



Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide

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Happy Anniversary, MBBC!

When I was a young pastor, and did not know how much I did not know at that time, I too often failed to appreciate the importance of signal anniversaries in the lives of church members. While there would usually be major league flower arrangements on the altar table commemorating those important times in a couple's life, I was oblivious to the most significant marker that particular season was for the two persons being recognized. It was only when I noticed how on most of those Sundays the couple would be joined by other family members, usually children and grandchildren, who had often traveled long distances to be with their loved ones on this most high occasion, that I began to see how a celebration of this sort was a truly big deal!

As you know by now, we have such a momentous moment drawing near for our church this next month. On September 29, Mountain Brook Baptist Church will celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Throughout the year we have been gearing up for this Sunday with the aid of special worship guide inserts that have captured stories of the rich legacy in worship and service our church possesses. Thanks to Catherine Allen and Amy Hirsch, and to many of you who have contributed various remembrances, we have been able to enjoy a steady drumbeat of reminders as to how God's favor has been with us in transforming ways and our response to that divine favor as we have endeavored to spread the gospel in word and deed in our community and beyond.

You have also had the chance to revisit the Bible's story through the commemorative book by Dr. Joe O. Lewis, our former Teacher in Residence, *Sacred Space and Sacred Story*, which explains in detail the symbolism behind each of the beautiful stained glass windows in both our Sanctuary and Chapel. Joe's explanations remind us of the firm foundation upon which our church's worship and service are based, and have provided the perfect theme around which to organize our anniversary.

This time has allowed us to look back and reflect upon God's grace and generosity to us over the course of our 75 years of existence, and it has also prepared us to take our place in penning the next chapter of our exemplary church's history. I know I have more confidence in our church's ability to manage the challenging seasons that will surely come upon us in the days ahead because of how I have heard the stories of how we managed similar challenges in days past. I trust you feel the same way, as you have picked up lessons along the way that will help you to become more faithful in your future participation in the work God still has for us to do.

Now, we conclude what has been a noteworthy year with the Anniversary Sunday on September 29. We will have a churchwide brunch beginning at 8:45 a.m. and then a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Our committee, chaired by Richard Adams, and supported by Catherine Allen, Doral Atkins, Bob Baker, Jack Brown Jr., Meredith Cale, Richard Compton, Geoff Johnson, Jesalyn McCurry, Susan Ray, Amy Scofield, Mary Scott, Katy Sexton, and June Whitlow, has done a terrific job of structuring a yearlong observance of our rich heritage, which will conclude in a most inspiring Sunday celebration that points us toward the hopeful future that lies ahead. As you see these persons, please express your deep appreciation to them. They have shouldered a heavy load and have never complained a single time.

Your presence will be important for September 29. After all, you, too, are a part of our past, and, more importantly, you are also a part of that good future God has for us to know.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

75th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, September 29 | Brunch & Combined Worship

Join us for this historic occasion as we celebrate 75 years of ministry at Mountain Brook Baptist Church. We'll begin with brunch in Heritage Hall at 8:45 a.m. There will also be an exhibition on display in Hudson Hall to commemorate our anniversary as we look back at the history of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Sunday Morning Bible Study classes will meet at 9:15 a.m. before we join together for a Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Share Jesus Without Fear

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22 | 4-6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

Many believers avoid witnessing because of fear. Perhaps you are afraid of being rejected or offending others. One of our Vision 2020 goals has been to help empower church members in the work of evangelism, to share their faith with others. *Share Jesus Without Fear* teaches believers a natural and non-threatening way to share the gospel with others. We'll meet in Heritage Hall each week to talk about how to ask questions and share Scripture with others in a way that eliminates the pressure, arguments, and fear of failure many of us have. Dinner will be served following the study at the regular Wednesday night prices (\$7 adult/\$3 kids/\$20 maximum per family).

S.H.A.P.E. Spiritual Gifts Study

Sunday, October 6, 13, 20 | 4-6 p.m. | Heritage Hall

As part of our Vision 2020 emphasis on discipleship, we will have a spiritual gifts study during the month of October based on Eric Rees's book *S.H.A.P.E.* Be sure to save the date so you can attend this study as we thoughtfully engage how the Lord has gifted each of us and how we might use those gifts for the kingdom.

Missions

Cooks On A Mission

Monthly Sale on Wednesday, September 18 | 2-6 p.m.

We are back to work, and you are invited to join us! In September we begin our work in earnest, resuming Backpack Buddies operations and making plans for our annual fundraiser for The WellHouse, which will take place on December 5 and 6. Stay tuned for more information on the Pop-Up Shop and Luncheon. Our menu for September will include Heavenly Delight, which features a hearty tomato beef sauce layered over sour cream sauce and egg noodles; Buffalo Chicken Dip, which features shredded chicken breasts in a zesty buffalo sauce; and Red Beans and Rice with Conecuh Sausage. Stock up at our food sale on Wednesday, September 18, from 2-6 p.m., or you can purchase these items after the sale from one of our church receptionists (the church office is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday through Friday). We take cash, checks, or Venmo. We have sign-ups available to help deliver food to Grantswood Elementary School, as well as for our monthly cooking days. See mbbc.org/cooks for more information.

Christmas Gift Boxes for Perry County Children

Ever wish you could slow down and spread out the Christmas season? Now you can, when you participate in MBBC's long-standing tradition of providing Christmas cheer for children in Perry County. We partner with Sowing Seeds of Hope, a joint ministry between the people of Perry County and Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches, for this project. Sowing Seeds of Hope helps the people of Perry County through home repair and housing solutions, health care assistance, spiritual renewal



opportunities, educational resources, and much more.



MBBC will be collecting Christmas Gift Boxes in September to beat the Christmas rush. The boxes will be given to children in December, when we host a Christmas party and pageant in Perry County using our Living Nativity script as the audio, with students from Judson College and local participants as the actors. Empty boxes are available under the Grand Staircase at MBBC, and are labeled Toddler, Child, and Tween. Each box includes a sheet with recommended gift items for each category. If you have questions, or if you would like to attend the Christmas party and pageant, contact Jo Wills (jo@taxspecialist.com).

Widespread Grace Benefitting Red Mountain Grace Tuesday, October 1 | 6 p.m. | The Haven

One of our missions partners, Red Mountain Grace, will hold their annual fundraising event, Widespread Grace on October 1. Red Mountain Grace is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing housing to out-of-town patients and caregivers during their extended medical stays in Birmingham. The organization has grown from serving two families in 2013 to 127 families in 2018. By purchasing a ticket to this event, you will have the opportunity to support their mission and learn more about how families are impacted through their work. Katherine and Jay Wolf, authors of *Hope Heals*, will be the keynote speakers this year. Tickets are \$75 and tables start at \$600. For more information, visit widespreadgrace.com.

Missions (*continued*)

Missions Partner Spotlight: Restoration Academy

Restoration Academy, located in the Fairfield community and founded in 1988, offers a rigorous, Christ-centered education for 370 students in K5 through 12th grades. The students come from predominantly lower-income, urban, and at-risk families. The goal of the school is to meet the academic, spiritual, and social needs of each student in a Christ-centered environment.

The curriculum is carefully chosen and biblically integrated by Christian teachers and administrators. All subjects are seen as valuable ways to know God through His creation. All teachers at Restoration Academy have a relationship with Jesus and they feel called to share and use their teaching gifts to benefit the Restoration Academy community. At Restoration Academy, Reading and Math are seen as gateway disciplines and have large amounts of focus given to them during the day in the elementary school in order to build a foundation to build on in the future. In the middle and high school, students are placed in smaller classes to meet them at the point of their need. English classes normally do not have more than 10-12 students per class and Math classes range from 2-12 students per class depending on the course. Restoration Academy curriculum is normed to state and national standards. Restoration Academy is fully accredited with AdvancED, formerly the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Restoration Academy offers all courses that fulfill Alabama State diploma requirements.

Restoration Academy is making a difference in the lives of its students. On the Stanford Achievement Test, Restoration Academy students in grades 7 to 12, on average, are advancing

two years in one year's time in reading comprehension and math. For the past eleven years, all Restoration Academy graduates have been accepted into college, many with full scholarships.

In addition, Restoration Academy also requires all students to participate in service in their community. In the elementary grades, students participate in a service day each semester, while middle and high school students are required to serve a certain number of approved hours in their community as a part of their Bible class. This part of the curriculum is referred to as “Bible Lab,” where Restoration Academy students can put into practice what they are learning in their classrooms—to love their neighbors as themselves.

You can help: Restoration Academy has an active volunteer program. More than 70 weekly tutors invest in Restoration Academy students and more than 100 volunteers serve as teachers' aides, classroom sponsors, and “Room Moms.” MBBC members are encouraged to get involved. Visit restorationacademy.org/volunteer to apply to become a volunteer.



Missions (continued)

Restoration Academy Photos



Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays | 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Every age group has a Sunday Morning Bible Study Class. Your child's teachers work hard to make the class fun and make God's word applicable to your child's life. Every week, check your email to see what your child learned and have some talking points for your family afternoon. If you are not receiving emails, please let Sharon know (sharon@mbbc.org). Also, please make sure we have your cell phone number for important text reminders.

Missions & Music

Wednesdays | 5:30-7 p.m.

Missions and Music have started back! Our theme this year is "Go For It!" We want your children to know they can pray for missionaries as well as serve our Lord right now. Our music programs teach children to praise our Lord through song as well as learn rhythm, learn to read music, and sing parts. The best news is that on Wednesday nights, there is something for every age group, so make Wednesday night your family place to be.

Sunday Nights for Children

Sundays, September 8, 15, & 22 | 4-6 p.m.

The adults will have their annual evangelism training on September 8, 15 and 22 from 4-6 p.m. In addition to preschool child care, school age children will learn Bible verses, skills, and what the Bible says about sharing our faith. We will have lots of fun and we hope every child can join us.

Student Ministry

Student Growth Groups

Wednesday, September 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7-8 p.m. | Various Locations
Mid-Week Bible Studies are now Student Growth Groups! These weekly gatherings are designed to dive deeper into relational discipleship by reading and memorizing scripture and offering encouragement and accountability. We have groups for Sr. High and Jr. High guys and girls. For more information about getting involved contact Ben Winder, Minister to Students (ben@mbbc.org | 603.6803)

Football Frenzy

Friday, September 6 | 9-11 p.m. (following MBHS football game) | Yellow Missionary House Backyard

After the high school football game, join us in the backyard of the Yellow Missionary House for s'mores, yard games, and a chance to hang out together. This is a free event and a great opportunity to introduce your friends to the MBBC Student Ministry!

The Brook

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22, 29 | 6-7:30 p.m. | Student Ministry Area
Our weekly gathering for students is back! Join us each week and invite some friends to a relaxed, fun atmosphere for worship, teaching, and fellowship aimed to meet Jr. High and Sr. High School students where they are.

Chapel Choir

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5-6 p.m. | Choir Room

It's time for Chapel Choir to resume rehearsals as we prepare to lead worship this fall and winter. All Jr. High and Sr. High School students are invited and encouraged to join us—no experience necessary!

Fall Service Day + Bus & BBQ

Saturday, October 5 | 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a full day with your MBBC family and Student Ministry family! We'll spend our morning serving our neighbors with grace and generosity alongside our church family. We'll spend the afternoon at the lake enjoying food, fellowship, and fun with our MBBC Student Ministry family with a spin on a classic MBBC Students event—Bus & BBQ.

Women's Ministry

Growth Groups

Growth Groups are starting this month but there is still time to join. These groups exist to foster discipleship, friendship, and communion with God and others. Please contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org) or visit mbbc.org/growth for more information.

Monday Women's Bible Study

Begins Monday, September 16 | 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

The Monday Women's Bible Study begins Monday, September 16 from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. This group will be studying Beth Moore's study *The Quest*. Women of all ages are welcome to participate. Workbooks are \$15. Contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org) or Joann Stramaglia (jastramaglia@yahoo.com) for more information.

Women's Life Group

Begins Wednesday, September 4 | 6-7 p.m.

On Wednesday nights this fall, a group of ladies will meet for fellowship and studying the Bible together in the Conference Room on Wednesday nights from 6-7 p.m. We will study the book of 1 Peter together.

Contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org) for more information.

Men's Ministry

Men's Growth Groups

This fall we plan to launch a number of Men's Growth Groups. These groups are discipleship groups that include Scripture reading, Scripture memorization, prayer, fellowship, and accountability. The groups will meet for 11 weeks and will begin the week of September 9. Participants are asked to commit to attend at least eight of the 11 sessions. These are intergenerational discipleship groups and are open to guys who are entering the 10th grade and older. For more information on signing up for a group, contact Wayne Splawn (wayne@mbbc.org) or visit mbbc.org/growth.

Sharpen Up Starts Back in September

Tuesday, September 17 | 6:30-7:15 a.m. | Heritage Hall

Our Sharpen Up Men's Breakfasts will start back on September 17. Make plans now to attend Sharpen Up this fall. You will enjoy a hearty breakfast, fellowship with other guys from our church and community, and an encouraging devotional from God's Word. Mark your calendars for October 15 and November 19, which are our other Sharpen Up Breakfast dates for 2019.

Contact Wayne Splawn (wayne@mbbc.org) for more information.

ACTIVE Christian Living

ACTIVE Christian Living Luncheon: Absolutely Alabama

Thursday, September 12 | 11:30 a.m. | \$7

Our first luncheon after summer break is going to be great! Mark it on your calendar because you're not going to want to miss this! Our speaker will be Fred Hunter, the host of WBRC FOX6 News Channel's Absolutely Alabama. Many of you have probably seen him before on television or the Internet. We get the pleasure of hearing him, in person, speak to us about a subject of interest to us all. Don't hesitate to get your name added to the list. We look forward to seeing you there! Call the church office (871-0331) to make reservations.

Mellow Brook Singers Starts Up Soon

Rehearsals Begin Thursday, September 12 | 10:30 a.m. | Hudson Hall

The Mellow Brook Singers is our choir for adults age 55+. We meet on Thursdays during the academic year. Our focus is to prepare music programs to take outside the walls of our congregation to be a ministry presence in our community. Ask any current member of the group and you will be told how meaningful participation in this choir can be. Membership is open to all; be prepared to sing good music, share a lot of smiles, and laugh a good bit too. Lunch is served downstairs in Heritage Hall every Thursday following our rehearsals for \$7. Come join our fellowship!



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

ACTIVE Christian Living Trip: Frank Lloyd Wright & Helen Keller Houses

Tuesday, September 24 | Depart at 8:30 a.m. | \$30 plus lunch money

Join us on a fabulous day trip to Florence, Alabama to tour the birthplace of Helen Keller and the single family Rosenbaum house designed by the famous American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Between the two tours we will eat lunch at the River Bottom Grille, a local seafood restaurant in the middle of O'Neal Harbor. This is a meal you will not want to miss, so bring additional money for lunch. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning and plan to arrive back at the church no later than 5:30 p.m. The registration deadline for this trip is September 17. Contact Joseph Mendum (803-3488) to make a reservation and secure a spot on the bus.

Contact Kely Hatley (kely@mbbc.org) for more information.

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Meet Our New Members

We are so excited to welcome our new members to Mountain Brook Baptist Church. In the following pages, you are going to meet our new members and find out more about their faith journey.



Mirabella Coshatt

What led you to MBBC?

I came with my mom (Veronika), dad (Brian), and sister (Seraphina), I attended the Mountain Brook Baptist Early Learning Center before I could walk or talk. When I was a tiny baby I was dedicated by Dr. Jim Moebes. My parents promised God to raise me in His house.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

I enjoy the Summer Days program, choir, Camp Chandler, and making new friends.

Tell us about your faith.

I have been a Christian for a few months. I talked with Dr. Doug and Mrs. Sharon about accepting Christ and then they prayed with me. I have learned that Jesus is our Savior.

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

I was born in Birmingham at Trinity-Montclair. I live in Mountain Brook. My father has been a member here for many years and my mother Veronika is from Belarus. She's a naturalized citizen and she loves our church very much.

Where do you go to school?

I go to Crestline and I am in the second grade. My teacher is Ms. Hailey.

My hobbies and interests are ...

I am on swim team, play piano, take Russian language lessons, and enjoy coming to church activities, especially Wednesday Night Dinners.

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

My favorite restaurant is ...

Olive Garden; when I was very little I called it the Mexican Restaurant with round bread.

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

I like playing ping pong and hula hoop with my church friends in the Christian Life Center.



Mirabella Coshatt

Joined MBBC May 5, 2019



Amy Riggs

What led you to MBBC?

At my first visit, my godchildren and I were welcomed with open arms and I have been coming here ever since. Everyone was so sweet and if they saw me they introduced themselves.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

I enjoy the friendships I have obtained with a lot of people. Also, I have been helping with Cooks On A Mission and I enjoy that. I also enjoy the worship.

Tell us about your faith.

Neither of my parents were Christians, so as a child I would walk to go to church at First Baptist Centerpoint. I also walked as far as to Ridgcrest Baptist. I was baptized when I was 11 years old.

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

I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. My mom passed away when I was seven years old so I was raised by an adopted father and his wife. I grew up in Centerpoint. I have three godchildren that I don't see anymore and two godchildren I see all the time. I have no children of my own and I'm not married.

Where do you go to school?

I am a nursing student at Jefferson State University.

My hobbies and interests are ...

I love to organize and shop. I enjoy interior decorating and gardening/yardwork.

My favorite Bible verses are ...

Mathew 19:26–I have to tell myself all the time, “Never say ‘Can’t’ nor think negatively.” Also, Deuteronomy 31:6 is a favorite of mine.



Amy Riggs

Joined MBBC December 9, 2018

amyscleaningservices@yahoo.com

MBBC Staff Members



Dr. Doug Dortch

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doug@mbbc.org



Mr. Vince Blackerby

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Dr. Kely Hatley

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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



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Generosity Scorecard as of August 25, 2019

2019 Ministries Budget	\$3,447,078.00
Weekly Receipts	\$22,740.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$1,898,484.36
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,289.90
YTD Budget	\$2,253,858.58
Weekly Net	-\$43,549.90
YTD Net	-\$355,374.22

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:

\$1,548,593.64

Ways to Give



PLATES



ONLINE

To give online,
visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE
to 73256.





Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.



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