

TIES THAT BIND

One of my earliest memories as a new member at Mountain Brook Baptist Church shaped the faith journey I would take over the next three decades.

Elizabeth and I had recently joined Mountain Brook Baptist Church and attended what was then called the Celebration Supper for new members. I recall a tall, friendly gentleman came to my table and introduced himself as Rodney Rushing. He said that he knew my brother through Auburn baseball. I remember his brief handshake and warm greeting which created a common ground we would share through the years in our faith journeys at Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

Rodney and Michelle Rushing were serving in the singles department. Not long after our initial meeting, Rodney invited Elizabeth and me to join them in teaching Sunday School. Soon after that, Rodney got me

involved in the budget campaign. A quail hunt and a few fishing trips later, he had me fully involved in many aspects of Mountain Brook Baptist. And as time moved on, Michelle and Elizabeth taught a high school girls Sunday School class. Now they are in a small group together. Rodney and I are part of the Russell/Wiley Forum class. We take turns with others leading the discussion.

Some of my best memories are from the 4 a.m. work that Rodney and I enjoy as "cooks" for the Tuesday men's breakfast. Rodney continues to coach me up in this role: telling me how many pounds of bacon to order, reminding me to get the bacon out to thaw, and checking to see if I am stirring the grits correctly.

Rodney and Michelle are close Christian friends to us, as are many couples in this church. Many friends have encouraged us in our faith walk and service and continue to shape our memories of what it means to be a church family.

Bob Baker



From left to right: Bob Baker, Elizabeth Baker, Michelle Rushing, Rodney Rushing.



JULY 7, 2019

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

THE SNACK HUB

It's not really about the food. Vacation Bible School offers children more Bible study time and growth in their faith than any other event in our church. A part of the Vacation Bible School experience has always been the snack room for teachers. You can imagine an undertaking like Vacation Bible School requires a large number of teachers; for 2019, we have 72 volunteers signed up to help so far! To minister to those volunteers, we provide a snack room for teachers and helpers on the second floor of the Christian Life Center. There are always children using the classrooms on the second floor of the Christian Life Center thus going by the space and up and down the steps. The enticing parts of this area are delicious food and warm fellowship open to all. I have watched young children go by this area yearning for a little snack but, more importantly, desiring to stay and have fun with all the adults and teenagers who were working in Vacation Bible School.

For the adults, everyone working with children is focused on how to make a difference in their Christian experience. Casual dress, warm conversation, and a lot of laughter make this area special.

The preparation and planning for this portion of Vacation Bible School have been faithfully furnished by a team of ladies led by Alice Stewart and others.

Recently I have watched as those who were older children are now wanting to help as workers in the refreshment area. This is a place for them to grow into serving and leading. Thanks be to God for places where children can grow and learn to serve all with a sense of laughter and fellowship. These will be good tools as they go out into the world and carry their faith.

Alvin Pelton



Left: We always have a faithful crew on hand to serve snacks to our teachers and volunteers at VBS. Pictured are some of our helpers from 2017: Mirian Habshey, Jim Livingston, Alice Stewart, the late Camolee Walker, and Tricia Baughman.

Right: Dr. Kely Hatley leads the opening rally for Vacation Bible School with song and movement.

WHO IS JESUS - YEAR 1, VBS 1

A boy asked me, "Who is Jesus?"

In our first Vacation Bible School, a boy whose parents had recently moved to the area from the northwest came to participate. When the first day was over and I was standing on the steps of the small Chapel waiting to check with the faculty about the day, this child came running back to me and asked the question:

"Who is Jesus?"

I hope his question was satisfactorily answered in the days that followed with the love we sought to share with all the children. I never pass by the church without the child and his question come to me.

Eloise Montgomery Prater Southard

Written in September 1973, for the 29th anniversary of MBBC

Mrs. Harry Prater and family came from Southside Baptist Church to help start Mountain Brook Baptist Church. She was the first Sunday School director and she led the first Vacation Bible School, with more than 85 children in attendance plus teachers. Mrs. Prater lived on Euclid Avenue, and she walked to the first Chapel which was located on the site now occupied by the Mountain Brook Board of Education. She invited children from the neighborhood to follow her to church. Mrs. Prater's sister was Mrs. Walter Fowlkes, another of the first leaders of the church. Mrs. Fowlkes died in 1964 and Mrs. Prater-Southard died in 2005. The first Vacation Bible School was held June 4-15, 1945, when the church was only eight months old. Nobody can imagine how so many children jammed into the little Chapel-house and its outbuildings.

