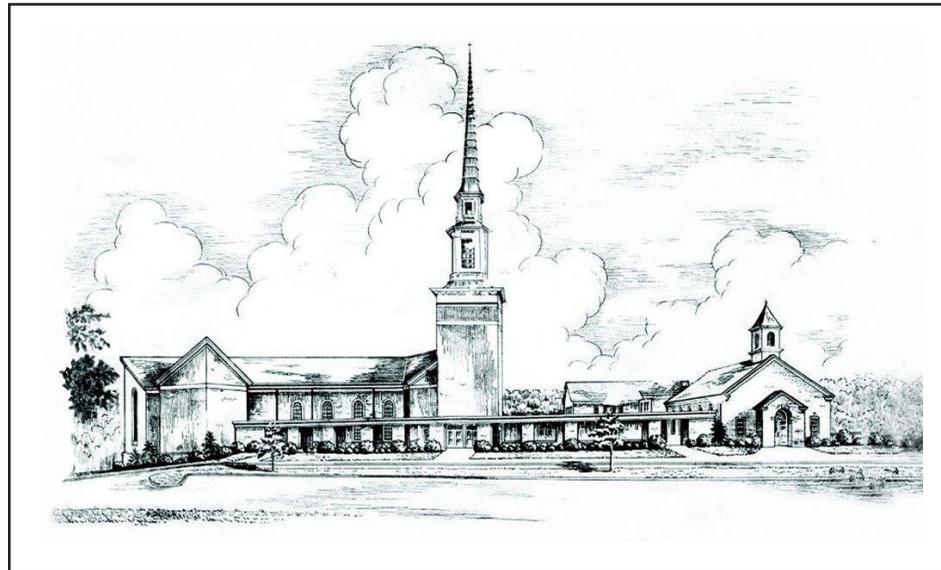


## FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT OUR FANTASTIC FACILITIES

---

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| MBBC Property      | 7.3 acres   |
| Floor Area         | 135,661 square feet   |
| Sanctuary capacity | 900 seats (700 comfortably)   |
| Chapel capacity    | 190 seats (150 comfortably)   |
| Heritage Hall      | 300 chairs for worship<br>280 chairs for banquet                              |
| Parking            | 234 regular spaces<br>12 handicapped spaces                                   |
| Number of toilets  | 57 (33 on 2nd floor alone)  |
| Steeple height     | 162 feet, 8 inches<br>(thought to be the tallest structure in Mountain Brook) |

*Vince Blackerby*  
*Director of Operations*



SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

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

## GOLF AND THE GOSPEL

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).*

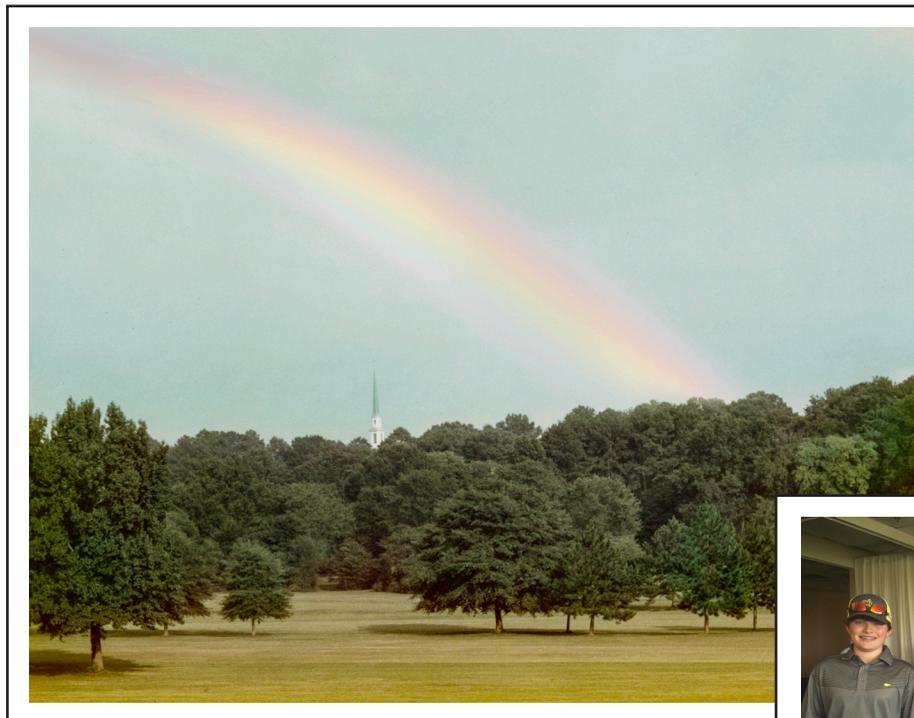
If during Dotson Nelson’s years at Mountain Brook Baptist Church he had a “Kitchen Cabinet” it would doubtless have included his golf group: John Bayliss, Don Brabston, John Holcomb, and Milton Bagby. Certainly many a church issue and likely some significant decisions were considered by this group between the first tee and the 18th green at Birmingham Country Club. Not only were church matters likely advanced on the late Tuesday or Thursday afternoon matches but strong friendships were forged there within this group.

Taking advantage of the church towering over Birmingham Country Club golf course, Dr Nelson often contended that he had insisted that the steeple for the new Sanctuary be designed high enough to be clearly visible from each hole. It would not have been beyond him to raise the volume of the steeple chimes, to remind members they should still be in the service.

Beginning in 2014, a churchwide golf tournament managed by Sharon Howard has become an annual spring fellowship event in support of the Family Mission Trip. To date over \$100,000 has been raised. The second year the tournament was played in and out of the rain with everyone covered in mud by the end of the round. With up to 100 participants of all ages, this has become a fun tradition. The 2017 winning team of John Decker, Will Grant, Wade Loveman, and Walton Redden, eighth grade students at the time, demonstrated their commitment to their church by sacrificing a half day of school in active support of missions.

A story of golf and the gospel certainly should include Dr. Dortch’s strong commitment to both. He has been known to sacrifice an afternoon in the office in order to invest time on the golf course with a prospect or new member. Dr. Dortch also supports the Family Mission Team by playing in the annual golf tournament.

Even today the steeple, still clearly visible on Birmingham Country Club golf course, fulfills Dr. Nelson’s desire, reminding golfers teeing off on Sundays that they ought to be in church.



*Above: A photo of the Mountain Brook Baptist Church steeple, as viewed from Birmingham Country Club golf course. Right: Will Grant, Walton Redden, John Decker, and Wade Loveman at the 2016 Family Mission Trip Golf Tournament.*



## A BOY SCOUT REMEMBERS

Mountain Brook Baptist Church used to host Scout troops of every kind—starting in 1949 with Cubs and continuing for many years. I remember my Scout meetings in the 1950s. Lots of the boys from the Crestline neighborhood took part. I rode my bike from Country Club Road (uphill all the way home). Back in those days, Church Street was narrow and barely paved. Crestline School was made of fieldstone. The world was different in many ways.

We Mountain Brook Baptist Church Boy Scouts had a meeting place in the basement of the Chapel building—the only church building in my earliest days. Our leaders were Talmadge Foust, an engineer, and Arnie Van Buren, an architect. Both were combat veterans of World War II, and their military discipline carried over into us Boy Scouts. Some of the Mountain Brook Baptist Church members were Dana and Vinson Jester, John and Mike Bayliss, Tom Adams, and Milton Bagby Jr. The pastor was W.E. Waterhouse. When we went camping, we roughed it in the woods. Everything we did was strictly regulation, and several Scouts attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Our troop was called upon to help clear land for our new Sanctuary. The property was wild with thick undergrowth. We spent a lot of time digging out the brush, and then we burned it in a huge bonfire. None of us realized that we had pulled out a mountain of poison ivy. Every Scout broke out with a terrible rash.

It was the way to raise young men and to raise a church. We had a grand and exciting time.

*Russell Cunningham III*



*Top: An early photo of Montevallo Road, which shows the Sanctuary property.*

*Middle: Charlie and William Keith (front row); Leann and Russell Cunningham IV, Ellen and Russell Cunningham III, Ellen Martin and Alston Keith (back row). Russell Cunningham III has served as church moderator since 2003.*

*Bottom: Jane Ellen Cunningham, daughter of Leann and Russell Cunningham IV.*