



Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide



“Spiritual Housecleaning”

It won't be long before our thoughts turn to transitioning to the spring season of the year, which inevitably involves a bit of housecleaning. The winter months are always hard on our houses because of how we tend to keep things shut tightly so that the cold doesn't get the best of us. But when spring arrives, we're ready to open up the windows and let a bit of fresh air back in.

I think the same is true when it comes to our souls. Winter can be a difficult season, spiritually and emotionally speaking. There have been ample studies done on the correlation between the winter season and lowered emotional states. Both the colder weather and the less amount of daylight all seem to work together to bring down our attitudes and perspectives. But when spring arrives, it's not just the flowers and trees that begin to show signs of renewed growth. So do our souls.

As we move into February, I know that you are anticipating at least one more month of brutal weather because that's how we've been trained to think of life's rhythms. Spring isn't supposed to begin until late March. At least that's what the calendar says. But in the last several years at MBBC, we've talked a good bit about reordering our lives around a sacred calendar, one that reflects the church's desire to mark its days by a salvation story that is grounded in grace and truth. And according to that calendar the time has come to be thinking about how we might rid our souls of the grime and filth that keep us from living with the abundance our faith in Jesus promises to bring.

The season of Lent begins on February 14 this year, which is somewhat earlier than in years past. If you're unfamiliar with Lent, don't bother to look in your concordance or Bible dictionary for an explanation. There was no such observance in Bible times. However, there is strong evidence that

Introduction (*Continued*)

early Christians spent time fasting for the 40 hours between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Later, when the initial rush of Resurrection adrenaline was over and Christians had begun to get complacent about their faith, church leaders saw the need to institute a season of prayer and self-denial, when Jesus followers could prepare themselves – heart, soul, mind, and body – so that the hard, buried bulbs of our souls might come into full flower. Think of it as a spiritual housecleaning where we invite the Holy Spirit into those places where dust and cobwebs have accumulated to clear away the clutter, sweep away the dust, and wash us clean.

I find a joyful irony in the fact that Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on Valentine’s Day this year. While most folk around us will be passing out candy and cards, we’ll direct our thoughts to how God opened His heart to us by sending Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. Not that there’s anything wrong with candy and cards, but the greatest expression of love was what happened at Calvary, where “God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son” (John 3:16) and where “greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

As in previous years, we’ll begin our time of preparation for Easter with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14, at 6 p.m. I have been pleased with how this service has grown in significance in the life of our church because I think it allows us the space to prepare ourselves for the important renewals we need Easter power to bring to life in us.

So, don’t let the chill of life get the best of you in the meantime. The warm breezes of hope and joy are not that far away. It won’t be long before you can open up your heart and let everlasting life make everything seem fresh and new again.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Events & Small Groups

CHURCHWIDE

Just Walk Across the Room: Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study Taught by Dr. Dortch

Sunday, February 11 & 25 | 5-6:30 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Evangelism study, *Just Walk Across the Room*, continues February 11 and 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. It's not too late to join us to learn encouraging ways to share your faith! Childcare is available for preschool children and school age children participate in Bible Drill.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14 | 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the 40-day period of the Christian Year season of Lent in preparation for Easter. We will have our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 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. This service is interesting for children ages 5 and up (childcare will be offered for birth through 4K). We invite families to participate together. The service should last no more than one hour and dinner will be served before the service in Heritage Hall. Children's Missions and Music activities will not meet that night.

Project 119 for Lent

Our Lenten Bible Reading Plan on the book of Mark will begin on Monday, February 19. Copies of the plan will be available for pickup in the narthex and by the receptionist's desk beginning Wednesday, February 14. You will also be able to view the plan online at mbbc.org/project119.

Cooks On A Mission / February Cooking Dates & Monthly Sale

In February come join Cooks On A Mission on the first two Fridays of the month when we will be making Chicken and Wild Rice Soup, Heavenly Delight, and Cherry Almond Scones. All of that will be available at our sale on Wednesday, February 21 from 2-6:30 p.m. We are always looking for people to help us with cooking, delivering meals to Children's Hospital and delivering Backpack Buddies food. Email us at cooksonamission@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved.

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

Love Grantswood Opportunities

Backpack Buddies

Our Backpack Buddies program is well underway, and we need an additional MBBC member (or two) to help with this program going forward. The shopping for the bags has been taken care of by two other MBBC members. This new role would make sure the bags are moved from the 4th floor storage area to Heritage Hall each week during the school year. If interested, contact Sherrie Futch (sherriefutch@gmail.com)

Reading at Grantswood

Every other Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m., 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. Contact Meredith Cale (caleme@aol.com) if you can help. Our dates for this month are February 6 and 20.

Breakfast Buddies

Make an impact on a child's life by simply spending 30 minutes a week having breakfast at Grantswood. Pick a day, check in at the school office between 7:10-7:15 a.m., and then walk across the hall to the cafeteria to pick up your breakfast (cost is \$2.25 per person). After getting your food, sit and talk with the students. Talk about yourself, ask questions about them, and just be a friend. Men and women are welcome.

Family Mission Trip Dates & Golf Tournament

The Family Mission Team will return to Wellington, Colorado on June 23-30. Also, save the date for the 5th annual Golf Tournament for Missions on Monday, April 30 at 8 a.m. at Pine Tree Country Club. Sponsors and players are needed to support the Family Mission Team returning to Wellington, Colorado. Contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) for more information.



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

BOOK CLUBS

Second Monday Book Club

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

Clarence Small will be reviewing *Grant*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Chernow. Bring a sack lunch and join us for a time of fellowship and lively discussion.

MBBC Book Club

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

Join us as Jo Wills leads a discussion on Bill Hybels' *Just Walk Across the Room*. Bring a snack to share.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Sharpen Up

Tuesday, February 27 | Heritage Hall | 6:30 a.m.

Our next Sharpen Up Breakfast will meet on February 27. Join us 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 the men God would have them to be. This semester we will be looking at passages from the book of Daniel and consider how we can be faithful followers of Christ in a world that is often hostile to God's ways. Dr. Dortch will lead this month's devotion from Daniel 2:29-30.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Neighborhood Night

Tuesday, March 13 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Save the date! We'll gather at host homes for coffee, desserts, and fellowship. If you can help by hosting a group in your neighborhood or by providing dessert, email Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

Women's Conditioning/5K Program

Begins Monday, January 29 | 5:30-6:30 a.m.

Trying to be more active in 2018? MBBC will be hosting a women's conditioning/5K training program on Monday mornings from 5:30-6:30 a.m. beginning January 29. For 13 weeks, this small group will participate in a unique full body conditioning program with a celebration 5k at the end and opportunity to set your own personal 13 week goals. This group will be led by Holly Cammarata and there's no cost to join - simply sign up by emailing Holly (hollyfish78@gmail.com).

Monday Morning Bible Study

Meets February 5, 12, & 26 | 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Monday Bible Study is continuing their video study on 1 Peter by Jen Wilkin. Bring your lunch and join us for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer.

Women's Life Group

Meets February 7, 21, & 28 | 6 p.m. | Conference Room

Our Women's Life Group meets from 6-7 p.m. in the Conference Room. This month, we'll begin a new study on the book of Joshua. The focus of the group is on intentional community building and disciple-making, so please consider joining us if you are looking for a Bible study!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Bible Drill

Our Children's Bible Drill continues every Sunday night at 5 p.m.

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, February 23 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Sign up by February 18 by emailing Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).



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

VBS 2018

July 9-13

“Game On” is our 2018 VBS theme. Coaches are needed for both preschool and school age children. Please let Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) know how you can help.

Children’s Camp

July 22-26

Save the date for our week at YMCA Camp Chandler! The cost is \$315 per child if you pay no later than March 1. We have a great time with Bible study, worship, and lots of fun activities. Camp is open to children who have completed 1st-6th grade.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Chili Bowl

Sunday, February 4 | 5:30 p.m.

Come on over to Britt and Chuck Redden’s (9 Montcrest Drive) for our annual Chili Bowl! We’ll watch the first half of the game, eat dinner together, and hang out. Parents, if you can help with dinner, email Amy Jackson (amy@mbbc.org).

Winter Retreat 2018

February 9-11 | Children’s Harbor Lodge

There are still a few more days to sign up for Winter Retreat! Our theme is “True Grit” and we’ll be studying Romans 5:1-5 with former MBBC intern Taylor Geurin! Cost is \$175 and registration closes on February 4 so sign up today at mbbc.org/WR2018.

Events & Small Groups (*Continued*)

LifeWay Girls' Conference

February 16-17 | Hunter Street Baptist Church

This year's LifeWay Girls' Conference will be in Birmingham at Hunter Street Baptist Church on February 16-17. Sophie Hudson will be the main speaker. We'll meet at MBBC at 4:30 p.m. to grab dinner and head to Hunter Street Baptist for the conference. Students and chaperones will stay in host homes on Friday night. We'll spend our day on Saturday at the conference and return to MBBC for pickup by 6 p.m. Cost is \$75; bring money for dinner on Friday! Sign up online at mbbc.org/girlsconference.

Pizza and Pops

Sunday, February 18 | 6-8 p.m.

Meet us at Pieology at the Summit for dinner, and then we'll walk over to Steel City Pops for dessert! Bring money for your pizza. Parents can pick up students at Steel City Pops at 8 p.m.

ACTIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING

ACTIVE Luncheon: Zoo To You

Thursday, February 8 | 11:30 a.m. | Heritage Hall

The Birmingham Zoo is a "must-see" attraction in Alabama! Approximately 900 animals call the Birmingham Zoo home, including sea lions, rhinos, and endangered species from six continents. Our Thursday luncheon will be unique because, instead of going to the zoo, the zoo will come to us! We hope you can make it for this special opportunity to learn more about one of Alabama's gems.

ACTIVE Monthly Trip: TopGolf

Tuesday, February 13 | 9:30 a.m.

Have you driven through downtown and noticed the huge netting from the highway near the BJCC? Well, it's TopGolf, our newest



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at mbbc.org/events

attraction for downtown Birmingham! February's monthly trip will be a unique opportunity for you to tour and learn about this new golf entertainment venue and to even try it out if you want (bring money if you'd like to hit a few golf balls). After our tour, we'll have lunch at TopGolf as well (bring money for lunch). This is your chance to see the latest form of entertainment in Birmingham. Sign up today by calling the church office.

Mellow Brook Singers Rehearsals

Thursdays | 10:30 a.m. | Hudson Hall

MBBC has a group for anyone who loves music and enjoys singing. The Mellow Brook Singers meet weekly in Hudson Hall at 10:30 a.m. for rehearsals followed by lunch in Heritage Hall for \$6 per person. You do not have to be a professional singer. Come and enjoy this time of singing and fellowship.

Ice Cream for Grantswood Community School

This is a mission project that anyone in our group can do! Only the children who have money for ice cream can have any at lunchtime. Many of the children at Grantswood do not have the financial resources for the things that our children and grandchildren take for granted. Therefore we are resuming this project to collect your spare change to buy ice cream for those children who are less fortunate and make their world a little brighter! You can drop off your spare change in the church office.



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

Sue Ellin Martin-Curley



What led you to MBBC? My parents went to MBBC (Dr. Lindy Martin and Sue Martin) as well as some of my high school friends (Sharon Howard, Carole Wills, Kim Hardwick, and Carol Hines).

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? I have enjoyed the New Upper Room Sunday School class as well as a Women's Bible Study group. I have also enjoyed the candlelight service every Christmas Eve.

Tell us about your faith. I was raised in a loving Christian home. I never remember a time where I didn't know about Christ. I gave my profession of faith at the age of 10 and was baptized at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

Where were you born and raised? Tell us about your family. I was born here in Birmingham and went to the Mountain Brook schools then graduated from Samford University. After that I lived in Atlanta, New Orleans, and just moved back to Birmingham from Ponte Vedra, Florida. I have a daughter (Melanie) who just graduated from the University of North Florida and a son (Chris) who just started at Jeff State College.

Where do you work? I am so privileged that I get to work right right here at the ELC!

My hobbies and interests are ... spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, and running.

My favorite restaurant is ... Panera Bread.

My favorite Bible passage is ... Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me lie down in green pastures: He leadeth beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Joined MBBC on December 24, 2017



Glenda & Willis Potts

What led you to MBBC? Once we decided to move to Birmingham, we talked with our former pastor, Dr. Joel Snider, who grew up in Mountain Brook. Dr. Snider attended MBBC as a youth, and highly recommended that we visit you. Dot and Grace Nelson were also good friends of ours, reinforcing the connection. After considerable discussion and prayer, attending your services, and talking with Dr. Dortch, we felt confident that MBBC is where God wants us.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? The friendliness and welcoming attitude of the people at MBBC are really special. Countless people have reached out to us and helped us find our way around the campus, which is a challenge for a couple of old folks! We have joined the Rehoboth Class, a wonderful and caring Bible Study group. We are both involved in the Music Ministry, and truly enjoy participating as a part of such an excellent program, both in the Sanctuary Choir and the Mellow Brook Singers. Glenda served on church staffs for over 30 years as a church organist and has the highest of praise for Dr. Kely Hatley, Ms. Anna Lu Hemphill, and Dr. Paul Mosteller.

Tell us about your faith. We were both reared in Christian families and accepted Christ as Savior at an early age. Our faith is central to who we are. As we learned through Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God*, we are charged to find where God is working, and join Him there. For us, MBBC is an integral piece of that equation.

Where were you born and raised? Tell us about your family. Glenda was born in Alabama and grew up in Wetumpka. Willis grew up in Newnan, Georgia. We have three married sons and six grandchildren. Our two eldest granddaughters are both students at Auburn. As Glenda is quick to point out, they are fourth-generation War Eagles!

Where do you work? Where did you go to college? Glenda has taught piano and pipe organ for over 50 years. Her studio is in our home. She is a graduate of Auburn University and maintains involvement with the Department of Music there. She holds certifications in piano and music theory from the Music Teachers National Association and the National

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Guild of Piano Teachers. Willis is “semi-retired,” having spent over 50 years in the International Forest Products and Paper Industry, and having served on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Willis currently is Chairman of the Board of CatchMark Timber Trust. He has an engineering degree from Georgia Tech, with a graduate business degree from the University of Virginia.

Our hobbies and interests ... Willis enjoys things mechanical, “oldies but goodies” music, and reading. Both Willis and Glenda enjoy digging in the dirt. Glenda enjoys cooking, composing/arranging music, and cats. We are both crazy about our six grandchildren!

Our favorite restaurant is ... Glenda is lactose intolerant, so eating out is always an adventure. We have found a few “meat and threes” that can readily handle her needs. Our favorite “restaurant” is our own kitchen table!

Our favorite Bible verses are ... Willis’ life verse is Isaiah 40:39–“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Being patient has always been a challenge for me. Looking back on my life, I can see times when I definitely succeeded at doing the wrong thing because of a lack of patience. I must constantly remind myself that God’s timing is ALWAYS best. Glenda’s life verse is Romans 8:28–“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” I am confident that whatever challenges life offers believers, His promises are true and just. I simply trust that His way is best and His strength is sufficient!

Joined MBBC on January 7, 2018



Debra & Kevin Rodzinak

What led you to MBBC? We moved to the area in June.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? the friendliness of the members

How long have you been a Christian? Debra: I do not ever remember a time when I didn't believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. My earliest memory was at three years old during Sunday School. I pictured Jesus on the cross and cried for Him. I was baptized at age seven and have always been involved in a Southern Baptist church.

Where were you born and raised? Debra: I was born in Miami, Florida, in 1970. In 1980 my family moved to south Georgia where I went to school and college. Kevin and I moved to Hoover in 2016 and we lived there for a year before moving to Birmingham.

Where do you work? Where did you go to college? Debra: I work at Erwin Middle School as a math teacher. I attended and graduated from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, where I received my bachelor's degree in economics and my master's degree in education.

My hobbies and interests are ... Debra: antique shopping, interior decorating, and exploring Birmingham.

My favorite restaurant is ... We are currently eating our way through Birmingham. We have eaten at so many good restaurants and enjoy trying out new ones each week. Some of our favorites, so far, include Surin West, Brio, and Hattie B's.

My favorite Bible Story/Bible verse is ... Debra: the story of Joseph. His life was a series of ups and downs, yet through it all, he remained constant in his belief and worship of God. It helps me to remember that in all situations, God is in control. I have two Bible verses that I have clung to in my life. The first one I kept taped to my wall at school for over 15 years, and the second one I kept taped to my bathroom mirror. They both have kept me strong and able to go on when life has knocked me down. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all." (Psalm 34:18-19)

Is there anything else you would like to share with the church? Kevin and I are excited to be a part of the MBBC family.

Joined MBBC on January 7, 2018

Anna & Jeremy Steele Juliette



What led you to MBBC? We were looking for a church home where we could grow in our love for the Lord through fellowship with other Christians.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC? We have most enjoyed the messages and the people. We are very grateful for Sharon Howard and the time she has spent with our family and introducing us to fellow members. The message outline sent during the week has been a blessing. It enables us to be better prepared and more receptive to weekly messages.

How did you come to faith? What are you learning about God? Jeremy and I both grew up attending church. We accepted Christ and were baptized in elementary and middle school. We are focused on establishing strong foundations and good habits in order to raise our young daughter in a “God-first” home, setting the example and encouraging her to begin her own spiritual relationship with our Lord.

Where were you born and raised? Tell us about your family. Jeremy was born and raised in Birmingham and graduated from Vestavia Hills High School. Anna was born in Birmingham, but grew up in Oneonta and graduated from Susan Moore High School. Our daughter, Juliette, was born in August 2016.

Where do you work? Jeremy works in Internal Audit with Southern Company; Anna works as an accountant for Surgical Care Affiliates.

Our hobbies and interests are ... fishing, camping, fitness, crafting, and Alabama football.

Our favorite restaurant is ... Galley & Garden.

Our favorite book of the Bible is ... Job because it illustrates trusting the Lord even when we cannot understand our circumstances.

Joined MBBC on November 19, 2017

MBBC Staff Members



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



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Generosity Scorecard as of January 14, 2018

2018 Ministries Budget	\$3,347,719.00
Weekly Receipts	\$36,156.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$270,075.40
Average Weekly Budget	\$64,379.21
YTD Budget	\$128,758.42
Weekly Net	-\$28,223.21
YTD Net	\$141,316.98

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget: \$3,077,643.60

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE

To give online,
visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE
to 73256.





Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.



 mbbc.org

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