

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

“Love God. Live with Grace and Generosity.” If I ever had any doubts that our church had bought in to our congregational mission statement, those doubts were washed away by 2017’s incredible end of the year response to our ministry aims and objectives. During the last month of December we received over 20% of our total gifts for 2017, and the last week of 2017 alone saw over 11% come in as your response to my “final appeal.” Words cannot adequately express my deep appreciation for what so many of you did to help us be in a position to fulfill our ministry plans.

For example, thanks to your generous giving, we were able to provide full funding of over \$514,000 to our church’s missions ministry, while providing for important programming for children, youth, and the full spectrum of adult ministry. Moreover, our worship ministry was enhanced by the special accompanists and orchestra guests at important seasonal services. None of this would have been possible without your sacrificial giving throughout the year and especially in those last weeks.

That’s why I’m excited about the possibilities that are before us as we look to the end of this year. We have bold plans for some new initiatives in 2019 and beyond that I believe will help us further Christ’s cause in significant ways in the months ahead, most of which will be in the area of implementing our Vision 2020 plan. So, your continued faithfulness in your financial stewardship will be critical as we move forward in making vision become reality in our church. For now, however, let me simply say thank you for your commitment to the kingdom. I trust your generosity has brought you great fulfillment to this point and that your gracious dedication will continue to unleash God’s favor in even greater ways this coming year.

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else” (1 Corinthians 9:13 NIV).

Dr. J. Douglas Dortch Jr.

MOUNTAIN BROOK BAPTIST PROPERTY & BUILDINGS

September 3, 1944	Dedication of the Little House Chapel on Jackson Ave, Crestline Chapel
1949-50	Chapel
1955	Educational Building (Four Stories)
1961	Expansion of Fellowship Hall (Heritage Hall)
1967	Sanctuary
1971	Chapel Renovation
October 5, 1975	Dotson M. Nelson Jr. Christian Life Center Completed
1993	Further Expansion of Fellowship Hall (Heritage Hall)
1994	Refurbishing Sanctuary
2000-2002	Building Enlargement (Hudson Hall, Offices, Preschool Classrooms)



NOVEMBER 11, 2018

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

ANGELS AMONG US

There's an angel among us—Hoyt R. Wilson. He was minister of education and church administrator for 29 years of intensive growth at our church. He served on staff from April 1967 until September 1996. Then he “retired” to be an active layperson, always hovering in the background to encourage and support. Everybody owes thanks and recognition to Hoyt and Janet Wilson, champions of our church for more than 50 years. If we look carefully, we see Wilson handprints in the growth in membership numbers, in Bible study, and in the expanding building.

HAPPY MEMORIES!

I asked Hoyt to look back and tell us what memories make him happy. He mentioned: “My wife Janet! Janet worked outside our home part-time when our children were small and full-time later on, yet she served as first grade Sunday School Director for thirty years. She is always in the middle of every good thing at our church.

“Also, I'm happy to remember training of Bible teachers. We needed them to develop new classes. On Wednesday nights, teachers met together to study and share plans for their Sunday lessons. Teachers got fired up for Sunday! One extra teacher was always prepared as a last-minute fill-in. We also had new-member classes.

“It was exciting to widen our invitation to the community. One year, Arthur Cook, owner of the *Shades Valley Sun* weekly newspaper, had money inserted in the church budget for public relations. He told me to spend it wisely. Over the next five years, Mountain Brook Baptist Church won national competition awards for Best Church Newsletter, for an audiovisual show about the church budget, and for best newspaper ads. The real prize was growth in membership and improved community status.”

BUILDING PROJECTS

Considering our current church studies about the building, Hoyt was asked about his building projects for Mountain Brook Baptist Church. So many! So constant! Inevitable in a growing and changing church! Hoyt was the one who launched the congregation into member surveys and long-range planning. These typically led to increased missions giving and to building projects. Hoyt could have been an architect or engineer, as well as a religious educator. Examples: Purchasing a house in 1968, Chapel renovation in 1971, Christian Life Center Building in 1975, Chapel windows in 1985, redo of the fourth floor in 1991, redo and expansion of the Fellowship Hall (Heritage Hall) in early 1990s, addition of porte-cochere on Montevallo Road in 1993, and a major Sanctuary renovation in 1994.

On top of these, Hoyt noted that in 1971, all the classrooms in the Sanctuary building had to be stripped of asbestos, when the building was still quite new. Modifications were needed when weekday education was expanded to include day care. And, Hoyt was one of the few who could keep the HVAC system operational—with his own hands.

The Christian Life Center made possible a real church recreation ministry. Hoyt is proud to recall new members reached by basketball leagues and volleyball games and after-school activities for Jr. High students.

GOD OBVIOUSLY AT WORK

Hoyt was always seeing God-given miracles in his work. He loves to recall this one: “Our first mission church construction trip took place in 1984, at Bridgeport, Connecticut. The task of Mountain Brook Baptist Church was to install heating and air-conditioning in the new church building. But, the construction team the week before did not finish the roof. Rain was pouring and tripping our electrical supply for power tools. The only solution was for us to complete the roof and then work on our HVAC assignment.

“As our team worked on the roof, lightning flashed and dark storm clouds covered the entire property. I thought, ‘God, this is not right. It's your work; you can't let this effort be wasted.’ The rain and lightning held off until our crew finished the roof. The very instant they stepped off of ladders...BOOM! Rain lashed the earth and we all cheered! And...then we completed our assignment.”

RETIREMENT?

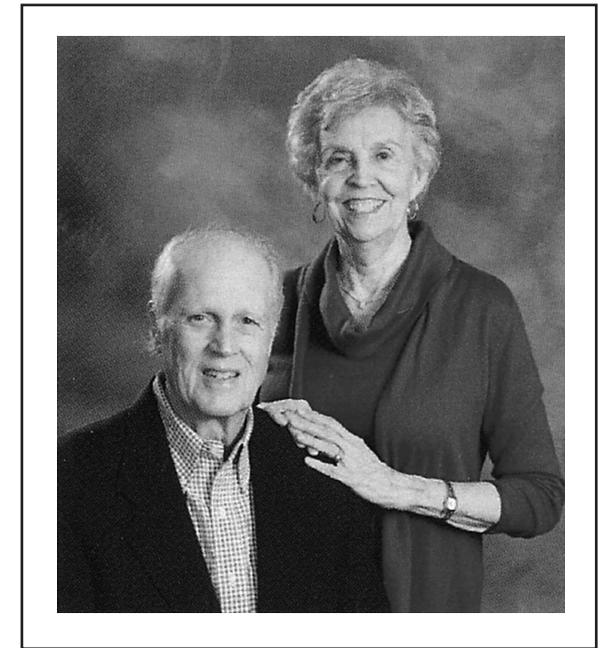
Retirement in September 1996 gave Hoyt time to write seven books that stress the importance of developing personal character. The books are targeted for fourth- through seventh-graders. Topics include biographies of great Americans and historical novels written for the Alabama Roots Biography Series. (Check out his page on Amazon.com.)

Hoyt's mission field these days is often on the tennis court. He plays competitive tennis with 16 men, and he talks with them of Christian faith. Hoyt R. Wilson is age 85. You can find him on Sundays seated in pews toward the back of the Sanctuary, on the baptistry side. It was Hoyt who orchestrated publication of the 50th anniversary church history, *Outward Focus*, in 1994.

We decided to join Mountain Brook Baptist Church after Hoyt Wilson visited our home on a typically busy afternoon. We had dashed home from work, trying to get our daughter dressed for ballet class. The phone was ringing. Hoyt said, “I have lots of experience tying ballet shoes. I'll do that while you deal with your office. Let me know anytime Mountain Brook Baptist Church can help your family.” We did. He did. The church did.

“Some welcomed angels and did not know it...” Hebrews 13:2

Catherine and Lee Allen



Hoyt and Janet Wilson