

## ON THE WAY TO THE BAPTISTRY

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I had not met John Clark Newman prior to the morning of his baptism. We spent our 15 minutes together in the company of his parents and Dr. Dortch, finding a robe that fit, going through the significance of being baptized, and participating in a family prayer with his mom and dad (Monique and Johnny Newman).

There were a couple of minutes after the service began, when it was just John Clark and I, waiting in the wings. Obviously it is an unusual environment for a six-year-old boy dressed in a robe too big for him. I asked John Clark how he was

doing. John Clark looked up at me without hesitation and proclaimed, "I am so excited! I have been waiting for this day my whole life!"

I smiled and knew that God was right there with us in that hallway leading to the baptistry. I thank John Clark for his living example and will remember this story always.

*Trent Scofield*

*Member of MBBC Baptism  
Committee*



*Dr. Dortch baptizes John Clark Newman on Sunday, March 4, 2018.*



JANUARY 6, 2019

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

## OUR CHURCH DNA

I was a third grader at Crestline School and attended our church when I was led to Christ. That, of course, meant baptism. The tiny Chapel served as the Sanctuary at that time, and there was a baptismal pool on the stage behind the pulpit.

If you think the recorded voice of Dr. Dotson M. Nelson Jr. narrating the Living Nativity sounds like God, imagine what it sounded like to an eight-year-old in the hands of Dr. Nelson in the baptistry as he led me through the process. It was at the same time both terrifying and exhilarating! That Sunday morning started my personal journey with Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

I am reminded of our church by the UPS commercial that asks, "What can Brown do for you?" That slogan is appropriate for our church. In every season of life it has been there for our family.

Tasha and I were married at First Baptist in Montgomery in 1985. Dr. James D. Moebes drove down Friday night for the rehearsal and returned to Birmingham that night. The next day he performed the ceremony on Saturday night, then drove back to Birmingham for Sunday morning services. You don't forget that.

Since then, our ministers dedicated and baptized our three children. Dr. Moebes performed the wedding ceremony for one daughter and Dr. Dortch for the other. Recently, Dr. Dortch baptized a family member who joined the church. In times of sadness, our ministers were there to guide us through the funerals of grandparents and our mother.

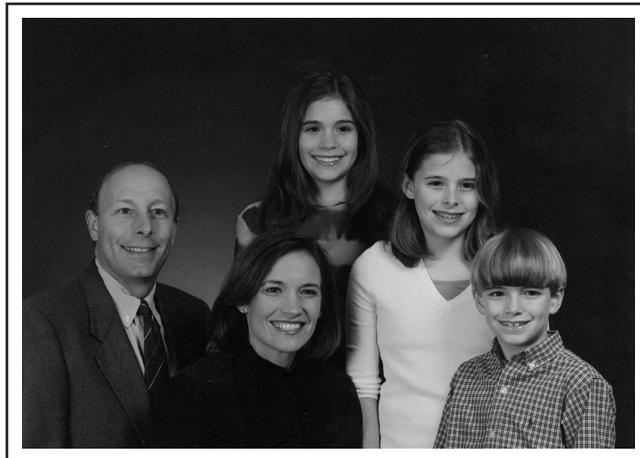
A story that shows the caring nature of our staff involves a surprising diagnosis one of our children received as a baby. The condition, which is extremely rare, required pediatric neurosurgery in the cranial cavity. Time was of the essence. We were shocked and unprepared for the almost immediate surgery, and in our haste to make arrangements we did not tell anyone other than immediate family and a few close friends to help with our other children.

We showed up with our baby at Children's Hospital at 5:30 a.m. on the appointed day. When we entered the waiting room, there were three people already there: Dr. Moebes, Sharon Howard, and another church staff member. It immediately dawned on us that we had neglected to tell the church about the operation, yet here they were! In what promised to be the most stressful day we had ever experienced, the comfort, support, and prayer that we received has never been forgotten. Dr. Moebes entertained us with story after story that had us laughing and eased the anxiousness we felt. When

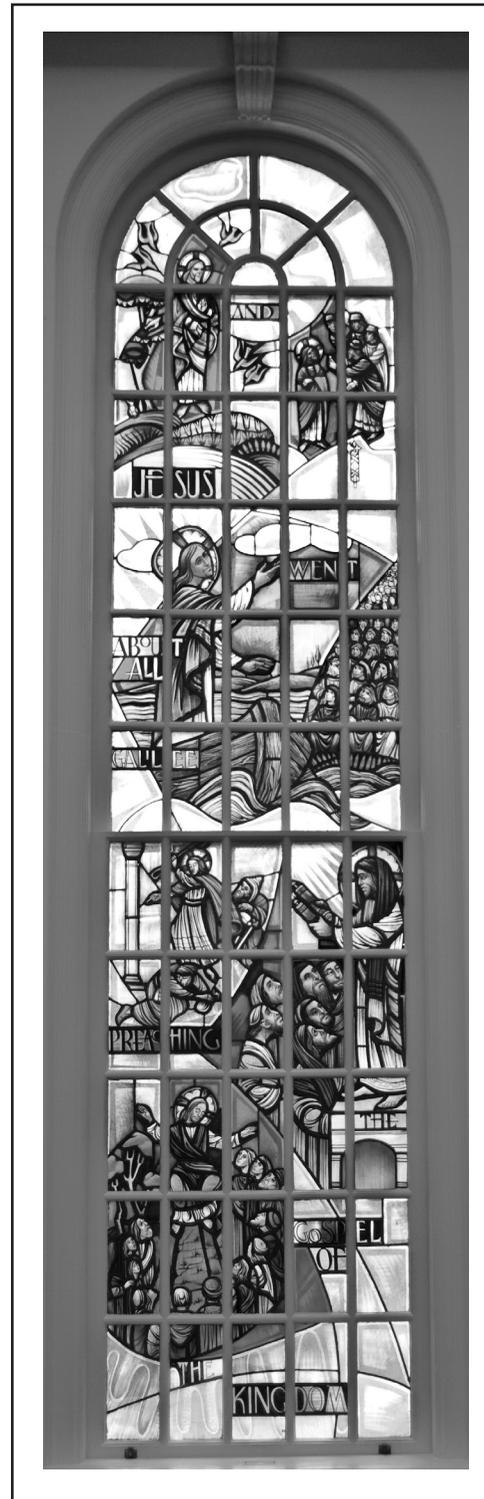
the neurosurgeon came in and delivered good news, what once seemed like the potential worst day of our life had turned into the best. Tasha says that Dr. Moebes' prayer of thanksgiving for that good news remains the most beautiful prayer she has ever heard. We still don't know how they knew to be there that morning, but we will always be grateful for what they did.

The Bates' story is not unique. The DNA of Mountain Brook Baptist Church will always include being there in times of joy and stress. It is a special place, and I am thankful to God for leading me here.

*Billy Bates  
Chairman of MBBC Deacons 2018*



*The Bates family (left to right: Billy, Tasha, Brooke, Allie, and Brock) as pictured in the 2002 Church Directory*



## HONORING SACRED MEMORIES: THE PREACHING WINDOW

Thomas J. Adams (1915-1995) and Nan Manly Adams (1918-1991) were early members of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, moving their memberships from Southside and First Baptist Church respectively. Mr. Adams, founder of the insurance and technology firm AutoTec, was elected a Life Deacon following serving as chairman in 1969. He and Dr. Dotson M. Nelson Jr. secured the property on Overton Road for the construction of Brookwood Baptist Church. Mrs. Adams taught the ladies Sunday School class for many years. Their children who were church members included Thomas J. Adams Jr., Richard Manly Adams, and Nancy Adams McDonald. Richard Adams chaired Deacons in 2015 and chaired the 75th Anniversary Committee.

*The Preaching Window, Presented to the Glory of God by The Thomas J. Adams Family*