

Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Monthly Guide



“Spring Cleaning”

As the winter season begins to give way to springtime, it doesn't take long for our thoughts to take a turn to our need for a bit of housecleaning. The winter months always tend to be hard on our houses because of how we keep things shut tightly so that the cold doesn't get the best of us. But when spring arrives, we're ready to open up the windows and let a bit of fresh air in.

The same is true in terms of our souls. Winter can be a difficult season, spiritually and emotionally speaking. There have been numerous studies done on the correlation between the winter season and lowered emotional states. Both the colder weather and the shrinking number of daylight hours work together to bring down our attitudes and perspectives. When spring arrives, it's not just the flowers and trees that begin to show the need for renewal and growth. So do our souls. Thus we know all too well the importance of the season of Lent and the time it affords us to rid our souls of the grime and filth that keep us from living with the abundance faith in Jesus promises.

If you're unfamiliar with Lent, don't bother to look it up in your Bible dictionary or concordance for an explanation. There was no such observance in Bible times. However, there is strong evidence that early Christians spent time fasting for the 40 hours between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Later, when the initial rush of resurrection adrenaline was over and believers had begun to get a bit complacent about their faith, church leaders saw the need to institute a 40-day season of prayer and self-denial so that Jesus' followers could prepare themselves—heart, soul, mind, and body—for the buried bulbs of their souls to come into full flower by Easter. Think of it as a spiritual housecleaning where Christians invite the Holy Spirit into places

where dust and cobwebs have accumulated to clear away the clutter, sweep away the dust, and make us clean again.

The season of Lent, which actually began this year on the last Wednesday of February, is our reminder that we should never allow the chill of life to get the best of us as we await Easter's great thaw. The warm breezes of hope and joy are never that far away. We can use these four weeks in March to get ready for the new life Easter promises to bring. I encourage you to join me in doing so in great earnest that when Easter does come on April 12, every nook and cranny of our souls will be free and clear to sing our hallelujahs.



Dr. Doug Dortch

SENIOR MINISTER

Churchwide Events

Project 119 Bible Reading Plan

In February, we started a three-month Bible reading plan, which coordinates with the reading plan many of our Growth Groups are doing. Even if you didn't begin in February, we would encourage you to pick up in March. If we really believe that God has revealed Himself to us in Scripture, then pursuing the Lord means consistently devoting ourselves to studying Scripture. In a world full of distractions, where everything demands our attention, we challenge you to focus first and foremost on your relationship with the Lord and to commit to knowing Him more intimately this year through a deeper study of His word.

The reading plan below is for the month of March, and it provides readings for five days during the week, giving you the opportunity to catch up and reflect during the weekend. This updated reading plan includes readings for Spring Break and for Holy Week; we will print a separate guide for Holy Week which will include staff meditations on Isaiah 52:13-53:12. This Holy Week Devotional Guide will be available for pick up beginning Sunday, March 22.

March 1 - April 4 Reading Plan

March 1-7

John 11:45 - end, Psalm 61, 62
John 12:1-19, Psalm 63, 64
John 12:20 - end, Psalm 65, 66
John 13, Psalm 68:1-18
John 14:1-14, Psalm 68:19-36

March 8-14

John 14:15 - end, Psalm 69:1-18
John 15:1-17, Psalm 69:19-38
John 15:18 - end, Psalm 66
John 16:1-15, Psalm 70, 72
John 16:16 - end, Psalm 71

Churchwide Events (continued)

March 15–21

John 17, Psalm 73
John 18:1–27, Psalm 74
John 18:28 – end, Psalm 77
John 19:1–37, Psalm 75, 76
John 19:38 – end, Psalm 79, 82

March 22–28

1 Peter 1
1 Peter 2
1 Peter 3
1 Peter 4
1 Peter 5

March 29 – April 4

John 20, Psalm 78:1–13
John 21, Psalm 78:14–40
1 Corinthians 1:1–25, 78:41–73
1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2 end, Psalm 80
1 Corinthians 3, Psalm 81

Easter Lilies

Deadline Wednesday, April 1

To give an Easter Lily in someone's honor or memory, contact Barbara Morgan (803-3443 or barbara@mbbc.org). Cost is \$20 each. Deadline is Wednesday, April 1. The lilies may be picked up after the services on Easter Sunday, April 12. If you do not want to pick up your lily, please let Barbara know and we will deliver them to our homebound members.

MBBC Golf Tournament for Missions

Monday, April 20 | 8 a.m. | Pine Tree Country Club

Our annual tournament promotes fellowship as well as benefits the Family Mission Team, which will be traveling to Maine, a state where few people confess to be Christians. We will travel to Brunswick, Maine in June to work with Hope Church, a church that is approximately two years old. We will be doing a sports camp/VBS for children in the local community. They are expecting and praying to have over 125 children.

Here is how you can help:

1. Pray for our team as we prepare to serve these families together.
2. Sponsor a hole (or part of one). Hole sponsorship is \$1000 for the whole hole, \$500 for half of a hole, and \$250 for a quarter of a hole. Your donation is tax-deductible and a sign will be placed on the hole with your name or logo.
3. Play in the tournament. The cost to play is \$100 per player. You can get your own team together, or Sharon Howard will put you on a team.

Our goal this year is for the tournament to raise \$20,000 and we can do that with your generosity. Cards to sign up are available in the church office. For more information, contact Sharon Howard (sharon@mbbc.org).

Fitness Opportunities in Christian Life Center

On any given day at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, you'll find lots of things happening in our church building. Teachers nurture and help develop preschoolers in the Early Learning Center. Men and women meet in Bible studies, where they study Scripture together, pray together, and encourage one another in Bible memory. You might come through and hear our organist, Paul Mosteller, practicing, or hear the Mellow Brook Singers choir rehearsing on Thursdays. Cooks On A Mission might be in the kitchen preparing casseroles to sell in exchange for donations that will fund local missions projects. But you might also pass through the Christian Life Center and notice a basketball practice happening in the gym, or see church members using the workout equipment in the workout room.

The Christian Life Center (CLC) is one of Mountain Brook Baptist Church's "open doors" to the community. In the afternoons, students from the Jr. High come to the CLC to hang out and work on homework. CLC staff members engage them in Bible studies, hang out with them, help

Churchwide Events (continued)

them with their homework, and even practice free throws with them. In the evenings, we host a number of basketball practices and are home to the Dawson High School Recreation League, where our high school boys play church league basketball in the fall and winter.

But the CLC is also a resource for church members. In our workout room, we have three multi-function machines, three treadmills, three ellipticals, free weights, a recumbent bike, and other exercise equipment. The workout room is free to use and is open to members and their guests, so if you've been thinking about getting involved in a gym or another fitness center, consider using the workout room at our church. We can set you up with a fob, so that you can access the workout room before or after our normal open hours at your convenience. If you'd like to use the workout room but need help with understanding the equipment and setting up a workout plan, please contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org). We'll connect you with a personal trainer who will give you a no-charge session to educate you about the equipment.

And, who says that your physical fitness has to be separated from your spiritual growth? Perhaps you could make it a goal to listen to a book of the Bible over the course of your workouts, or to listen to a previous sermon series (visit mbbc.org/sermons for archives of our sermon series). You could even use this as a time to grow in relationship with the Lord and with others as you work on your fitness by inviting another church member to work out with you!

We also offer Senior Stretch classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in room 321. These free classes are led by an instructor and help improve your range of motion, flexibility, and balance. We hope you'll choose to take advantage of one of these opportunities; please contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org) with any questions.

Missions

Cooks On A Mission

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

Cooks On A Mission's March food sale will be held on Wednesday, March 18, from 2-6 p.m. New items on the menu this month are Baked Ziti and French Market Sandwiches. We also have Chicken Pot Pie, Chicken and Wild Rice Soup, Roasted Cuban Black Beans with Pork, White Chicken Chili, Ham and Swiss Party Rolls, Cheesy Apple Casserole, Chicken and Dressing, Bacon Cheddar Scones, and Missionary Bread. All proceeds go to support local mission projects, including Backpack Buddies, First Responders Ministry, The WellHouse, Camp Seale Harris, the Family Mission Trip, and more.

With your support, in February we were able to host a baby shower for our precious friend from The WellHouse who is expecting a baby girl. Every child is a blessing from the Lord, and we were honored to help welcome this baby into the world. Special thanks to our friends at the Junior League of Birmingham for providing diapers and wipes for the baby on an on-going basis. We so appreciate the Junior League of Birmingham taking on human trafficking as a cause.

Builders for Christ

July 6-13 | Appleton, Wisconsin

This summer, the Builders for Christ Mission Team will be going to Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. What an opportunity we have to go to Appleton and show the love of Christ through our actions. Valley Baptist Church needs a larger worship space and additional education space because the church has outgrown their existing facility. It is our hope and prayer that this new addition will be a tool to reach lost souls in Appleton and the surrounding communities. During our week, our primary responsibilities will be to run duct work for the HVAC units, install shingles on the roof, run electrical wire, and cook. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to participate in this mission trip. The friendships

Missions (continued)

you make on these trips will last a lifetime and you get to participate in building a tool to win souls for Christ.

Our team will leave Birmingham on June 6 and return on June 13. No experience is necessary. We will train you. In order for us to make the travel arrangements, please sign up by April 13 by contacting Amy Hirsch (amy@mbbc.org or 205-803-3471).



Ministry Partner Spotlight: Faith-Based Service and Learning

Faith-Based Service and Learning is a program linking students at Judson College with mission opportunities through Sowing Seeds of Hope and the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Sowing Seeds of Hope began more than 10 years ago as a partnership between the communities in Perry County and Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches to enrich the lives of the people in one of America's poorest areas through services such as healthcare programs, home and church repairs, educational resources, and spiritual renewal opportunities.

Some of the many activities that Judson students, faculty, staff, and volunteers from church partners participate in include cleanup and repairs at local cemeteries and in downtown Marion, sorting books for reading programs, playground repair at local schools, and helping teachers and students in classrooms. Each year, Thanksgiving bags are assembled with food donated by mission partners and distributed to families in need.

At times, Judson students spend time with residents at nearby nursing homes and adult day care centers.

A recent tradition has been established at Judson. Students can volunteer to sacrifice one week of their Christmas vacation to serve in the community by visiting homebound neighbors, installing smoke detectors, doing yard work for the elderly, and hosting children for a Christmas party among other outreach programs.

Devotional time is a key component of the various experiences and is often led by students or members of the community. We as Christians are taught that our works are not what earn salvation, but that we are responsible for putting our faith to good work. The Faith-Based Service and Learning Program at Judson certainly provides many opportunities for students to not only further their education but to reach out to the community and share their many gifts and talents in Jesus' name.

Love Grantswood: Muffins in the Morning

We served muffins at Grantswood Community School on February 14. Happy Valentine's Day!



Missions (continued)



Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Summer Save-The-Dates

May 27-28 • Preteen Mystery Trip

June 20-27 • Family Mission Trip | Brunswick, Maine

July 6-10 • Vacation Bible School | Theme Concrete & Cranes

July 19-23 • Children's Camp

Parents, please be looking for information to sign your child up for these upcoming events! We will be using KidEventPro, an online registration system for VBS; more information to come soon.

Vacation Bible School

July 6-10

Concrete and Cranes is the 2020 VBS theme for all children ages four by 9-1-2020 through completed fifth grade. The dates are July 6-10.

VBS is extremely important because a child receives the equivalent of six months of Sunday School in one week of VBS. VBS does not happen, however, without LOTS of volunteers, prayer, and preparation. Several staff members attended VBS Preview in Nashville in February and we are excited to see what God will do in the lives of children through our church. Please pray about how you can help:

Promotional Team: Create social media releases and other ideas to promote VBS.

Prayer Team: Pray for our volunteers as they prepare and for children to be receptive to the Lord speaking to their hearts.

Teachers: Teachers are needed in 3K, 5K, first grade, and second grade as well as in crafts and recreation!

Snacks, Lunch, and Family Night: Volunteers are needed to prepare snacks, prepare lunch for the workers, and serve the families before the program.

Children's Ministry (continued)

High Five/Greeters: Volunteers are needed to help children and their families feel welcome and to help get them to the appropriate classroom.

Follow-up: Volunteers are needed to make sure every guest feels welcome and is invited to visit MBBC.

Invite: Be praying about who you or your child can bring to VBS—neighbors, friends, sports team members, etc.

Decorate: It takes many people willing to decorate to make this a fun week. Can you help decorate a portion of the church if everything was ready and in a box? Just take it out and tape it up! SAVE large boxes. We are also collecting legos, large trucks, and anything that looks “construction”!

Look for a let's “Taco ‘Bout” VBS meeting soon. Sharon has all the materials needed to get started in her office!



Sharon Howard

MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Student Ministry

Student Ministry Sunday

Sunday, March 15

This is a favorite annual MBBC tradition! On this Sunday each year our Jr. and Sr. High students serve as guest teachers in Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies and serve leadership roles in both worship services.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays | 9:15-10:15 a.m. | Student Ministry Area

This month we'll be using our time together on March 1 and 8 to prepare for Student Ministry Sunday. On March 15 students will be out teaching Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies. The latter part of the month will see us continuing our series "Out of Step" in which we are considering the many facets of our lives in which we who are following the Way of Jesus are called to be out of step with the world around us.

Student Growth Groups

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 | 7-8 p.m. | Student Ministry Area

Join us each week as we dive deeper into relational discipleship by reading and memorizing Scripture and being community for one another. This semester our focus is 1 Corinthians; each week we're reading one chapter of the epistle and memorizing one verse of chapter 13. We ask students to be present, prepared, and participate.

Note: Growth Groups will NOT meet on March 25 due to Spring Break.

The Brook

Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 29 | 6-7:30 p.m. | Student Ministry Area

This gathering provides a relaxed, fun atmosphere for worship, teaching, and fellowship aimed to meet students where they are. We're always looking for folks willing to provide dinner—a link to sign up is at mbbc.org/students. *Note: The Brook will NOT meet on March 22 due to Spring Break.*

Student Ministry (continued)

Chapel Choir

Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 29 | 5-6 p.m. | Music Suite on 2nd floor

Our Chapel Choir is for students in grades 7-12. No prior singing experience is required. Come learn to use your voice to worship the Lord. We will be leading worship for Student Ministry Sunday in the Traditional Worship Service. Come sing with us! *Note: Chapel Choir will NOT meet on March 22 due to Spring Break.*

Student Ministry Summer Save-the-Dates

South Africa Mission Trip • June 23-July 5

LifeWeek 2020 • July 12-15

Beach Retreat • July 24-27

Men's Ministry

Sharpen Up

Sharpen Up | Tuesday, March 17 | 6:30-7:15 a.m.

The goal of the “Sharpen Up” ministry is to provide an opportunity for guys of all ages to gather together for a hearty breakfast (we’re talking eggs, bacon, biscuits, and gravy), an encouraging message from God’s Word, and the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other guys who are trying to be all that God would have them to be. This month, Rich Webster, senior minister of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, will lead our devotion. We hope you will make plans to attend and invite your friends from St. Luke’s to join us for breakfast.

Women's Ministry

Women's Life Group

Wednesdays | 6-7 p.m. | Conference Room

Come join women of all ages as we get to know one another, study Scripture together and pray together. For more information, contact Mary Splawn (mary@mbbc.org).

ACTIVE Christian Living

ACTIVE Christian Living (Ministry for Adults 55+)

Contact Kely Hatley (kely@mbbc.org or 205-803-3458) for more information about our ACTIVE Christian Living ministry.

ACTIVE Christian Living Luncheon Joseph Mendum, Composer and Pianist

Thursday, March 12 | 11:30 a.m. | Hudson Hall

Joseph Mendum has served our ministry well over the past year. But did you know that he has a real talent for composing and that he is an excellent pianist? Joseph received his degree in music composition from Samford University, graduating in December 2018. At our luncheon, he will perform two movements from different Beethoven piano sonatas. He will also perform the first movement of an original piano sonata which he composed. Joseph will talk briefly about the two Beethoven pieces he will perform and the process necessary to compose an authentic sonata. This luncheon will be held in Hudson Hall. Sign up at the reception desk to reserve your lunch spot!



ACTIVE Christian Living (continued)

ACTIVE Christian Living Day Trip Sylacauga Marble Festival

Tuesday, March 31 | 8:30 a.m. arrive at church. | \$45 per person
(lunch included)

Each year the city of Sylacauga hosts a Marble Festival celebrating the role that Sylacauga marble has played in buildings and sculptures around the nation and the world. Join us as we spend the day learning about the marble quarries and observe sculptors from around the world as they set up and begin sculpting new creations all from Alabama marble. We will enjoy lunch together at Buttermilk Hill, a restaurant housed in a beautiful home in the city of Sylacauga. The restaurant is highly recommended and we look forward to trying it. The cost of the lunch is included in the day trip price.



Meet Our New Members

We are so excited to welcome our new members to Mountain Brook Baptist Church. On the following page, you are going meet our new member and find out more about her faith journey.

Eleanor Grace Splawn

What led you to MBBC?

My family led me to MBBC. I have attended Mountain Brook Baptist Church since I was born.

What have you enjoyed the most about MBBC?

probably the mission trips

Tell us about your faith.

I came to faith during VBS in 2019.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama at St. Vincent's Hospital. I am seven years old. My parents are Mary and Wayne Splawn and I have two siblings, Webb (age 10) and Mae (age one).

Where do you go to school?

I am in the first grade at McElwain Christian Academy.

My hobbies and interests are ...

playing with my baby sister Mae, baseball, and running.

My favorite restaurant is ...

Taco Mama.

My favorite Bible stories are ...

the Easter story and the Christmas story. I like the Christmas story because baby Jesus was born. I like the Easter story because even though Jesus died on the cross, He rose from the grave.



Eleanor Grace Splawn

Joined MBBC January 26, 2020

MBBC Staff



Dr. Doug Dortch
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Want to find out more about MBBC
and our staff? Visit mbbc.org/staff



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Mr. Ben Winder
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Generosity Scorecard as of February 23, 2020

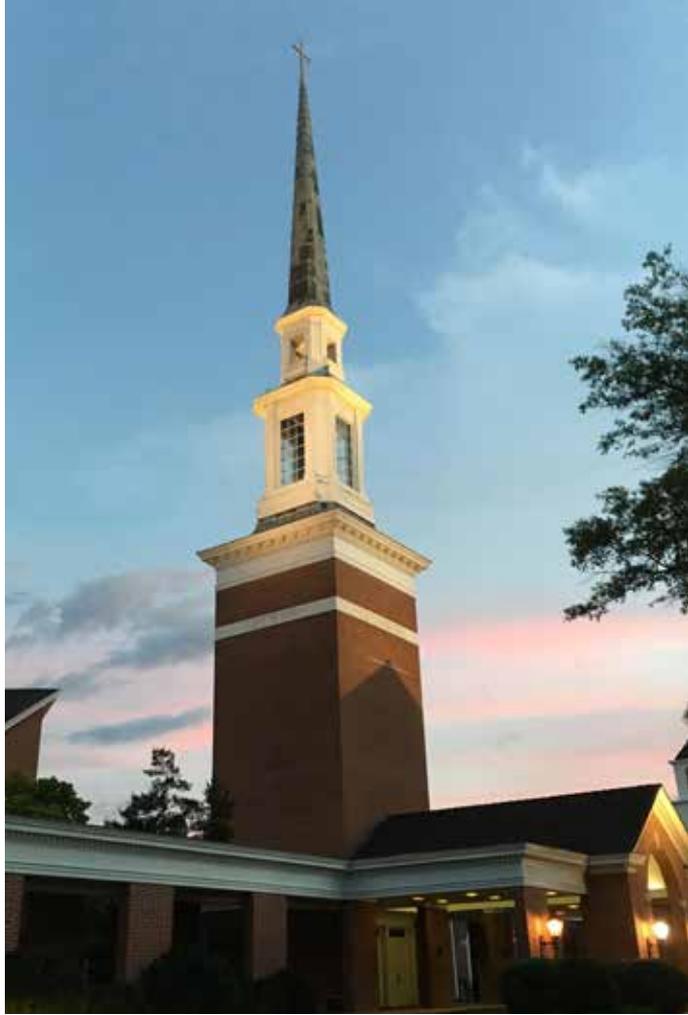
2020 Ministries Budget	\$3,469,150.00
Weekly Receipts	\$18,256.00
YTD Receipts, includes prepays	\$537,839.54
Average Weekly Budget	\$66,714.42
YTD Budget	\$533,715.36
Weekly Net	-\$48,458.42
YTD Net	\$4,124.18

Remaining receipts required to achieve annual budget:

\$2,931,310.46

Ways to Give

 <p>PLATES</p>	 <p>ONLINE To give online, visit mbbc.org/give.</p>	 <p>TEXT Text STOREHOUSE to 73256.</p>
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Love God. Live with Grace
and Generosity.



 mbbc.org

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