



MOUNTAIN BROOK
BAPTIST CHURCH

Recommendations for 2021
Pulpit Nominating Committee

In response to Dr. Dortch's announced retirement this coming November, the church's bylaws mandate several actions regarding the search for a new Senior Minister. The Board of Deacons has directed the Nominating Committee to present 15 members of the church to serve on a Pulpit Nominating Committee. After sincere prayer and much deliberation, the following list of candidates is recommended to the full membership of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. The Nominating Committee exercised careful consideration to select candidates that well represent the church membership by age groups, gender, ministry involvement, and spiritual maturity. This booklet provides the names, a short biographical sketch, and snapshot of each candidate for consideration by the church membership.

David Bryan, Nominating Committee Chair

Recommendations for 2021 Pulpit Nominating Committee

Joe Adams
Cecil Avery
Elizabeth Baker
Elisabeth Branch
Meredith Cale
Eddie Elliott
Geoff Johnson
Chuck Redden
Allison Rice
Grantland Rice
Matt Rich
Margaret Ritchie
Marshall Rivers
John Scott Jr.
Mary Watkins

Joe Adams

How long have you been a member at MBBC? We joined MBBC in 2004.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Shawn and we have four kids who are all members: Davis-Anne (age 20), Joe Barber (age 18), James Cameron (age 15), and Alan Jennings (age 12).

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Cornerstone

What is your occupation? I am the CFO of Pinnacle Bank in Jasper, Alabama.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I served as an Associate Deacon for several years, and then later as a Deacon (Chairman of Deacons in 2013). I have also served on the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Stewardship Ministry Team, and have helped with Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study.



Cecil Avery

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I grew up in MBBC, moved to Tuscaloosa for 36 years, then moved back and “rejoined” the church in 2015.

Tell us about your family. My parents (Lloyd and Robert Berry) were both active members and Deacons. My sisters (Lloyd Berry Clark and Caldwell Berry Stevenson) also grew up in this church. I have a son (Brad Avery, who lives in Birmingham) and a daughter (Suzanne Avery Chapman, who lives in Scottsboro), and I am the proud grandmother of five grandchildren, one boy and four girls. My sister-in-law, Mary Sue Durant, is also a member at MBBC.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Connections

What is your occupation? I'm a retired teacher; I taught in an elementary special education resource classroom for a total of 30 years, and taught 4-year-old students for four years in a church preschool.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I'm involved in the ACTIVE Christian Living ministry and I am a Mellow Brook Singer, and I serve on the Funeral Ministry Team, the Women's Program Advisory Council, and the Home Visitation Team. I also help with the ministry at Grantswood Community School and deliver Backpack Buddy bags. I am currently serving in my third year as a Deacon.

Elizabeth Baker

How long have you been a member at MBBC? Since December 1991; my husband Bob and I joined one month after we were married. So this is my 30th year of being a Baptist! (I grew up Methodist.)

Tell us about your family: My husband is Bob Baker who is currently Chairman of the Finance Committee. We have two daughters: Anne Peyton who is serving as a missionary in the Dominican Republic, and Cile who is a Hematology/Oncology Nurse in Dallas, Texas.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? The New Upper Room

What is your occupation? My previous professional experience is in Human Resources.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have had the pleasure of serving in several capacities over my 30 years at MBBC. While my daughters were young I enjoyed serving on the Children's Program Advisory Council and teaching VBS and Children's Sunday Morning Bible Study. As they became youth, we served together on the Family Mission Trip to California and the Youth Mission Trip to South Africa. Most recently I have served on the Personnel Committee and I am a member of two small group Bible studies.

Elisabeth Branch

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I joined the church in 1971 at 9 years old, but I have been coming to MBBC my entire life.

Tell us about your family. My parents, Jane and Warren Crow, came from First Baptist that was downtown and moved to MBBC in the early 1960s. Along with them are my two brothers Baker and Bill. Bill moved to another church when he married, but Baker and I have been attending since the 1960s. My husband Chuck was raised Catholic, but has been coming to our church ever since our wedding and loves it at MBBC. Our four children (Charles, Christopher, Hunter, and Janie) are all members, along with several of my cousins (Doris Wayman and Helen Mills Pittman).



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Mizpah

What is your occupation? I owned a children's clothing store, Bug's Boys, for 24 years, but now work part-time at Please Reply, a gift store in Crestline.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I taught Mission Friends when my children were younger and regularly helped with VBS. Also I once chaperoned a youth ski trip. I currently serve on the Women's Program Advisory Council, read at Grantswood, and serve lunches for World Changers. I have also helped with the Christmas Pop-Up Shop since its beginning.

Meredith Cale

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I have been a member for 38 years.

Tell us about your family. My parents are Linda and Luther Cale. I have a twin brother, Luther Cale III, who lives in Ecuador.

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Fellowship

What is your occupation? Logistic Coordinator at HealthStream, Inc.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I taught in the Preteen Department for eight years. Then I moved into the Student Ministry Department and taught Jr. High Girls for six years. I now substitute teach in the Fellowship Sunday Morning Bible Study and lead a Growth Group on Wednesday night. I have been involved in many committees over the years: Associate Deacon, Current Deacon, Women's Program Advisory Council (Chair), WMU (Chair), Family Life Ministry Team, Missions Committee, Vision 2020 Strategic Planning Committee, Vision Implementation Committee, and Capital Campaign Committee. I have been involved in several Family Mission Trips. I am also the liaison for Grantswood Community School and their reading program and led VBS preschool crafts several years. I have been decorating the Christmas trees at Christmas and the Christ Candle at Easter for many years and made some of the Living Nativity costumes.



Eddie Elliott

How long have you been a member at MBBC? Since 2007

Tell us about your family. Lisa and I have five children and three grandchildren. Lisa and I are members, as is our granddaughter, Larkin.

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? When I am not teaching, I usually attend the Russell Wiley Men's Christian Forum.

What is your occupation? Lawyer

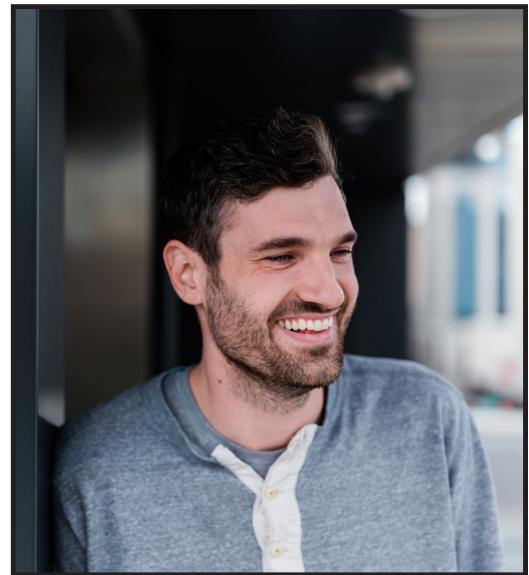
Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have served as a Deacon for many years. I served as secretary to the Deacon Executive Committee. I am on the Personnel Committee. I am on the Moebes Foundation. I am one of the teachers for the Friendship Sunday Morning Bible Study. I help teach combined Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study. I substitute teach where needed in other Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies. I help cook for the Sharpen Up Men's Breakfasts. I am one of the cooks on the Holy Smokes Bar-B-Q Team. Lisa, Larkin, and I served on the Family Mission Trip in Colorado.



Geoff Johnson

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I have been a member since 2012.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Katie. We have two boys, Brewer (age 4) and Grant (age 2). Katie's side of the family (Alison and Mark Calhoun, Martha and Albert Brewer) were previous long-time members of this church. As a child, my parents (Claudia and David Johnson) were missionaries-in-residence at the White House. I still remember how much I loved my MBBC preschool teacher Ms. Pinky.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Anchor

What is your occupation? I am an Art Director at Lewis Communications.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I helped teach the Young Professionals Sunday Morning Bible Study, and currently I am teaching in the Anchor Sunday Morning Bible Study alongside Amy and Matt Hirsch. I am serving on the Missions Committee to help broaden the church's awareness of our missions efforts locally and globally. In 2016, I worked closely with members of the church to redesign and streamline our church's website, logo, and bulletins as well as other communications pieces throughout the church's campus. I have also served as an Associate Deacon.

Chuck Redden

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I grew up a member of First Baptist Church in Dickson, Tennessee and joined MBBC in 2007.

Tell us about your family. My wife Britt Adams Redden grew up at MBBC and our children Walton, Lucy, Parker, and Charlotte have all been baptized here. My wife's father, Richard Adams, is a long-time member of MBBC.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Cornerstone

What is your occupation? I work at AutoTec, which provides insurance and technology services to physical and online automotive marketplaces across North America.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have served and am currently serving as a Deacon. I am one of the teachers of the Cornerstone Sunday Morning Bible Study. I also served on the Vision 2020 Strategic Planning Committee.

Allison Rice

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I joined in 2006.

Tell us about your family. Chris and I met in college and have been married since 2007. We live in Brookwood Forest and have two daughters. Emma Kate is 10 in fourth grade and enjoys golfing and playing soccer. Abigail is 6 in kindergarten and plays tennis and soccer. We have been on several Family Mission Trips since 2010 and especially enjoy VBS and family camp in the summers.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Fellowship Class

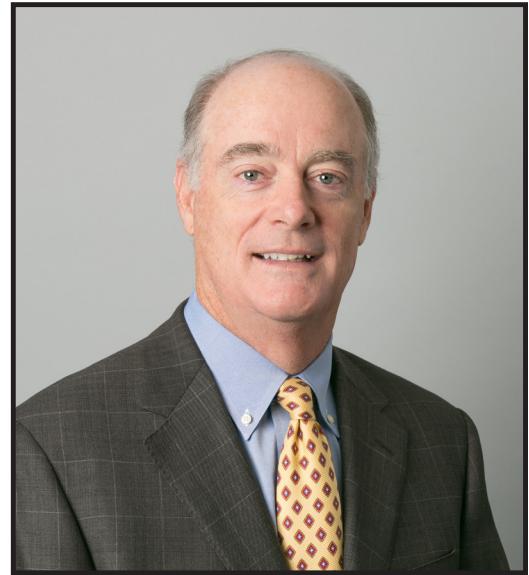
What is your occupation? This is my 14th year to teach seventh grade Government and World Geography at Berry Middle School in Hoover.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have served in many different roles at MBBC. I am a Deacon and served as an Associate Deacon and the Associate Deacon chair. I have taught VBS for many years. I have served on the Personnel Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Preschool Program Advisory Council, the Children's Program Advisory Council, the Family Life Ministry Team, and the Recreation Ministry Team. I went on the Ukraine Mission Trip (2009) and our family has participated on several Family Mission Trips.

Grantland Rice III

How long have you been a member at MBBC? Jan and I joined MBBC in 1984.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Jan. We have a son, Grantland IV (spouse Lauren), a daughter, KC Hutchinson (spouse John), and six grandchildren: Grantland Rice V, Mary Cleveland Rice, Ward Rice, Peter Rice, Dudley Hutchinson, and Hendon Hutchinson. Grantland IV and his family attend Cahaba Park Church in Birmingham and KC and her family are in Nashville and attend Christ Presbyterian.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Mizpah

What is your occupation? I am in the insurance business as the Chairman of Cobbs Allen. Our firm is headquartered in Birmingham with multiple offices around the country.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have served on several committees with MBBC from youth to Chairman of the Deacons.

Matt Rich

How long have you been a member at MBBC? We were members from 2008 until 2009, when we moved to South Carolina, and joined again in 2014 when we returned to Birmingham.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Sarah, and we have two children: Micah (9) and Abby (6).

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Foundations

What is your occupation? Medical Device Service Contract Sales

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I am currently serving as a Deacon (ordained in 2020) and have served as an Associate Deacon (2008-2009; 2016-2020). I sing in the choir and play in our handbell choir. I taught Sunday Morning Bible Study for our Sr. High students (2017-2019) and served on our Vision 2020 Capital Campaign Committee. We also serve Family Promise of Birmingham when our church hosts families from that ministry.



Margaret Ritchie

How long have you been a member at MBBC? Since 2002

Tell us about your family. My husband Henry and our children Rob and Leanna are church members. Rob and Leanna were baptized and grew up in the church.

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? I'm a teacher in the Open Door Sunday Morning Bible Study. We have been meeting by Zoom since the start of the pandemic.

What is your occupation? I work for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as Chapter Management Services Director, managing chapters without executive directors.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. Currently, I serve as the Missions Committee Chair, and I previously served as Local Missions Ministry Team Chair and team member. As of 2021, I am on the Finance and Nominating Committees. I have taught consecutively in the Open Door Sunday Morning Bible Study for a number of years and simultaneously taught Sunday Morning Bible Study in the children's when my children were in grade school.



Marshall Rivers

How long have you been a member at MBBC? We joined in 2016.

Tell us about your family. I have been married to Dr. Careybeth Rivers for 14 years and we have two daughters. Amelia is 7 years old and Audrey is 1 year old.

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Foundations



What is your occupation? I'm a Senior Audit Director at Regions Bank and a CPA.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I'm a newly ordained Deacon and serve on the Finance Committee. I was previously on the Stewardship Ministry Team. Our family has participated on two Family Mission Trips.

John Scott Jr.

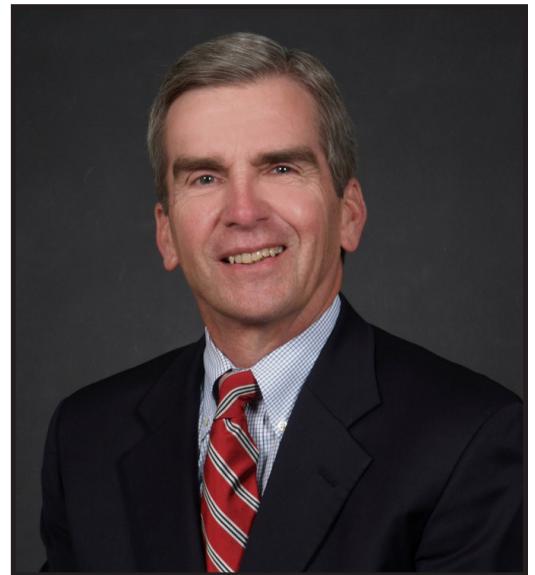
How long have you been a member at MBBC? I have been a member of MBBC since 1973.

Tell us about your family. My family members of MBBC include my wife Mary and her sister and brother, their spouses, and our nephews and nieces.

What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? I attend and teach the Mizpah Sunday Morning Bible Study.

What is your occupation? I am an attorney with the firm of Starnes Davis Florie LLP.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. I have taught SMBS at MBBC for over 20 years and have served the church in the following capacities: Deacons (Chairman 2017), Associate Deacon, MBBC/Moebes Foundation (2012-2016), Co-Chairman of Capital Campaign (2019-2020), Nominating Committee, and Chairman of Sunday Morning Bible Study Ministry Team. I have attended a number of Family Mission Trips. I also currently serve on the Governing Board of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) which is actively involved in global missions.



Mary Watkins

How long have you been a member at MBBC? I have been a member of MBBC since 1986.

Tell us about your family. I have been married to my husband, Jim Watkins, for over 55 years. We have three adult children: Jimmy, Hanson, and Josh. We have four grandchildren: Jack, Charlie, Emma, and Ella. Josh grew up at MBBC. The grandchildren have all participated in many of MBBC children's activities.



What Sunday Morning Bible Study do you attend? Jim and I have been members of the Rehoboth Sunday Morning Bible Study for the entire time we have been members at MBBC.

What is your occupation? I am a homemaker and grandmother.

Provide a brief description of your involvement at MBBC. Over the years I have helped teach VBS, 3-year-old children's choir, and GAs. I have also helped with Children's Camp at Camp Chandler. I have been one of the teachers for the Rehoboth Sunday Morning Bible Study for several years. I am also on the International Unreached Missions Ministry Team.

