

ISSUE
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MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
MOUNTAIN BROOK
BAPTIST CHURCH
55+ MINISTRY

ACTIVE Christian Living's



HOMETown

NEWS

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ADVENT at MBBC: "Glad Bethlehem's Living Light"

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 6 | 9:00 AM | Sanctuary
Presented by the Sanctuary Choir Ensembles.



GLORIOUS: A Telling of the Christmas Story

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13 | 5:00 PM | Sanctuary
Presented by the MBBC Worship Band and other guests.



Annual Presentation of the Living Nativity: DRIVE-IN

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday | December 20, 21, and 22 | 6:45, 7:30, and 8:15 |
Overbrook Parking Lot
Cars will park in the lot and individuals/families will stay in the car.
Narration will be heard on 88.1 FM.



Christmas Eve Preschool/Kid Family Worship

Thursday, December 24 | 3:00 PM | Sanctuary
This 35-minute service will feature a children's message and battery operated candles to hold. Holy Communion **will not** be observed.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

Thursday, December 24 | 5:00 PM or 7:00 PM | Sanctuary
This service features the Sanctuary Choir Ensemble, brass quartet, organ and timpani.
Live-flame candlelight singing of "Silent Night" and Holy Communion **will** be observed.

Christmas Memories From Rudy



I would like to tell you about my connection with Santa Clause. In 1939 a book was written about a small deer with a shining nose who was Santa's helper. Santa liked this idea, and he thought he ought to give this little deer a name. He asked his helpers to look for the nicest, sweetest boy they could find. You guessed it! Santa named him Rudolph after me!

Later on, at my mother's house one of my nephews asked my mother, "How did you get Uncle Rudolph's name?" I broke in and said, "I'll tell you." So, I told my nephew my story and he looked at my mother and said, "That's not so is it Nanny?"

So, the question of the day is: do you believe me or my nephew? Well, the above story is my side of the tale and I'm sticking with it. Please remember that Rudolph still has connections with Santa! So, you better be nice!

– Rudy Davidson

Christmas Memories From John Lee

As a retired pastor, I have recently walked down my memory lanes of Christmas sermons. With longevity in the churches I served, I sought each year to "tell the old, old story" in fresh and meaningful ways. One Christmas, I preached from the Luke 2:7 phrase, "because there was no room for them in the inn." I talked about our need for Jesus to have a welcomed place in our hearts. I closed the sermon with the following story:

At a time when public schools could present annual Christmas pageants, the teacher of a middle school class was responsible for a December production. Each member of the class was given an assignment of Mary's and Joseph's Bethlehem experience. The teacher's concern mounted when she realized that one student did not have a part in the play--- a boy with a learning disability.

Graciously, she chose him to be the innkeeper with a four-word monologue: "No room! Be Gone!" Off stage, the innkeeper watched the Christmas story unfold. The time arrived for his appearance in the drama. Mary and Joseph came to the door of the Bethlehem Inn and knocked. The door opened and the innkeeper said his four words..."No room! Be gone!" The innkeeper, however, did not shut the door. Weary and rejected, Mary and Joseph turned to leave. Still standing in the inn's entrance, tears began to run down the innkeeper's face. Suddenly he said through his sniffles, "Come back...come back! You can have my room!"

It was the boy's plea that caused the audience to agree that it was the best Christmas play they had ever seen! Our "You can have my room" is framed in the words of the hymn which say, "Come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for Thee."

- John Lee Taylor



Christmas Memories From Roye



My favorite childhood Christmas was when I was 6 years old. Early that Christmas morning I sneaked into the living room to see what Santa had brought. The first thing I noticed was my stocking full of nuts, fruits and candy (I loved those chocolate creme dots). Then I spotted the Linel train I had asked Santa to bring me. It was already set up with the locomotive, rail cars and accessories and ready to roll. So, I dropped a smoke pellet in the locomotive stack, dialed up the transformer and played train conductor until just before dawn. Then I went back to bed and slept until my father woke me up with the most wonderful news. I had a new baby sister who was born early Christmas morning! Needless to say, I was a very excited 6 year old. And that was my best childhood Christmas ever.

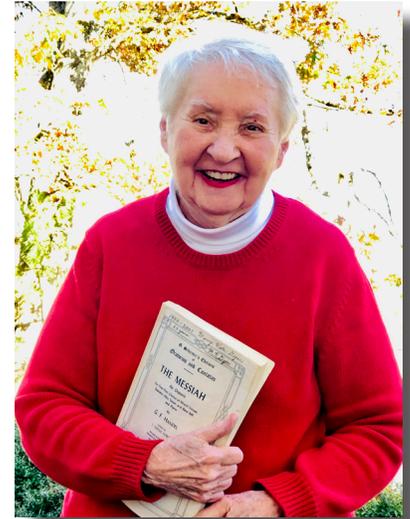
- Roye Tinsley

Christmas Memories From Mary Kate

In December 1954, two girl friends of mine invited me to sing Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," with them with The Bessemer Civic Chorale (now Alabama Civic Chorale) at The First Methodist Church, Bessemer.

The Chorale singers were friendly and a lot of fun and, as my friends pointed out - "It is a good place to meet guys!"

Sure enough, during a Friday night choir practice, I walked a handsome young fellow who had just been discharged from the Air Force. After the practice he made a bee-line to the alto section to meet me - and as they say, "the rest is history." Also, my two girl friends met and married "Chorale guys" too.



This year, because of the pandemic, the 73rd performance of "The Messiah" was broadcast on Alabama Public Television, Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

Everyone throughout the state of Alabama had the opportunity to enjoy this event from the comfort of his/her home. I watched it, and remembered that the Chorale was a very good place to meet guys!

- Mary Kate Dyer



Christmas Memories From Peggy



December 25, 1952 would never get here. When you are 13 years old time seems to stand still. I know my mother wished Christmas would soon get here so I would stop asking if I was going to get my special gift. She would never commit – she only said, “wait and see.” I hated that answer.

My brother (who is 3 years younger) and I searched every place we could think of and could not find my gift. We did find his; which was a lot easier than mine (a bicycle). All my friends and I lived in a very small community where everybody knew everyone. We were obsessed with roller skating. If you did not have your own skates, then you had to rent them at the skating rink. This meant you could not decorate your skate box with your name and other cute sayings. It also meant you could not put a fuzzy ball on the toe of your skates in any color you wanted (that was the coolest part). In other words, you were a dork if you did not have your own skates. Finally, we found the skate box (hidden in the washing machine). Oh how I wanted to try the skates on just for size! Of course we did not open the box because mother would know our secret. I cannot tell you how excited I was. I had to phone all my friends and tell them, and I had to pay my brother not to tell.

Finally Christmas Eve arrived. We always went to my grandparents to open presents from cousins, aunts and grandparents. I was not excited about any gift I got from them. At our house we did not get to open gifts until Christmas morning. We still looked for “Santa Claus” since we had my sister who was 3 years old then.

I thought my heart was going to jump out of my chest when I saw my gift all wrapped under the tree. Daddy gave out the gifts and me, being the oldest, got mine last. When finally I was handed my gift and tore into the paper I was sooooo happy. I opened up the case and there were NO skates. I did not cry, but I was certainly on the edge. Daddy finally said, “Peggy, do you like your gift?” That did it – tears flowed like a river.

Mother, daddy and my brother started laughing and handed me my skates! Of course, my brother was the culprit. He told mother that we found the box, and they decided to trick me. It worked! I never searched for my gift again!

- Peggy Holmes

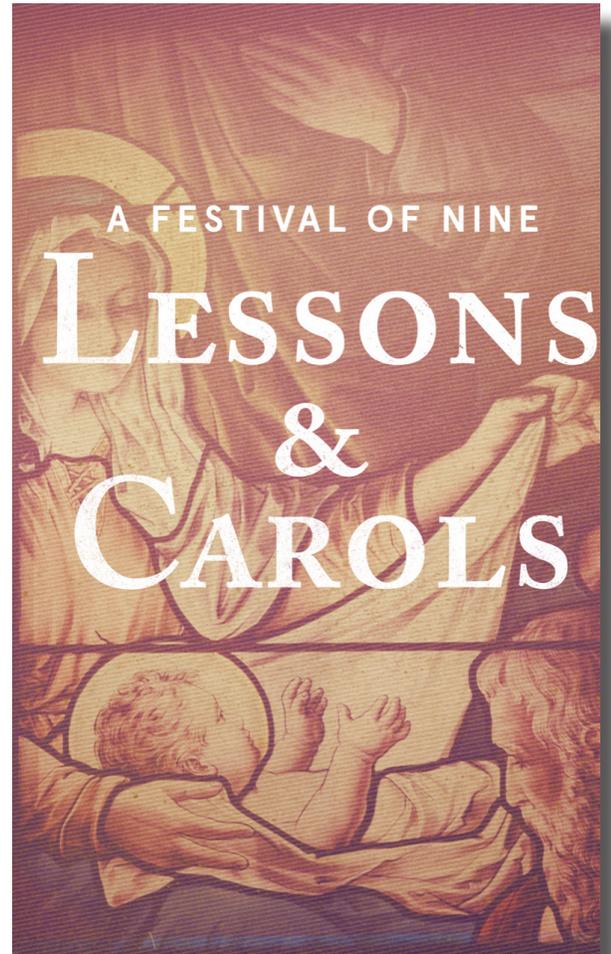


A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Second Sunday of Advent | December 6 | 9:00 AM | Sanctuary
presented by the Sanctuary Choir Ensembles

Following the format of the beloved Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College in England, our three Sanctuary Choir Ensembles will lead us in our own service of lessons and carols for the season on the second Sunday of Advent. The service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus using nine short Bible readings (lessons) from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choral anthems.

Since we have been unable to have more than 11 singers in the choir loft, the Sanctuary Choir has adapted and has split into three distinct groups. All three choir ensembles have learned three pieces to lead and sing in the service. Each choir will be present on December 6th but only one choir will be in the loft at a time. We will change choirs after the second and sixth lessons. We will be joined by James Baker, professional French horn player in our city, to enhance three of the musical pieces that morning. The service will consist primarily of the scripture readings and the musical offerings by the choir ensembles. We hope you will join us for this glorious and beautiful service either live in the sanctuary or watch via our livestream. If you plan to come in person, then be sure to register for worship at <https://www.mbbc.org/recourses/register-for-worship> or call the church office and ask the receptionist to register you.



Joke of the Month



**Don't forget to make your reservations
for attendance at our special services.
Call the church office or register online
at: [https://www.mbbc.org/
recourses/register-for-worship](https://www.mbbc.org/recourses/register-for-worship)**