

RUNNING SOUND

Soon after I graduated from college, my dad (Reid Wills) came up to me and said, “Everyone on the sound committee is going out of town next week and I need you to run sound.” I had never run sound in my life, but I could not tell my dad no. All I could say was, “Sure; but you have to show me how to turn everything on.” I guess they liked what I did because they gave me a permanent spot running sound on Sunday mornings.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, our late service was transmitted live on the radio. Jim Campbell or Joe Langston would sit in the closet behind the balcony and send the service to the radio station while I ran the board out front. (Both men were experienced in radio broadcasting—Jim was an engineer and Joe was the magnificent voice and anything else that might be needed.)

During one service, part of the sound board was having issues. Joe Langston went out to his car and grabbed his tool box so he could fix the board. That service I ran the board with one hand while holding the components of the sound board with the other, as Joe was rewiring the board. I did not get much out of the sermon that day.

Jim Campbell took me under his wing and showed me how to test and repair cables. Together we installed a new sound system in the Chapel. I learned a lot that day, but mainly I learned that I was not very good with repairing cables.

The sound systems in the church have changed a lot over the years. I am sure Jim Campbell would have laughed at me if I told him that one day he would be able to operate the sound board in the Sanctuary off of an iPad while roaming around the room. I wonder how much things will change over the next 20 years?

Ed Wills



Ed Wills operates the sound board and computer for many church events. Here, Ed is running sound and slides for the Women's Ministry Fall Kickoff.



APRIL 21, 2019

WE'VE A STORY TO TELL
75th Anniversary Memories of Mountain Brook Baptist Church

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

"But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Luke 9:60 ESV

Over the years, Pastors Nelson, Moebes, and Dortch have welcomed speakers into the Mountain Brook Baptist Church pulpit with many memorable sermons and talks. On September 16, 2012, Dr Dortch invited Bobby Bowden to preach. Coach Bowden is a friend of Dr. Dortch, as a longtime member at First Baptist Tallahassee and Florida State coach. Coach Bowden credited his football success to his faith, which was no doubt molded during his playing years at Woodlawn High School and at Howard College, followed by coaching at Howard/Samford.

Coach Bowden told how his assistant and later head coach at Georgia and now Miami, Mark Richt, accepted Christ following the sad death of one of their FSU players. Coach Bowden had challenged his team and assistants to reflect on where they would spend eternity, which led to Coach Richt accepting Christ there in the FSU coaching offices.

In 2008, Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy told a packed Mountain Brook Baptist Church Sanctuary of his faith journey beginning in Atlanta's Techwood project and leading to today's 2000+ Chick-fil-A stores. He credited his business success to his Christianity and family values. "We aren't really in the chicken business, we are in the people business" he said. He said that work life balance is crucial to their business. Honoring his beliefs, Chick-fil-A stores are closed on Sundays. His philosophy must be working as Chick-fil-A per store sales in six days a week exceed the industry which rings their cash registers seven days a week. At Mountain Brook Baptist, Cathy distributed his books including "Eat Mor Chikin, Inspire More People."

In 2008, Lee Allen invited his friend and former student, noted Eastern University professor Tony Campolo, to the Mountain Brook Baptist Church pulpit. He told of a Good Friday "Preach Off" in his Philadelphia church, which is predominately African American. Campolo, proudly thinking he had preached a perfect Easter sermon, quietly challenged his co-preacher to "Top that" to which his African American pastor friend responded, "Boy, watch the master." Replicating

his booming voice, Campolo repeated much of that sermon to the Mountain Brook Baptist Church crowd: *"It's Friday...and they're saying Christ is dead and it's all over and it was a waste...oh, it may be Friday, but I'm here to give you the good news...it's Friday, but Sunday's coming! Oh yes it's Friday, but Sunday's coming! It's Friday. Jesus is arrested in the garden where He was praying. But Sunday's coming. It's Friday. The disciples are hiding and Peter's denying that he knows the Lord. But Sunday's coming. It's Friday. Jesus is standing before the high priest of Israel, silent as a lamb before the slaughter. But Sunday's coming. It's Friday. Jesus is beaten, mocked, and spit upon. But Sunday's coming."*

Campolo recounted that the "Good Friday but Sunday's coming" story went on and on with the Philadelphia congregation repeating **"But Sunday's coming"** first in a whisper, but by the end the congregation was standing and shouting about Sunday coming. Campolo, having effectively worked the Mountain Brook Baptist Church crowd with the same "It's Friday but Sunday's coming" sermon ended as his friend had: **"It's Friiidaaay!"** And in all but a shout, the sometimes reserved Mountain Brook Baptist Church crowd responded perhaps as enthusiastically as the Philadelphia congregation: **"But Sunday's coming!"**



The cross on Montevallo Road is always adorned with flowers in celebration of Easter, as a reminder that Sunday is indeed coming for all who are in Christ.

BAPTISM AT MOUNTAIN BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH: OUR SHARED EXPERIENCE

Baptism by immersion is the outward expression of our internal acceptance of Christ and his teachings. It is the "shared" experience of being Baptist that unites us in this church. We emulate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, as described in John 1:29-34. It's a time of joy and celebration shared with not only family members, but the entire church congregation. As members of the church's baptismal ministry team, we are privileged to be a part of this event, which is rewarding, uplifting, serious, and also has moments of humor.

Prior to the baptism service, the candidates for baptism and their families meet with the pastor in the Sanctuary for prayer. They will be introduced to the baptismal assistants who guide the candidates to the dressing room to be fitted for a baptismal robe, which is actually a large flowing gown with pants legs. A high percentage of the baptism candidates are young people (6-16 years old), with an occasional adult. Being present during the baptismal service, especially with younger folks, is a reaffirmation of our Christian faith. They are excited, nervous and "all in" for committing their lives to Christ. The girls are chatty and remarking on all the activities surrounding baptism. They are likely to be telling about special guests who are present, what's happening at school, and where the family will have lunch. On the other hand, the guys will generally be quiet and introspective, but curious about "the dunking" and water temperature in the baptismal pool.

Then, there's the different way pastors dress for baptism. Some will wear pants, shirt and tie under the robe, some will wear full "waders" to the chest with shirt and tie, while others prefer a swim suit with shirt and tie. However, whatever the dressing preference, they all are called to baptize as John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Even in the water, the pastor's procedure can be different. One will lay the candidate backwards into the water and another will have the candidate bend their knees into the water. No matter the style, the candidate will experience the same baptism that Jesus experienced and proclaim "Jesus is Lord."

Yes, baptism is a serious exercise, however there can be "humorous happenings" during the service. As previously mentioned, the baptismal robes are really large gowns with pants legs, and that caused one "happening." It occurred with a young man who was having a very difficult time exiting the baptismal pool stairs to the dressing room. It was discovered that he had placed both of his legs into one of the robe's pant legs, making it almost impossible to walk. Since that time, the baptismal ministry team training includes a "caution" to insure the baptismal candidate uses "both" pants legs of the baptismal robe.

Clyde shares, "I accepted Christ at age eight and was baptized by sprinkling at a church of another denomination. Shirley was a Baptist from youth. When we moved to Mountain Brook in the mid-1970s, we chose Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Shirley joined as a member, and I was taken in under 'pastoral care.' I declined to be immersed, feeling that sprinkling was enough. Soon our twin sons were baptized at about age 11. When our daughter later accepted Christ, I felt led to be baptized by immersion and become full-out Baptist. Our daughter and I were baptized in a dual baptism service. What a blessing! Baptism meant so much to us, that we gladly agreed to serve on the baptismal ministry team. We have assisted with baptisms at Mountain Brook Baptist Church for 36 years, since 1982. It is a privilege to share such a special event in a fellow Christian's life. The baptismal experience is what we all have in common, as members of a Baptist church."

*Shirley & Clyde McCain
Co-Chairs of Mountain Brook Baptist Church's Baptismal Ministry Team*



Emma Kathlyn Powell was baptized by Dr. Bruce Wayne Splawn Jr. on January 27, 2019.