

Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

“Finding Your Joy”

Every year when we turn the calendar page from December to January, we feel the pressure of coming up with some life-changing resolution. Because we know that every one of us can stand some improvement, we understand how charting a path in that direction in the New Year is a productive exercise.

The resolutions we come up with are varied in form – lose weight, exercise more, be more productive, drop a bad habit, form a good habit. But each resolution has one thing in common. We come up with them in the hopes of finding our joy.

That yearning for joy is in reality a spiritual matter, which may explain why we struggle to realize our resolutions year after year. As long as we work at improving ourselves in our own power we will be forever doomed to failure. It's only when we draw upon God's inexhaustible resources that we come to a place, a presence, and a power that brings about the transformations that lead to lasting joy.

Over the next several weeks we'll be considering the faith-based steps that are necessary for such joy. From the first Sunday in January to Ash Wednesday in March, our Sunday worship will examine the various angles and attributes of joy as if it were a precious jewel. Ironically, the words “joy” and “jewel” are etymological cousins. Both speak to realities that possess immense value.

Here, then, are the texts and titles for the coming Sundays in January and February:

January 6 | Matthew 2:1-12 | “Where Joy Resides”

January 13 | Luke 3:12-21 | “What Brings God Joy”

January 20 | Combined Service | Deacon Ordination

January 27 | Philippians 1:3-6 | “We're Not Alone”

February 3 | Philippians 1:15-18 | “What Really Matters”

February 10 | Philippians 1:19-26 | “Choosing Jesus' Joy”

February 17 | Philippians 2:14-18 | “The Greatest Joy-Killer”

February 24 | Combined Service | Heritage Sunday with Bryant Strain
March 3 | Philippians 4:4-7 | “Unending Joy”

You'll notice that this series joins traditional Epiphany texts with a series on Philippians. While Epiphany is a time to consider how the path to joy is grounded in God's revelation of Jesus, Paul's letter to Philippians is known by students of the New Testament as “the epistle of joy.” My hope and prayer is that as we move into this New Year each of us will experience the full measure of the constructive changes we are desperate to know (and which God desires to do in us) so that we may be of greater service to the kingdom and in the process grow in the joy of God's salvation.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

New Sunday Schedule

Sunday Morning Bible Study | 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Worship | 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship | Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship | Heritage Hall

Sunday, January 6 marks the first Sunday when we will begin concurrent worship services, with Traditional and Contemporary Worship both beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Foundations 260 Bible Reading Plan

Begins Monday, January 7

We are adopting a new Bible reading plan for 2019. The plan, *Foundations 260*, highlights foundational passages every believer should know and will begin on Monday, January 7. Our children, students, and adults are encouraged to follow this plan. You may access the plan for free online or utilize a Bible reading app. You may also purchase a *Foundations 260* book in the church office for \$10. In addition to the daily readings, the book contains a brief devotional and space to record journal entries. Books designed for adults, children, and youth are available for purchase in the church office. To access links to the free online reading plan and apps, visit www.mbbc.org/readingplan. We will continue to produce special Bible reading guides featuring staff devotionals during the seasons of Lent and Advent.

Winter Discipleship Series: How to Study the Bible

Begins Sunday, January 13 | 4-6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why do we have four gospels?” Do you wonder how the Bible ended up in the form we have today? Have you ever struggled to understand the role that the Old Testament law plays for believers today? If we’re honest, many of us have such questions about Scripture. Our Winter Discipleship Series, How to Study the Bible, will attempt to answer these questions and to help give you the tools you will need on your journey to understand and apply Scripture. Wayne Splawn and Amy Hirsch will teach the introductory weeks (January 13 and 20), Dr. Ken Mathews, Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, will teach two weeks on the Old Testament (February 3 and 10), and Dr. Osvaldo Padilla, Associate Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, will teach two weeks on the New Testament (February 17 and 24).

Grief Support Group

Begins Sunday, January 13 | Fireside Room | 4-6 p.m.

Starting January 13, a grief support group will be offered from 4-6 p.m. in the Fireside Room on the 2nd floor of the CLC. This group will meet for 6 weeks (January 13, 20, February 3, 10, 17, and 24) to provide encouragement, prayers, and empathy for one another. Several video curriculums will be used to help facilitate the discussion. For more information, please contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

Combined Worship Service & Deacon Ordination

Sunday, January 20 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

On Sunday, January 20, we will have a Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary, where we will ordain and install our incoming Deacons.

Semi-Annual Church Conference

Wednesday, January 30 | 6 p.m.

Our customary Semi-Annual Church Conference is Wednesday, January 30, beginning at 6 p.m. Reports from church committees pertaining to the past year’s activities will be presented.

Pickle Ball

Leslie Bashinsky and Jean Vaughn are teaching us how to play Pickle Ball. They are organizing games on Monday nights from 7-9 p.m. and on Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center (CLC). Bring a friend and join us; we have all the equipment, just be sure to wear tennis shoes. Pickle Ball has already been good exercise and great fellowship. Bring a friend and pray that as people play, we are a good witness for our church!

Cooks On A Mission Update & Monthly Sale

Pop-Up Shop and Luncheon Generates \$17,000 for The WellHouse

Thanks to the generous support of MBBC members for the recent lunch and Pop-Up Shop, we were able to send a check for \$17,000 to The WellHouse, almost doubling our proceeds from last year. The money will go directly to operations at The WellHouse, including their brand new transitional housing program, called Next Step to Independence. NSI is designed to be a place for those who have completed The WellHouse's core program and are ready to move toward their educational, career, and family goals while continuing to benefit from case management and counseling. Each of the apartment style units will feature a shared living space with two individual bedrooms on either side. Three of the apartments will be used for mothers with children. At this time, three mothers with children have applied and been accepted to NSI, along with five single program graduates. A resident supervisor, case manager, and counselor will be onsite. Residents are expected to begin moving in around the end of January 2019.

We hope you will continue to support our ministry by participating in our monthly food sale. In January, we will offer two brand new dishes: Brunswick Stew with barbecue pork and Southwest Casserole with Beef and Black Beans. In addition, we will have our Sourdough Missionary Bread, as well as Coq au Vin, Boeuf Bourguignon, Over the Top Macaroni and Cheese, Cheesy Apple Casserole, Squash Casserole, Chicken and Dressing and Rosemary, Ham, and Parmesan Scones. Our food sale will take place on Wednesday, January 16, from 2-6:30 p.m.



VISION 2020 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Missions. We serve others.

One of the “God-sized dreams” in our Vision 2020 plan is to be a congregation marked by the manner in which “We Serve Others.” The 2019 Ministry Guide has been created so that members and attendees of our church can show their faith through their service in Jesus’ name. In this guide, you will find a host of opportunities organized around the various areas of church life where we need people to serve. These opportunities cover the spectrum of ministries at Mountain Brook Baptist Church and there most definitely is a place where you can connect by means of your service. Please prayerfully consider where your time and talents can be put to use. Please help us out and review the insert page inside the Ministry Guide as to the areas in which you would be interested in serving, and respond by completing the form and turning it into the church office.

BOOK CLUBS

MBBC Book Club

Tuesday, January 8 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room

Join us in the Fireside Room for fellowship and discussion as Mary Watkins leads our discussion of *Salvation on Sand Mountain* by Dennis Covington.

Second Monday Book Club

Monday, January 14 | 12 p.m. | Hudson Hall

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

MISSIONS

Love Grantswood

December has been a busy month at Grantswood. We decorated the halls of Grantswood with a mural of Christmas trees and each class decorated a tree. A competition for the best class tree created a lot of buzz. “I cannot tell you how much JOY you have brought to us! It has sparked so much cheerful talk with all of the decorations! We appreciate you all so much for bringing not only the students cheer, but the faculty,” said Nancy Foshee, a teacher at Grantswood.

On December 7, a group of volunteers helped the Kindergarten classes at Grantwood for their Christmas Around the World. We helped with crafts, handed out snacks, and sang songs. A good time was had by all as they learned about how other countries celebrate their holiday traditions.



We also provided hats, gloves, shoes, and socks through the MBBC Angel Tree and provided a breakfast to the staff and faculty to show appreciation before the Christmas break.

We have several opportunities throughout the year where you can be involved:

Reading: Volunteers go to read every other Tuesday morning (9:30-10:30 a.m.); this is a great way to become invested in our community by getting to know students and build partnerships with teachers. The dates for this month are January 15 and 29. If you're interested in getting involved in reading in 2019, 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 Backpack Buddies at Grantswood. Visit www.mbbc.org/lovegrantswood to sign up to deliver bags of food to Grantswood. If you would like to become involved, contact Meredith Cale.



Perry County

Once sought after for its rich soils, Alabama's Black Belt has become a region defined by its state of economic depression, underemployment, and poor social services. For many years, MBBC has provided much needed aid and support to many who live in the area, specifically, Perry County. MBBC Life Deacon and long-term Missions Committee member Jo Wills leads MBBC's outreach efforts toward Perry County.

"At Thanksgiving, we collect food for a Thanksgiving meal for Perry County," Jo said. "We partner with a ministry called Sowing Seeds of Hope, which is based in Perry County. They also gather food items. We put it all together and fill bags with everything needed to make a Thanksgiving meal. MBBC also contributes funds to attach a \$10 gift certificate to the bags to purchase any fresh items needed. This year, we filled 264 bags, and MBBC GAs decorated the food bags during their Wednesday night class."

Sowing Seeds of Hope develops a list of persons needing assistance at Thanksgiving and the local church leaders deliver the bags to their church members.

At Christmas, MBBC puts on a nativity pageant in Perry County. We use a tent covered with burlap and a painted backdrop to set the manger scene, and use costumes from the MBBC Living Nativity. Finally, we use the same historic narration of Dr. Dotson Nelson Jr. to tell the Christmas story. We provide cookies, fruit, and punch for each child attending the program, and distribute the shoeboxes lovingly filled with gifts by MBBC members. Several local churches have members and choirs to sing at the program as well. According to Jo, MBBC members have made some lasting friendships with the people of Perry County and we are available to assist them when needed.





Foundations Parent Meeting

If you missed our December parent meetings, please make sure you pick up a Foundations Book for your child. Books are available in Sharon Howard's office for \$10. Our churchwide Bible Reading Plan this year is the *Foundations 260* book. The great thing about this study is that families can read and memorize God's word together. The study follows a chronological plan for the year. Please send Sharon a video of your child learning Scripture or snap a photo of your child studying God's word.

Sharon also gave out the 2019 proposed children's calendar. Mark your calendar and help your child connect to Christ and Christian MBBC friends. Research tells us that the MOST IMPORTANT factors in a child staying connected to Christ are: Daily Bible Reading, Prayer, Listening to Christian Music, Serving, and Christian Friends.

This month, can you and your child write to people who have been absent? Can you pray for someone on our prayer list and send them a card? Can you visit a senior adult and learn more about them and what they like about MBBC? Your child is a significant part of our church family. Help develop their God-given skills and abilities to serve our Lord together.

Parents' Night Out/Friday Friend-zy

Friday, January 4 | 6:30-9 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 January 2. Email Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to sign up!.

The Gospel Project

Children in 1st-6th grade will change curriculum and begin The Gospel Project in 2019. This is a three-year scope and sequence that is a chronological Bible study, and every lesson points to Christ. Since Jesus is God and has always existed, we can see God's plan, promise, and love for us as we study His word. This will also be a great way to reinforce what is read and learned in your child's Foundations book.

Missions & Music Resumes January 9

NOW is the time to join your church friends on Wednesday nights to participate in hands-on missions and sing praises to God. Our preteens are working on a musical to be performed in March called "Nailed It." Our mission leaders and music teachers love the Lord and love teaching your child about missions and serving together. Dinner is at 5 p.m. followed by missions at 5:30 p.m. and music

at 6:15 p.m. Pick up school-age friends in the gym. We have “Stay and Play” until 8 p.m. “Stay and Play” is for children who have at least one parent in the CLC with them.

ELC Registration

The Early Learning Center is currently accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year. Full Day is registering the week of January 8. Members and currently enrolled students have the week to return their registration form and fee. Half Day registers on January 7 at 9 a.m. Church members may turn in their registration form anytime BEFORE 9 a.m. on January 8. At 9 a.m. on January 8, applications for Half Day will be accepted in sign-in order. We accept applications in this order: MBBC members, currently enrolled children, siblings of currently enrolled children, and children in our community. We LOVE having our church friends at school so make sure to get your registration form in NOW!

BCS (Bible Championship Series) - 1st-6th Grade

Sundays, January 13, 20, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 | 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. Bring your Bible and join us.

Bible Drill Retreat for 3rd-6th Grade

January 25-26 | Shocco Springs Conference Center

We will leave immediately after school at 3:30 p.m. to join other children from around the state to practice Bible skills. The retreat is over after lunch but we will stay and do some fun games and be back no later than 6 p.m. Cost is \$50 and includes EVERYTHING. Please sign up and pay no later than January 15.

How Do I Become a Christian?

Is your child ready to make the most important decision he or she can make? We will have a class on Sunday, January 27 and Sunday, February 3 in the Chapel at 9:15 a.m. One parent must attend with your child. YOU are the most important influencer in your child’s faith development and we want you to be able to follow up with conversation and prayer at home. Please sign up by January 22.

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 Resumes

Sunday, January 6 | 5 p.m.

Join us as we begin preparations for our Spring Tour! There's a spot for you in Chapel Choir!

Student Ministry Parent Meeting

Sunday, January 13 | 12:15 p.m.

All parents of Jr. and Sr. High students are invited to a quick meeting in the youth area after worship to hear details for the upcoming events through the summer, changes in our weekly programs, and make sure you are on page with what's happening in our Student Ministry. Lunch will be provided.

Winter Launch Party

Sunday, January 13 | 6-9 p.m.

We'll kickoff the new semester with ice skating! Meet at the church for dinner then we'll head to the Pelham Civic Center to skate. The cost is \$10. Feel free to invite a friend or two! Reserve your spot online at www.mbbc.org/winterlaunch.

The Brook Resumes

Sunday, January 27 | 6-7:30 p.m.

You are invited to join us for our weekly time of worship for Jr. and Sr. High students. We'll kick off our time together each week with a meal in Heritage Hall then head upstairs to the youth area for worship. This semester we'll be looking at what we believe and why in a series we're calling Creo.

Winter Retreat

Friday, February 1-Sunday, February 3 | Children's Harbor Lodge | \$150

We will take a weekend away from our ordinary schedule to reconnect with God and each other. We'll consider together how God calls us to believe, trust, and have faith, and how we can do that more fully in our lives. Register now at mbbc.org/winterretreat. (The cost goes up after January 13, so register today!)

Church League Basketball

Come cheer on your MBBC Church League Basketball teams! We have three teams: Girls, Middle School Boys, and High School Boys. Full schedules for all three teams are at www.quickcores.com/dawson.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Growth Groups

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

Every Seat Has a Story Women's Dinner

Sunday, January 27 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Hall | \$10

Join us for a night of fellowship and inspiration, as we share dinner around the tables and have opportunities to connect with one another and hear about how God is at work in the lives of the women at Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Our prayer is that this evening will be an encouragement to you and that, through our time together, we would all grow in relationship with God and with one another. The cost for dinner is \$10. Sign up online at www.mbbc.org/everyseat. If you need childcare, please contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org) to make a childcare reservation by Wednesday, January 23.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Sharpen Up

Tuesday, January 8 | 6:30 a.m. | Heritage Hall.

Our next Sharpen Up Breakfast is on Tuesday, January 8 from 6:30-7:15 a.m. Join us for a hearty breakfast, good conversation, opportunities for fellowship, and a devotion.

ACTIVE Christian Living Luncheon: Be Aware & Be Safe

Thursday, January 10 | Heritage Hall | 11:30 a.m. | \$6

Officer Rozetha Burrow of the Mountain Brook Police Department will be our speaker. Officer Burrow has served in Mountain Brook for nine years. In May, she was recognized as Employee of the Year for the Police Department. Her position is Business Liaison Officer. You know her better as one of our Sunday security officers on duty to keep our church safe. Officer Burrow will be leading us in considering how we can be safe in our community as we shop and travel around the city. Safety cannot be taken for granted because there are unethical people who seek to gain from our desire to help others. Today we need to be aware and be careful.

ACTIVE Christian Living Day Trip: Southern Museum of Flight

Tuesday, January 15 | 9 a.m. | Cost \$6 plus lunch money

This is one of the largest aviation museums in the Southeast and is dedicated to presenting civilian, military, and experimental aircraft and memorabilia from the earliest history of powered flight. The 75,000 square foot facility houses over 100 aircraft, as well as engines, models, artifacts, photographs, and paintings. In addition, the Southern Museum of Flight is home to the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame with over 70 biographical plaques presenting Alabama aviation history through collective biography.

Mellow Brook Singers Resume

Thursday, January 10 | Rehearsal in Hudson Hall, 10:30 a.m. | Lunch at 11:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall | \$6

Time to put action to your desire to find your place of service at MBBC. The choir will resume and begin preparing their Spring music. Come join us and enjoy music while making some new friends.

Please call the church office (871-0331) today and make your reservation for these events.

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and Generosity.



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