



# Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

MAKE  
A JOYFUL

OF MY  
GOD

NOISE

UNTO THE  
LORD



## How Free Are You?

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One of today's great puzzles is how many of the people who live "in the land of the free and the home of the brave" can feel so repressed and constrained. How can that be? How can so many in Americans feel so restrained, especially in light of how unless one is literally in prison or on probation, he or she is able to go and do pretty much whatever he or she wants? And yet, there are many today who feel anything but free.

A good part of the answer to that puzzle lies in the fact that so many of us are afraid of what the future holds. It's hard for us to get excited about the present when we're not sure how much longer the good times are going to last. Think about it. How many times have you been kept from enjoying the present moment out of your apprehension that any second it could be taken away?

Suffice it to say that ours is not the first time that folk have been confronted with seemingly insurmountable challenges. In fact, when you read the Bible, you see that much of what the Bible has to say is spoken in response to the dread and anxiety that had caused people in those days to lose all hope of a good future. Every book from Genesis to Revelation invites its readers to yield their anxieties, their fears, their needs, and their concerns to a God who holds together past, present, and future so that His people might be strengthened and encouraged for whatever may come their way.

## Introduction (*Continued*)

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One of my favorite passages in this regard is Psalm 118. Most Old Testament scholars associate this psalm with the Festival of Tabernacles, a sort of Independence Day celebration for ancient Israel in which God's people celebrated God's guidance of Israel during her wilderness wanderings from Egypt into the land of Canaan. Talk about an anxious and uncertain time. The children of Israel had no idea what lay before them, except for the assurance that God was also ahead of them there to prepare the way. And for most of them, that was enough. For most of them, knowing that God was ever before them was all that they needed.

Notice that when you look at the psalm in its entirety there is a fourfold declaration of how God's love "endures forever." That Hebrew word for "love" refers to a special kind of love—God's covenant love, where God pledges to maintain faithfulness to His people come what may. God "binds Himself" to His people in dedication and devotion, so that whatever challenges come their way, they can be certain that God will be present to help meet them. This is why the Psalmist could say, "In my anguish (which is to say, my fear, my anxiety, my uncertainty) I cried to the Lord, and He answered by setting me free."

I don't think there is any question but that the fears that overwhelm us are the very things that keep us from living at the level of abundance to which Jesus calls us—fear of failure, fear of insignificance and irrelevance, fear of loss, fear of rejection. All of those fears immobilize us and cause us to depend on things that cannot sustain us, which when you think about it is the root cause of idolatry. When we find ourselves defeated by situations or circumstances that are more than we can handle, the temptation is to look beyond ourselves for some source of help that we can touch and handle—a possession, a partnership, a political power—but the truth is that in order for us to have our deepest

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fears answered, we must look to the Lord, for He alone is capable of setting us truly free. Only the presence of God in our lives can convince us that we are not failures, even when we are less than perfect, and that we are not insignificant or irrelevant, even though we are weak and not always a part of the “in” crowd, and that we are always loved, even when we don’t act so lovely.

So, as we approach this month when we celebrate our nation’s independence, is there something in your life that is broken and in need of repair? Is your life, or at least some part of it, a miserable wreck? Have you had something fall apart, or has everything just become out of focus? Then, what you need is a fresh encounter with God’s steadfast love poured out in the person of Jesus Christ. What you need is a clearer understanding of how God is ever present to help you in your hour of need. What you need is some assurance that the power of the risen Jesus is at your disposal and that you have no reason whatsoever to be bound by your fears and anxieties.

This world can get wild, and in our wandering through it there is often much cause to be afraid. But you can give your fears to God and be certain that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead will enable you to rise above all that would hold you down and keep you back from the abundant life God created you to know. Then you too can know the same joy that sustained the Psalmist and so many other saints throughout time: “In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and He answered by setting me free.”



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

# Churchwide Events

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## **Semi-Annual Church Conference**

Wednesday, July 17 | 6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Our customary Semi-Annual Church Conference is Wednesday, July 17. Verbal reports from church committees will be presented. Each member is encouraged to participate in this important meeting. Dinner will be served beginning at 5 p.m. with the church conference starting at 6 p.m.

## **Is Your Small Group or Sunday School Class 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 or small group. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please email us at [cooksonamission@yahoo.com](mailto:cooksonamission@yahoo.com).

# Missions

## Builders For Christ Mission Trip Photos



## Missions (continued)

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## Missions (*continued*)

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### **Cooks On A Mission**

While the Cooks On A Mission are on a summer break, the good this group does with the support of the entire MBBC congregation has not stopped. Throughout the summer we have continued to provide a monthly dinner for the Pediatric Oncology Parent Support Group at Children's/UAB.

In June we got to help several ladies who have completed The WellHouse program and who have cooked with us on Fridays for more than a year, as they moved into the new transitional apartments, called Next Steps to Freedom, on the WellHouse Campus. We helped with donations of furniture, rugs, and other household goods to help make the apartments a home. These ladies are well into the long process of healing from the trauma being part of human trafficking and are making a “normal” life for themselves, with the goal of being fully independent at the appropriate time. All of them have turned their lives over to Christ, and are walking daily with Him.

In mid-June, we got to attend the graduation celebration for two WellHouse graduates, and we look forward to welcoming these women into the after-care program we have begun at the request of the WellHouse administration. This program is called Overcomers, and it includes quarterly meetings with dinner and an educational speaker to help with independent living. All women of MBBC are welcome to participate in this program, because these graduates need to form relationships with other believers outside of The WellHouse network. If you have an interest in participating, email us at [cooksonamission@yahoo.com](mailto:cooksonamission@yahoo.com).



Finally, remember that you can purchase remaining inventory of the food Cooks On A Mission prepares each month. One of our dedicated church receptionists will be happy to help you during regular office hours. As always, proceeds will help fund local missions work, including our work with Children's/UAB, The WellHouse, Red Mountain Grace, M-Power and Camp Seale Harris, as well as many other projects. We will be back in the kitchen on Friday, August 2 and 9, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

# Children's Ministry

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## **In the Wild - Vacation Bible School**

July 8-12

We are getting ready for a WILD week of VBS. Many hours of preparation and prayer have already occurred. How can you help?

1. Register your child online at [mbbc.org/vbs](http://mbbc.org/vbs).
2. Sign up to help one or more days. We need preschool helpers, school age helpers, many more greeters, kitchen volunteers, and more. We need people to be present in our building to be friendly and to pray. How cool would it be for people to be in our Chapel praying for Bible study leaders, praying for hearts to be open to Jesus, praying for the outreach efforts of our church? Email Sharon Howard ([sharon@mbbc.org](mailto:sharon@mbbc.org)) to volunteer. We can't wait to see how God will use our church this week.

## **Children's Camp - YMCA Camp Chandler**

July 21-25

Just after Bible school, we leave for summer camp. Camp is for children who have completed 1st-6th grade. We leave at noon on Sunday and return at noon on Thursday. What is camp? Camp is a great way to connect with your friends and learn about Jesus. We begin each day with Bible study and end the day with worship. During the day, you can choose between many land activities: archery, riflery, crafts, cooking (a favorite), ropes, sports, games, and more. You also get to choose water activities: ski boat, banana boat, canoeing, paddle boards, fishing, and water balloons. The cost for MBBC members is \$350 if paid no later than July 1. After July 1 and for non-members, the fee increases to \$400. Please sign up ASAP by emailing Sharon Howard ([sharon@mbbc.org](mailto:sharon@mbbc.org)).

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## Children's Ministry Summer Fun

We have summer plans for all age groups! Check out our Sign-Up Genius links listed below, or visit [mbbc.org/summerkids](http://mbbc.org/summerkids).

**Preteens:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-preteen8](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-preteen8)

Our preteens have been doing a Bible study, It's Your Move, as well as gathering for weekly fellowship.

**School Age:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-summer](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-summer)

Our school age kids have enjoyed connecting with friends for lunch and special activities.

**Families:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-family2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aca92eab9-family2)

These activities are for all age groups but are especially preschool friendly.

## Melt My Heart - God Has a Plan!

A few weeks ago, one of Graham's friends was having a pool party for her birthday. She had been planning and looking forward to it for weeks. With Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and her older sister going away to camp, and other conflicts, it was the only day the party could be held. As it became closer to party day, all the weather apps were predicting rain.

The day before the party, Graham asked me how many more days there were until the pool party. I told him that his friend may not be able to have her pool party because it might rain. I told him that her mommy asked her about a backup plan and she started crying about the possibility of either not having her pool party or not having her sister

## Children's Ministry (*continued*)

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there for the party. I asked him if he might want to say a prayer for his friend so she could have the party she wanted. We prayed together (he started with "Dear God," asked me to pray, and then we both ended with "Amen"). After we prayed he was quiet for a moment and then he said "You know, mommy, I learned in Chapel that God always has a plan and God's plan is the best plan so we don't have to worry." It just warmed my heart! I am so grateful to everyone at the ELC and MBBC for all they have taught Graham! Oh and the party...it rained all day... until an hour before the party began. The clouds parted, the sun came out, and the party was a huge success! God is good!

-Maryam Stevenson

# Student Ministry

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## LifeWeek 2019

July 7-9

Make plans to join us for three fun-filled nights of worship and Bible study, with an adventure every night. This year's theme is "Encounter" and we are thrilled to welcome back Courtney Trotter as our LifeWeek speaker. LifeWeek is free and you are encouraged to bring some friends. More at [mbbc.org/lifeweek](http://mbbc.org/lifeweek).

## Beach Retreat

July 26-29 | Laguna Beach, Florida

We're headed back to Laguna Beach for our annual Beach Retreat. The retreat is \$225 per person and registration closes July 14. Sign up and more at [mbbc.org/beachretreat](http://mbbc.org/beachretreat).

## Summer Funs

We have a summer full of "no-frills fellowships" planned. Registration closes one week prior to each event to ensure we can arrange transportation. Get all the details and sign up at [mbbc.org/summerfun](http://mbbc.org/summerfun).

- July 2 - All-American Lunch
- July 16 - Six Flags Over Georgia
- August 1 - Paintball
- August 7 - Top Golf
- August 17 - Lake Day

## Spartan Day Breakfast

August 5 | Heritage Hall

Rising seventh graders, save the date and invite your friends. Prior to Spartan Day orientation at Mountain Brook Junior High, all the new seventh grade students at MBJH are invited to Heritage Hall for a quick breakfast and an encouraging word before we walk across the street to the Jr. High together.

# Women's Ministry

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## Women's Summer Growth Groups

July 10, 17, and 24 | Conference Room

The Women's Summer Growth Groups have begun and other groups that started last year continue on! Our goal is to “be a group of sinners helping each other, praying for each other, encouraging each other, and holding each other accountable” (Robby Gallaty from his book *Growing Up*). As we grow in relationship with one another and study God's word together, God helps clarify our mission—we are disciples called to make disciples.

If you would like to be a part of a group, but the current schedule doesn't work with yours, let's get creative. One of our groups meets downtown at the Alabama Power Building during the lunch hour. This group began because several church members felt a desire to be in community through growth groups, but couldn't make other ones work for their schedule. Contact Mary Splawn to brainstorm beginning a group that will work with your location and schedule.

Don't allow your unique schedule or location to be the excuse! Prayerfully consider making a growth group part of your weekly routine. Email Mary Splawn ([mary@mbbc.org](mailto:mary@mbbc.org)).

# Men's Ministry

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## Summer Discipleship Series

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older. If you have missed the first three meetings in June, you are still encouraged to participate in July.

If you would like to participate in this group, please contact Wayne Splawn ([wayne@mbbc.org](mailto:wayne@mbbc.org)) to sign up.

# ACTIVE Christian Living

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## Barons' Baseball Game

Thursday, July 4 | Regions Field | 6 p.m.

The Mellow Brook Singers have been issued the invitation to sing the National Anthem for the Barons' baseball game on the evening of July 4! We hope you'll consider coming out to celebrate Independence Day and support our Mellow Brook Singers. We are no longer selling group tickets for the game, but if the game is not sold out, we invite you to purchase your own ticket online (<https://www.milb.com/birmingham/tickets/single-game-tickets>) or by calling the Barons' ticket office.

## A Night on the Red Carpet

Thursday, July 18 | 6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Mark your calendars for our annual mid-summer night event, "A Night on the Red Carpet." Each year we have a nighttime event in order to allow our friends who are still working to attend. This year's theme is "fancier" up a bit from past years. We are having hostesses (from within our church) to set tables for eight from their best items from home. We can hardly wait to see what each table will look like! Each one will be exquisite and unique. Our menu is: braised beef short ribs with sauce and mushrooms, red-skin mashed potatoes, carrots with brown sugar glaze, salad with dressing, rolls, and key lime pie. We are excited to announce that our entertainment for the evening will be Birmingham's own "Just Friends: Little Big Band" which consists of two vocalists, two saxophones, one trumpet, one trombone, one bass, and drums. They have recently been featured on TV47 Atlanta and frequently play at The Club. They are a "big band" in a smaller package that plays a variety

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of music from the older classics such as “In the Mood” and “Moonlight Serenade,” to more recent ballads popular today.

How can you help?

1. We have five tables hostesses now. We need nine more!

Contact Kely Hatley ([kely@mbbc.org](mailto:kely@mbbc.org)) if you can help.

2. Purchase tickets! Tickets may be purchased from the reception office desk during the week. On Sundays, tickets will be available for purchase in the narthex before Sunday School, before worship at 10:30 a.m., and for a brief period after the service. Secure your tickets today. Seating is limited to 120.

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



# 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.

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## Cyntanna & Warren Hawkins

### **What led you to MBBC?**

When we found out we would be moving to Birmingham, I (Cyntanna) worked with a lady who happened to be the aunt of Hayden Walker. She told me about MBBC and how we should visit when we move. Warren and I were welcomed with open arms that first Sunday and never left.

### **What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?**

Cyntanna: The community, by far! We have really connected with our Sunday School class and felt included from the very beginning. I also really love the music in contemporary service.

Warren: The studies of C.S. Lewis in Sunday School is what I have enjoyed most about MBBC. Attending Ouachita Baptist University taught me just how much I truly love to dive into Scripture and uncover deeper meanings behind the words as well as alternate interpretations and theories.

### **Tell us about your faith?**

Cyntanna: Neither of my parents are Christians, so my experiences with church were always VBS and Wednesday night AWANA when my friends invited me. I was saved at the age of eight in VBS at a nearby church. In an effort to maintain that relationship with God, I started going to church on Sundays either by riding the church bus or driving when I got older. I was not baptized until I was 12 and became more involved in the church at Sherrill, Arkansas.

Warren: I have been a Christian since April 2014. I was saved after attending the Arkansas Youth Conference in Little Rock, which was a



Christian music event. Soon after, I was baptized in Sherrill, Arkansas where I attended church with Cyntanna in high school.

**Where were you born and raised?**

We were both born and raised in England, Arkansas and met at England High School. We were married on August 15, 2015. We do not have any human children, but we have two sweet cats, Henry and Heidi.

**Where do you work?**

Cyntanna: I got my bachelor's degree in Biology from Ouachita Baptist University. Now, I am finishing my first year of a PhD at UAB studying Cancer Biology. This program includes a full-time research position along with classes.

Warren: I currently am a truck driver but am planning on seeking other opportunities. I attended Ouachita Baptist University for a couple of years before deciding I didn't feel any passion towards any of the careers that a college degree afforded me and stopped attending.

**My hobbies and interests are ...**

Cyntanna: I enjoy lifting weights and playing with our cats.

**Our favorite restaurant is ...**

Saw's (Any of the locations)

**Our favorite Bible stories are ...**

Cyntanna: My favorite Bible story is of Abraham and Isaac with the burnt offering. I find Abraham's faith inspiring, and see it as a template for how far we are to go if led by God. It also reminds me that God's time is not my time. He does not always come to the rescue when my worldly-self thinks he should, but He has a plan.

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

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Warren: My favorite Bible story is the story of Job. The reason for this is because no matter how many times Satan destroyed everything in Job's life, Job never abandoned his love for God. There are many lessons that can be learned from this story. However, the one I like to remember whenever I am going through a difficult time is that God not only wants us to be happy, but He wants us to be strong as well. I try and remember this story whenever I am struggling with something.

**Is there anything else you would like to share with the church?**  
We really look forward to growing in our faith at MBBC.

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**Cyntanna & Warren Hawkins**

Joined MBBC May 26, 2019

[cyntanna@gmail.com](mailto:cyntanna@gmail.com)

# MBBC Staff Members

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**Dr. Doug Dortch**

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**Mr. Vince Blackerby**

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**Mr. Joel Burks**

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**Dr. Kely Hatley**

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ACTIVE  
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**Ms. Anna Lu Hemphill**

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**Mrs. Sharon Howard**

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Want to find out more about MBBC  
and our staff? Visit [mbbc.org/staff](http://mbbc.org/staff)

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**Joseph Mendum**

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# Generosity Scorecard as of June 16, 2019

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2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$54,702.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$1,472,684.19
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$1,590,958.98
Weekly Net	-\$11,587.90
YTD Net	-\$118,274.79

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:  
\$1,974,393.81

## Ways to Give



**PLATES**



**ONLINE**

To give online,  
visit [mbbc.org/give](http://mbbc.org/give).



**TEXT**

Text STOREHOUSE  
to 73256.





Love God. Live with Grace  
and Generosity.



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MBBC Guest (password 803-3452)



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