

HONORING SACRED MEMORIES: THE MINISTRY WINDOW

Mr. Price, also known as Sonny Jim (1885-1965), was on the building committee for the Sanctuary. He became a Deacon in 1950. A chair of the finance committee, he chaired Deacons in 1957. He was an industrialist specializing in manufacturing cast-iron cookware. He was an early, pivotal member of the board of Baptist Hospitals.

The Ministry Window, presented to the glory of God in memory of S.J. Price.



JANUARY 27, 2019

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

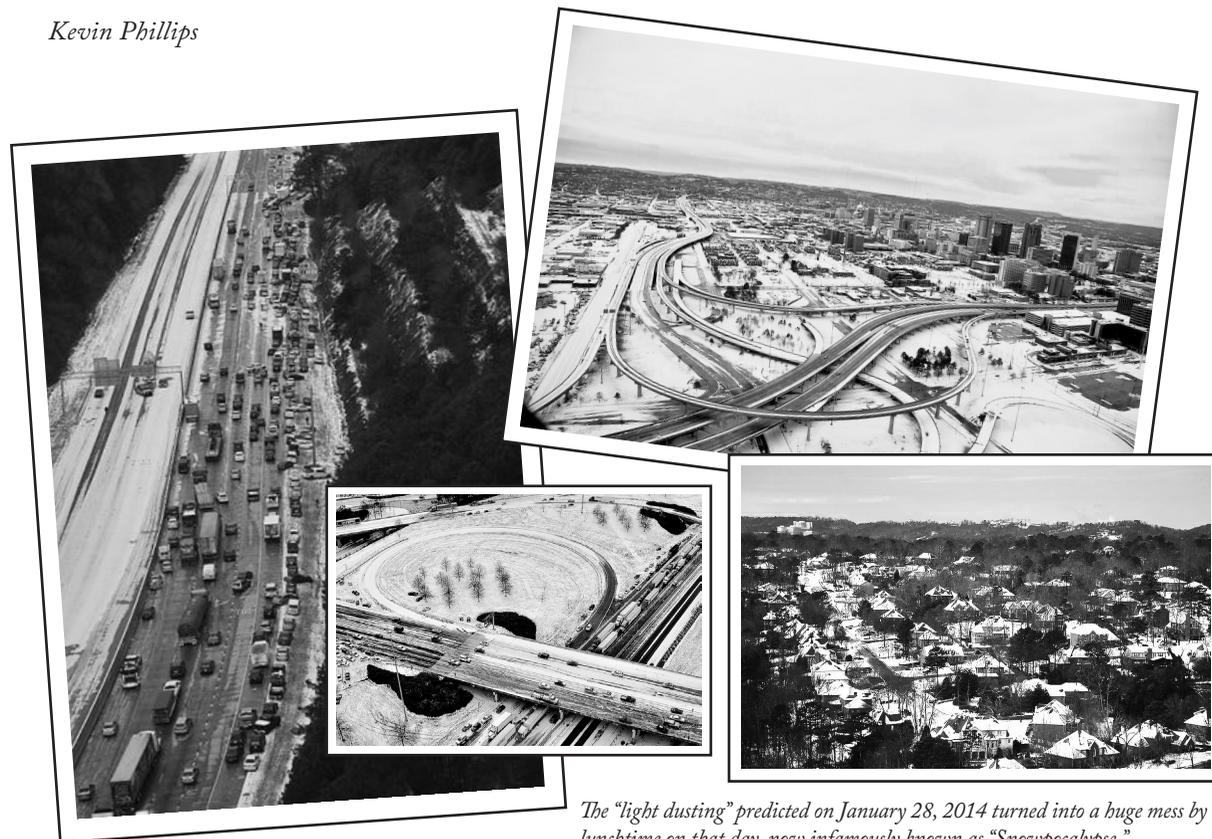
SNOWPOCALYPSE 2014 AT MOUNTAIN BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

On the day of the infamous snow-apocalypse I was with my daughter at a doctor's office where we found out she had the flu. My wife had been discussing the snowflakes and decisions were made. I was to head home and she was to head to Mountain Brook Baptist Church's Early Learning Center to get our youngest child.

All things changed once we both got on the road! My wife was unable to head toward the church, so it became my job to get our baby. My wife had it no other way but to have all our children accounted for, and for one of us to be with them. I drove as far as I could towards the church and had to park a mile away on Mountain Brook Parkway. I walked with Alex, my sick child, on my shoulders (and she had to use the bathroom), knowing full well we weren't going anywhere once I got to the church.

Upon my arrival, there were concerned teachers and staff and happy children. I had to find a place to quarantine my sick child, so of course I chose the youth room with a TV and couch! I remember Alvin Pelton opening the doors to those around coming for shelter. He kept order with a numbering system and sign-in to keep record of who all was there to provide for their needs and to secure safety for the children. Everyone ate dinner in Heritage Hall that night, and we had breakfast together the next morning.

Kevin Phillips



*The "light dusting" predicted on January 28, 2014 turned into a huge mess by lunchtime on that day, now infamously known as "Snowpocalypse."
(Photos provided by Tamika Moore and al.com)*

JANUARY 28, 2014: A FAR FROM ORDINARY DAY

For most of the church staff, Tuesday, January 28, 2014 began like any other day. TV weather forecaster James Spann had predicted a light dusting of snow with most accumulation to occur south of our city. We gathered by the windows in Heritage Hall to watch the "dusting" fall. By 10:30 a.m., it was far from an ordinary day. Two inches of snow and ice had fallen, turning the streets and highways into parking lots. As staff members left to get home, several found they had to turn around and come back. In all, four staff members found themselves stranded at the church. Our doors stayed open and slowly, people drifted in looking for shelter.

By dinner that night, we had over 120 people gathered in Heritage Hall. Many had left school or work trying to drive home only to be stuck for hours before abandoning their vehicles and starting out on foot. One doctor from Children's Hospital walked over six hours, all the way from the hospital, before finally coming in for the night.

The Early Learning Center had opened as usual that morning and had sent three classes on a field trip to Bud's Cookies. One group got as far as a gas station in Mountain Brook Village and then rode a four-wheeler back to the church. Another group ended up stranded at the Summit, where the theater opened and showed movies. Another group finally returned to the church around 8 p.m. In all, there were over 50 children, 18 staff members, and more than 15 families that stayed in the Early Learning Center overnight. Many parents were able to get here to get their children, but were unable to get home.

We were blessed in so many ways. Sysco had delivered a big order early Tuesday morning, so there was plenty of good food. Parents, teachers, guests, and staff all pitched in to prepare and serve meals. The power stayed on, providing plenty of heat, and televisions gave us frequent updates. People slept anywhere they could find a spot: chairs, beanbags, couches, floors, nap mats, and pews. Thankfully, because of our association with Family Promise of Birmingham, we had sheets, toothbrushes, soap, and some pillows to share.

By sunrise on Wednesday morning, people began to leave to try to get home. Some made it! Most had to turn around and come back. As roads improved, staff members were able to get back to the church and bring more food and medicine, and they offered rides to find stranded cars. Our numbers were down the second night, but we still housed over 20 children, 15 Early Learning Center staff members, several families in the Early Learning Center, and three staff members and over 30 guests in the church.

The last of our guests left bright and early Thursday morning. We made new friends, welcomed folks we knew, met neighbors, and were provided with many, many opportunities to minister to others. We were reminded of Jesus' words: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me'" (Matthew 25:40 ESV).

Alvin Pelton, Jane Helms, and Doris Mummert



The heavier-than-expected snow, combined with freezing temperatures on the roads, made much of Birmingham impassable on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Many had to abandon their vehicles and seek shelter in unfamiliar places. Amy Hirsch took this photo as she walked down Cababa River Road after being forced to abandon her car in the snow.