Gift suggestions for each age group will be in the boxes. Please return filled boxes by December 13.

Angel Tree

Select a child from the tree, write your name on the clipboard, and note the day the items for that child need to be returned. Return the unwrapped gifts, as well as the name of the child, by the due date. If you are unable to shop, you can make a donation to MBBC (designate "Angel Tree" in the memo line) and someone will shop for you. Thank you for providing Christmas gifts for low-income families in our area.

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

Cooks On A Mission December Sale

Wednesday, December 13 | 2-6 p.m.

Need an easy but delicious meal during the Christmas and New Year season? Pick up a 2, 4, or 8 cup container of Boeuf Bourguignon from Cooks On A Mission. And, to make Christmas morning easy on everyone, pick up one of our Breakfast Casseroles with Sausage, our scrumptious French Toast Casserole, or a bag of Orange Cranberry Scones. We will also have Chicken and Dressing, Sweet Potato Souffle, Squash Casserole, Cheesy Apple Casserole, Sourdough Bread, and a small quantity of Red Beans and Rice with Ham and Conecuh Sausage. All of this and more will be available on Wednesday, December 13. As always, all proceeds will benefit local missions.

Love Grantswood

As part of MBBC's Love Grantswood program, we are looking for volunteers to get involved in several aspects of the program. Whether you can participate once a week or once a year, there is a place of service for you!

Reading Buddies: Every other week, MBBC sends volunteers to Grantswood Community School to help with reading. Connecting with this ministry is a wonderful way to demonstrate the love of Christ through serving, encouraging, and loving the community at Grantswood School! Contact Meredith Cale (caleme@aol.com) if you can help.

Faculty Care: Volunteer to help treat the faculty and staff of Grantswood by cooking (or purchasing) and delivering breakfast on teacher workdays: Wednesday, December 20, Monday, March 12, or Friday, May 25. Sign up online (mbbc.org/lovegrantswood).

Backpack Buddies: Help the GAs and RAs pack bags of food once a month for children at Grantswood. We will be working on the fourth floor in PT's Diner from 4:45-6:30 p.m. Sign up online (mbbc.org/lovegrantswood) or simply come help when you can.



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

You can also sign up to deliver the bags of food to Grantswood on Thursdays throughout the school year.

Breakfast Buddies: Spend 30 minutes a week having breakfast with students at Grantswood. Report to the school office between 7:10-7:15 a.m. to sign in and get a visitor's badge. Tell them you are with MBBC then walk across the hall to the cafeteria. There will be school staff on duty to direct you to a table. After getting your food, sit and talk with the students. Talk about yourself, ask questions about them, and just be a friend. You can talk sports, books, you name it. And of course, share your faith when appropriate. Breakfast is \$2.25 per person. Men and women are welcome.

Christmas at Grantswood: We are taking the Angel Tree concept and changing it a bit for Grantswood. Instead of filling the wish list for individual children, we are asking Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, and other groups within the church to adopt families who have been identified by the school staff as needing essentials for the Christmas season. While their wish lists will vary, we anticipate basic household needs such as towels and linens, laundry supplies, food, coats, gloves, pajamas, socks and underwear, etc., plus Nativity story books and a few fun things too. Watch for the Grantswood Christmas Tree in the reception area of the church office.

Bulletin Board Installation: Create and install bulletin boards periodically as requested by Grantswood. They will provide the ideas and examples. Email Sherrie Futch (sherriefutch@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.

Garden Helpers: Help maintain and take care of the raised bed garden MBBC installed on the churchwide service day in September. Email Sherrie Futch (sherriefutch@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

BOOK CLUBS

2nd Monday Book Club

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

Due to the holiday rush, you will not be assigned a book to read! Instead, Marty Lloyd will relay a Christmas story written by the founder of the Children's Fresh Air Farm, a ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church. You will think it is a made-for-TV movie, but it is true and truly heartwarming.

MBBC Book Club

Monday, December 11 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room

We'll discuss *A Redbird Christmas* in December. Bring a snack to share and come join us!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Retreat

January 19-20 | Pursell Farms

Our first-annual Women's Retreat with guest speaker Kelley Cousins Jones is coming up! Visit mbbc.org/womensretreat for more information! Register soon as spots are limited and registration will close on December 10! Please note that rooms for Pursell Farms are booked and our overflow housing will be at the Holiday Inn in Sylacauga.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Father-Son Event

Sunday, December 3 | 6-7:30 p.m. | CLC

Dads, bring your son to the CLC for food, fellowship, and fun, along with some mini-challenges! Cost is \$5 per person.



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

Contagious Christmas

Monday, December 4 | 6-8 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Moms and daughters are invited for dinner, gingerbread house decorating, and more. Cost is \$10 plus \$10 per house.

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, December 15 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Children will enjoy dinner, crafts, games, and fun with friends. Cost is \$10 per child or a maximum of \$25 per family. Sign up by December 10 by emailing Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).

School Age Christmas Parties

December 20 - 5-8:30 p.m. - Preteens

December 21 - 5-7 p.m. - 1st & 2nd Grade

December 22 - 5-7:45 p.m. - 3rd & 4th Grade

Join your friends for dinner and gift exchange before starring as an angel or shepherd in the Living Nativity! Contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) for additional information.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Chris Tomlin Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 3 | 6-10 p.m.

We're going to see Chris Tomlin at the Alabama Theater for his annual Christmas concert! If you signed up for a ticket, meet at the church at 6 p.m. to carpool over together.

Winter Retreat

February 9-11 | \$150 until January 15 (\$175 until February 4)

"True Grit" is our theme for the weekend and we will be looking at Romans 5:1-5. Register online at mbbc.org/wr2018.

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Passion 2018

January 1-3

MBBC takes a group of high school seniors and college students to Passion each year. Cost is \$175 and includes your lodging, transportation, and conference ticket. Register online at mbbc.org/passion. We only have 15 tickets, so spots are limited!

ACTIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING

ACTIVE Christmas Gala - "A Shepherd's Tale"

Thursday, December 7 | Heritage Hall | One Seating Only | 6 p.m.

\$20 per person

Richard Garey, a director, producer, and actor based in Hannibal, Missouri, has always had a passion for theater and history. Garey will perform "A Shepherd's Tale" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 7 in Heritage Hall.

Experience a tale based on extensive research into the life of shepherds living in Judea 2000 years ago. This is the story of Esrom, a shepherd of Bethlehem, a goat, a dog, and the sheep. It is also the tale of two special nights. Travel back 2000 years and hear the story of the first Christmas night ever.

Purchase your tickets for \$20 in the church office or after the traditional worship service. Cooks On A Mission will prepare the meal.



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

Mellow Brook Singers Concert - Home Sweet Christmas

Wednesday, December 13 | Hudson Hall | Dinner: 4:45 p.m. | Concert: 6 p.m.

Mellow Brook Singers (age 55+) have rehearsed their Christmas music for several months. The choir will be singing in local retirement homes and will share their music with church members at the Wednesday night service. Bring family and friends and enjoy this special concert.

White Christmas - Alabama Theatre

Tuesday, December 19 | 11:30 a.m. | \$9.50 per person (bring money for lunch)

We will travel to downtown Birmingham to enjoy lunch at the new Pizitz Food Court in the old Pizitz building. After lunch the group will go to the historic Alabama Theatre to see the Christmas classic *White Christmas* at 2 p.m.



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 meet our new members and find out more about their faith journey.



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

Meet Gideon Newell



What led you to MBBC?

This is where my family goes to church.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

I like the nice teachers and not only at church but at the preschool for kids.

How did you come to faith? I became a Christian by believing that God will never lose faith in us. I talked to my mommy and daddy before bed at night and they told me that to become a Christian you have to let Jesus fall into your heart.

Where were you born and raised? Tell us about your family.

I was born in a hospital (in Birmingham). My parents are Sara and Van Newell and I have a baby brother named Isaac.

Where do you go to school? I'm in first grade and I go to Shades Mountain Elementary School.

My hobbies and interests are ... I like video games and soccer, and I have a BIG imagination.

My favorite restaurant is ... The Big Pepper (La Paz)

My favorite Bible story is ... the one where David defeats Goliath because someone defeats darkness.

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

My favorite food is chicken fingers. I want to be a mailman and game creator when I grow up and my favorite color is green.

Joined MBBC October 22, 2017



Meet Karen & Mike Caputo



What led you to MBBC?

Karen: Mike and I were looking for a church family that we could grow spiritually with and serve others together. After visiting several churches in the area, MBBC was by far the friendliest and most welcoming congregation. We felt a connection after the first visit. *Mike:* Members we know expressed how warm and welcoming the members of MBBC were and our experiences while visiting overwhelmingly confirmed what we had been told.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

Karen: I have enjoyed receiving the preview of Dr. Dortch's message every week and then attending the Traditional service on Sundays and hearing his message. I also enjoy the special music that the choir prepares for every week and I am looking forward to the upcoming Christmas music this season. *Mike:* Again the friendliness of the members cannot be understated. On every occasion while visiting, at least one (and sometimes more) MBBC member would notice that we were visiting and would introduce themselves, welcome us, and inquire about us.

Tell us about your faith. *Karen:* I have been a Christian since childhood. While growing up Methodist, I attended confirmation classes at First United Methodist Church in Montevallo that prepared me along the way by growing my faith and teaching me how to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I was baptized at Church of the Highlands a few years ago and have been involved in co-leading and participating in small groups. *Mike:* I accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior and was baptized at age 9. Over the past several years, I have been involved in prayer ministries, prison ministry, and leading and attending a number of men's groups through the Center for Executive Leadership.

Where were you born and raised? Tell us about your family.

Karen: I was born in Tuscaloosa and raised in Northport. My dad worked for Alabama Power so we moved to Eufaula and Montevallo during my elementary/middle school years. We then moved back to Northport

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Talk to one of our staff members or
find out more at mbbc.org/im-new

where I graduated from high school, thus calling Northport home. We have two daughters – Courtney and Elizabeth. Courtney was married last January to Evan Pierce and they make Birmingham their home. She teaches 2nd grade at Leeds Primary School. Elizabeth is a senior at Alabama and will graduate in May 2018 with a degree in Marketing.

Mike: I was born in Anniston and attended grade schools in Anniston and Mountain Brook before graduating high school at Vestavia. Karen and I have been married 30 years.

Where did you go to college? *Karen:* I attended the University of Alabama and graduated with a degree in Accounting in 1984. I met my husband Mike while in college (both accounting majors) and we married in 1987. *Mike:* I attended the University of Alabama, graduating in 1984 with a degree in accounting and a Master of Accountancy in 1987.

Where do you work? *Karen:* I work at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church as the Financial Secretary. *Mike:* I have an investment advisory firm called Headwater Asset Management located in Liberty Park.

My hobbies and interests are ... *Karen:* I love to read and enjoy container gardening, and I also enjoy cheering on the Crimson Tide in the fall. *Mike:* My hobbies and interests include football, hunting, writing, and woodworking.

My favorite restaurant is ... *Karen:* I like Chez Fon Fon and anything Mexican – especially queso and chips; *Mike:* Chez Fon Fon and any good barbeque.

My favorite Bible story is ... *Karen:* the story of the Shepherd and His flock, found in John 10:14-15: “I am the good Shepherd, I know My sheep and My sheep know me – just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father – and I lay down My life for the sheep”; *Mike:* Psalm 16:2 – “I say to the LORD, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.’” It’s a reminder to me that only endeavors where God is involved are meaningful and worthwhile.

Joined MBBC October 22, 2017

MBBC Staff Members



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Want to find out more about MBBC
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Generosity Scorecard as of November 26, 2017

2017 Ministries Budget	\$3,305,569.00
Weekly Receipts	\$27,663.21
YTD Receipts	\$2,522,929.55
Average Weekly Budget	\$63,568.63
Average YTD Budget	\$3,051,294.14
Weekly Net	-\$35,905.42
YTD Net	-\$528,364.59

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget: \$782,639.45

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE to 73256.
To give online, visit mbbc.org/give.





Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.

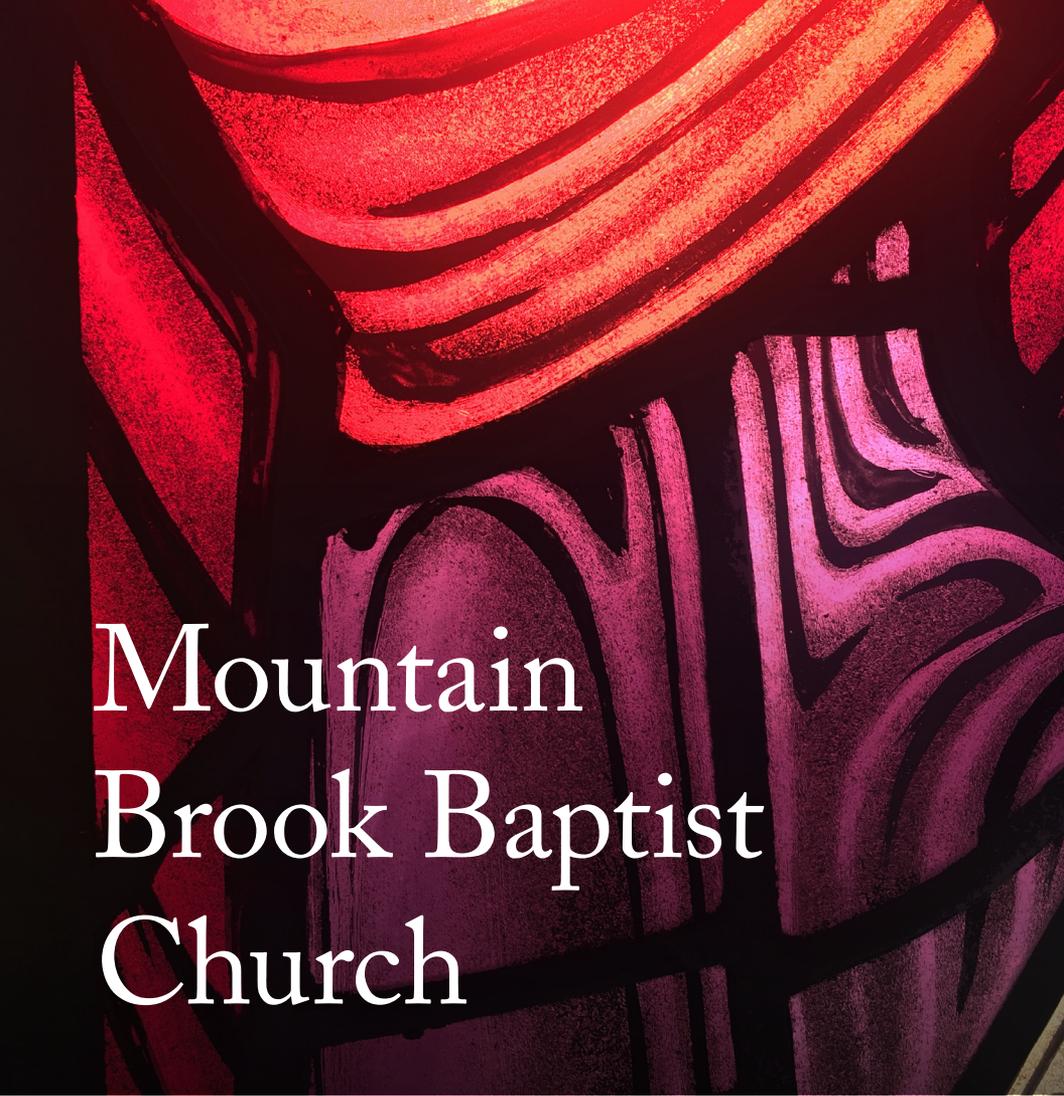


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Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide