



## 2 Corinthians 5:17

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(Ministry for Adults 55+)  
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## New Year Brings New Possibilities

by Kely Hatley

It's a new year, a new beginning, and a fresh start. How many of these “starts” have you lived through? Have they been successful through the years? Have you stumbled and not completed your goals? What about this year? Have you given thought to what things you'd like to accomplish for the Lord... for others... for yourself?

This time of year always brings me some hesitation because I fear that I might make goals that are too high for me to attain (and I cannot stand to fail). Yet, scripture reminds me that God specializes in fresh starts. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” The best part of this verse to me is that it is written in the present tense. It says if I am in Christ, then I am a new creation. It doesn't say, If anyone “was” in Christ, he “was a new creation.” That would sadly mean that becoming the “new creation” was a specific event in time to happen only once. But thanks be to God that when we read this verse in the present tense, it means that we are constantly a “new creation” in Christ Jesus, our Lord. That's a comforting thought to me. After all, who doesn't like the chance for a “do-over” for our lives. The late Baptist pastor and prolific writer, Warren Wiersbe, wrote, “Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory.”

As you look to the new year, just imagine the new possibilities in your life with God as the center and Jesus leading you all the way. Don't let the worries of the world drag you down into paralysis in your Christian walk. Instead, let Christ lead you and walk with him just one step at a time toward future goals and endeavors that will advance his kingdom on this earth until he comes again.

# Monthly Luncheons



**Thursday, January 13**

**John McGuire – Chaplain**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Cost \$7**

**Heritage Hall**

**Reservations are open now!**

Continuing the lifelong work of Billy Graham, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association mission is to support and extend the evangelistic calling and ministry of Franklin Graham by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone it can by every effective means available to them and by equipping the church and others to do the same. We are fortunate to have a local resident as a Chaplain in the BGEA. John McGuire, a current Gardendale resident and member of Gardendale First Baptist Church, first became acquainted with the BGEA through Samaritan's Purse ministry. John's son was a missionary to the Darfur region of Sudan. Samaritan's Purse helped him in his work over there. This led John to check out who SP was. John made a rebuild trip with SP in 2010 and has been with SP and the BGEA ever since.

We are fortunate to hear about the work of the BGEA and Samaritan's Purse throughout our country and the world. Make your reservation to hear him and enjoy a wonderful meal together with your friends. You may register and pay online or call the church office to make your reservation.

**Reservations due by Tuesday, January 11.**



**Thursday, February 10**

**Frank Jones – Concert of Hymns and Humor**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Cost \$7**

**Heritage Hall**

**Reservations will open January 24!**

Frank Jones is no stranger to MBBC. It's been about 8 years since Frank has been with us, but we look forward to his immense talent and gift of making people smile and laugh. Frank Jones was born in Gadsden, Alabama on November 17, 1951 but was raised by his parents in Guntersville, Alabama. He is a graduate of Marshall County High School in Guntersville. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Samford University in Birmingham in 1974, and received his Master of Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 1977. He is married to the former Margaret Rice of Albertville, Alabama. They make their home in Hoover and are active members at Hunter Street Baptist Church. Frank serves as a bi-vocational member of the Worship Arts Team at Hunter Street.

We are fortunate to host Frank. Make your reservation to hear him and enjoy a wonderful meal together with your friends. You may register and pay online or call the church office to make your reservation. **Reservations due by Tuesday, February 8.**

# Epiphany Sunday Worship

by Kely Hatley

What does “epiphany” mean? Webster’s dictionary defines it as “an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being.” Today we most often hear the word used in reference to a revelation or a wonderful idea or solution. I also think of it as a veil lifting from something that wants to be seen. It is a revelation. How does this relate to Christ? Simply put, Epiphany is the celebration of three events: 1) the Magi’s visit to adore the Christ child, 2) Christ’s baptism by John the Baptist, and 3) the performing of Christ’s first public miracle of his ministry at the wedding in Cana. All three of these events bring attention to or reveal Christ as the King of the Jews and God’s Son.



Epiphany connects us with the church through centuries of celebration. When desiring to make Christ known to the nations and to be evangelical and missional in sharing Christ’s salvation story to others, it is appropriate for us to emphasize the events in Jesus’ life when He was revealed as the world’s Light. John the Apostle, in the opening verses of his gospel, best described Jesus as that light:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (Jn 1:1-5)

Epiphany can help us to bear witness to Christ as the Light of salvation to the world! The light of the world is Jesus! Come celebrate this with us on January 9. Mountain Brook Baptist Church has always had a huge commitment to missions. I think we are an “Epiphany-minded” congregation. Don’t let this special service go by without your presence as we rejoice together that Jesus’ saving work has been revealed to all nations!

## Special Concert VOCES8 February 10!



The British vocal ensemble VOCES8 is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing. Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertory both in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading orchestras, composers and soloists. In a busy 2020-2021 season, VOCES8 will be giving concerts around the world again, and we are fortunate to be able to hear them in Birmingham. In addition to giving live concerts, the group also launches two exciting initiatives: the ground-breaking online global festival ‘LIVE From London’ from its home at the VOCES8 Centre, and the VOCES8 Digital Academy – an online choral program featuring live interaction and video

resources for choirs around the world. The ensemble is proud to be working with its Composer in Residence Roxanna Panufnik, and Arranger in residence Jim Clements.

You will need to carpool with friends or drive yourself downtown to the Cathedral of the Advent, but our group can sit together in the sanctuary. Seats are general admission. Tickets are \$16 and I have 14 to purchase. Tickets will be sold first come, first served. Please make checks payable to Mountain Brook Baptist Church and put “VOCES8 CONCERT” in the memo blank. Please turn your check in to either Joseph Mendum or Kely Hatley to receive your tickets.



RESERVATIONS

Make Your Reservations TODAY!

ACTIVITY SCALE

Level	Definition
	<b>Easy:</b> minimal walking
	<b>Moderate:</b> walk up to a mile
	<b>Active:</b> walk as much as two miles
	<b>Challenging:</b> spend most of the day on the go

## Calendar At A Glance

- **Epiphany Sunday Worship** - Sunday, January 9 | Sanctuary | 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- **Mellow Brook Singers Rehearsals Resume** - ~~Thursday, January 13~~ Thursday, February 3 | Hudson Hall | 10:30 a.m.
- **ACTIVE ~~January~~ April Luncheon** - ~~Thursday, January 13~~ Thursday, April 7 | Heritage Hall | 11:30 a.m. | John McGuire | Cost : \$7
- **ACTIVE February Luncheon** - Thursday, February 10 | Heritage Hall | 11:30 a.m. | Frank Jones | Concert of Hymns and Humor | Cost : \$7
- **VOCES8 Concert** - Thursday, February 10 | Downtown Cathedral Church of the Advent | 7 p.m. | Cost: \$15

