

The Messenger

November 2018

Lant's Lines

A Message from the Pastor
of Mountain Brook
Presbyterian Church



Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21 (NRSV).

This has been a hard week in the national news. While Amanda and I were in Louisville, Kentucky, for the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, an armed man murdered two elderly black persons in a Kroger grocery store that is frequented by several seminary employees. When the murderer was confronted by an armed white man, the murderer was said to have remarked, "If you won't shoot me, then I won't shoot you; white people don't kill other white people." Coming hard on the heels of this incident were the Tree of Life synagogue shootings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The shooter in that incident was heard to say that he wanted to "kill all the Jews." I just found out moments ago that the United Hebrew Congregation of Terre Haute, where Amanda and I lived before moving back to Birmingham, this week had a vile placard posted on their own synagogue's door. And, of course, there's the person who sent the dozen or so pipe-bombs through the mail.

(Continued on back)

Lant's Lines (continued)

I guess there will always be crazy people. Until the Realm of God arrives in its fullness, I guess there will always be maladjusted, angry, hate-filled people capable of performing such heinous acts. However, it makes me wonder—what did those shooters experience in their lives that led them to commit these crimes? Were they, themselves, abused? Were they themselves unloved and ostracized as children? Were they unable to find a friend when they needed one. Did they fall between the cracks of our mental health system? I'm not trying to make an excuse for their conduct. I'm just trying to acknowledge that these explosions of hate don't come in a vacuum, but rather are the culmination of a life of disappointment and frustration.

I wonder what would have happened if, long ago, some Presbyterian neighbor had invited one of these perpetrators, while still a child, to come with them to Sunday school, or to participate in the youth group at church. I wonder what would have happened—or not happened—if a courageous young Presbyterian had offered to befriend one of these perpetrators, who may have been among the “uncoolest” of their class in school. My mentor, Rev. Morgan Roberts, might never have become a minister if a neighbor had not invited him to church. My seminary professor, Dr. W. Eugene March, was not a Christian until his neighbor invited him to church at age 16. Who knows how their lives might have turned out if those neighbors had not taken an interest and gone out of their way to help a young person?

We cannot bring back the lives of those who have been killed. What we can do, as the Apostle Paul tells the church in Rome, is to fight evil acts with good acts. Who knows what impact our good acts can have many years down the line?

MBPC Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lant B. Davis

Director of Preschool
Mary Liz Ingram

Director of Music
Dewin Tibbs

Financial Assistant
Bernie Gregson

Organist
Gary Smoke

Boy Scout Troop 320
Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes

Administrative Assistant
Melissa Hall

Cub Scout Pack 320
Cubmaster: Dave Caskey

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Contact MBPC

3405 Brookwood Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

(205)967-5037

mhall@mbpcusa.org

www.mbpcusa.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p>Van Reservation -</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday</p> <p>10:15am - Chancel</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Sunday</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p> <p>6:30pm - Christian</p>	<p>9am - PEO Meeting</p> <p>5pm - Hand Bells</p> <p>5:30pm - Bible Book</p> <p>6pm - Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm - "Let's Talk</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>deposit</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>5pm - Property</p>	<p>Van Reservation - Boy Scouts</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>9:15am - Preschool</p>	<p>Van Reservation - Boy Scouts</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Van Reservation -</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday</p> <p>10:15am - Chancel</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Sunday</p> <p>12pm - Finance</p> <p>5pm - Session</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p> <p>6:30pm - Christian</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p>	<p>9am - PEO Meeting</p> <p>5pm - Hand Bells</p> <p>5:30pm - Bible Book</p> <p>6pm - Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm - "Let's Talk</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>deposit</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p>	<p>Van Reservation - Boy Scouts</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>Van Reservation - Boy Scouts</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Van Reservation - Boy Scouts</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p>	<p>5pm - Hand Bells</p> <p>5:30pm - Bible Book</p> <p>6pm - Dinner (Linda</p> <p>6:30pm - "Let's Talk</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>deposit</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9:30am - Sunday</p> <p>10:15am - Chancel</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Sunday</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>9am - Prayer Team</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Holidays- No School</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>deposit</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<p>Poinsettia Bulletin</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday</p> <p>10:15am - Chancel</p> <p>11am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Sunday</p> <p>12pm - Prepare for</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>Conferences (3s, 4s, 5K)</p> <p>Conference forms</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>1pm - Worship Staff</p>	<p>5pm - Hand Bells</p> <p>5pm - Property</p> <p>5:30pm - Bible Book</p> <p>6pm - Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm - "Let's Talk</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel</p>	<p>deposit</p> <p>8am - Body Works</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>	<p>8am - Body Works</p>

Poinsettia Orders



It is time to place orders for POINSETTIAS to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. To enter your order, please complete this form or call the church office at 967-5037, designating how many plants you would like and whether each will be a memorial or in honor of someone.

Orders must be received no later than **Sunday, December 2**. Plants may be picked up at the Sunday morning Worship Service on December 23rd, or at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Any plants remaining will be donated to New Beacon Hospice.

Please check the box if you wish to leave your plant(s) for Hospice.

Number of plants _____.

In memory of or In honor of:
Circle one

In memory of or in honor of:
Circle one

In memory of or in honor of :
Circle one

Given by:

**Deadline is Sunday,
December 2.**
The flowers will be
red and are
\$12.00 per plant.
*Please mark your check
"POINSETTIA"*

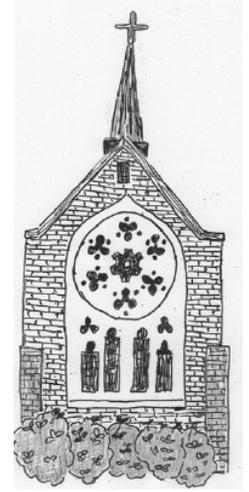


Hangings of the Greens *December 2*

- On the first Sunday in Advent, join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. when we will place candles in the windows, decorate the tree with Chrismon ornaments, and hang wreaths in the chancel.

Advent New Year Celebration *December 9*

- **11 AM: Worship & Children's Pageant**
"The Annunciation and the Nativity" All children are invited to participate. Please arrive between 10:30 & 10:50 for costume fittings.
- **12 PM: Luncheon** in Fellowship Hall.
Lunch will include a dessert of "Advent New Year" cake, as well as games and prizes.
- **1-2 PM: Christmas Craft Workshop**



The Christian year begins with Advent, followed by Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.



RSVP

Advent New Year Luncheon & Crafts

Sunday, December 9; 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP for lunch and craft materials by Thursday morning, December 6.

Questions?:

Contact Melissa Hall (mhall@mbpcusa.org) 205-967-5037

I (we) will be attending the Advent New Year Celebration lunch and my check is enclosed. Adults \$7. Youth \$3. Family maximum \$15.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

Fall Fun at MBPCP

Mountain Brook Fire Department came to visit the MBPC Preschool





MBPC Preschool Halloween Costume Parade 2018



Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Preschool Fresh Alabama Citrus Fundraiser

Chickamauga Farm in Mobile, AL grows all natural, pesticide free citrus fruit. They are pleased to partner with MBPC Preschool for a satsuma fundraiser. The farm is owned by the Ralph family children's grandparents.

Satsumas are a type of mandarin orange, similar to a cutie. They are juicy, easy to peel, sweet – and best of all they are FRESH! These make great snacks or gifts. The satsumas are sold in 5 pound bags for \$15. A portion of each sale will go to the preschool. They will keep in refrigeration up to 4 weeks. There are approximately 4 satsumas to a pound.



Orders will be taken the week of November 26 – 30. Delivery will be immediately following carpool at 1:00 pm on December 10, 2018.

Name _____

Number of 5 lb bags _____ x \$15 = Total Cost \$ _____

Please include cash or check made payable to Kami Ralph.

Thank you to all who came out October 20th to work on this year's Habitat for Humanity project!



Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Session Summary

October 2018

(Draft)

The regular meeting of the Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Lant Davis, at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 14, 2018, in the church library. A quorum was present. Alan Speaker offered the devotional and opening prayer.

Elders in attendance were Norton Montague, Alan Speaker, Drew Spransy, Alex Wellman, Jill Bonatz, Judi Huddleston, Dick Trueb, Erskine Carmichael, and Carroll Barrett.

The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the session meeting of September 9, 2018, were approved as written. Jill Bonatz volunteered to have the devotional and opening prayer for the November meeting, and Norton Montague confirmed his plan to serve as elder commissioner to the meeting of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley on November 8, 2018, at the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Committee

The financial reports presented by Norton Montague were reviewed and, on motion duly made and passed, were received. Budget requests from church committees have been given to the committee and the development of the 2019 budget will soon begin.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee, and on motion duly made and passed, the following report was received and distributions made accordingly: as of August 22, 2018, the surplus from the preschool budget was \$29,000.00. After payments made for new flooring, mulch for the playground, and a reserve to allow for preschool personnel pay increases, the balance retained by MBPC is approximately \$5,000.00. Of this, \$2,400.00 previously spent for preschool lighting will be reimbursed to the Special Church Support Fund (account 4210), and the remaining balance will be applied to "Miscellaneous Income--Outside Budget" (#1-4210).

Education Committee

The session requested that the job description for a part time director of Christian education be returned to the Education Committee to be streamlined and amended to include a marketing component for CE related events, and that the new description be presented to the session in its November meeting.

Property Committee

Central Heating and Air Co. estimates that repair of duct work in the crawl space of the administration building will cost between \$2,600.00 and \$3,000.00. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee and on motion duly made and passed, the session voted that the work be done and paid for from the Major Capital Repair Fund (account 8128).

The estimated cost for repairing the steeple lighting is \$6450.00. Hinkle Roofing will try at the same time to find and repair the leak in the roof over the choir loft. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee and on motion duly made and passed, the session voted that the work be done and paid for from the Special Church Support Fund (account 4210), contingent on the approval of the Endowment Fund Management Committee.

Only one of three bids for the painting project has been received. The Property Committee, after the other two have been received and the company has been chosen, intends to pay for the project from the Property Operating Budget.

The Jefferson County Health Department requires that the preschool make improvements to bring it into compliance with the physical standards of the health code. It is estimated that the cost could amount to approximately \$10,000.00. The cost will be covered by the proceeds of the preschool's fall fund raiser and their reserve funds.

On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to spend up to \$650.00 for two handheld microphones to be used in the sanctuary.

On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to allow the Phi Mu Sorority from Samford University to use the fellowship hall for rehearsals for Step Sing in late January and early February, if their schedule does not conflict with church events. They will donate \$300.00.

Worship Committee

The Lord's Supper was served in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2018. Rev. Lant Davis and elder Dick Trueb served home communion on October 10, 2018.

The written report of the Chancel Guild was received.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Session members were reminded that MBPC's work day at the Habitat House build will be October 20, 2018.

Welcome Committee

Karen Ogle, chair, has arranged a committee meeting for October 18, 2018 to organize and plan.

Congregational Care Committee

Rev. Davis provided an update on the current status of providing meals on Wednesday nights and of possibilities for after the Christmas holidays. No action was taken.

Preschool Committee

The written report of the preschool was received.

Moderator's Report

Rev. and Mrs. Davis will be in Louisville, KY, October 23-October 28. Rev. Davis will preside at the meeting of the Louisville Seminary Board of Trustees. Rev. Patrick Harley will fill the pulpit October 28.