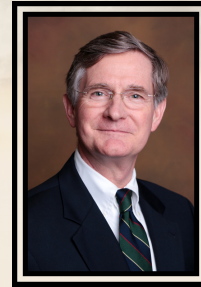


# THE MESSENGER

## LANT'S LINES

.....  
**A MESSAGE FROM  
OUR PASTOR**



*[W]e hold that interpretation of the Scripture to be orthodox and genuine which is gleaned from the Scriptures themselves (from the nature of the language in which they were written, likewise according to the circumstances in which they were set down, and expounded in the light of like and unlike passages and of many and clearer passages) and which agree with the rule of faith and love, and contributes much to the glory of God and man's salvation. Second Helvetic Confession, Chapter II (1561).*

The Book of Confessions is a group of twelve historic confessions of the church dating from the early centuries, the Reformation, and from modern times, which have been adopted as Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Included among these confessions is the Second Helvetic [Swiss] Confession, one of my favorites, written in 1561 by Heinrich Bullinger, who succeeded Ulrich Zwingli as the leader of the Reformed church in Zurich. I'm especially impressed at how clearly (in the paragraph quoted above) Bullinger laid out Reformed principles of interpreting the Bible.

First of all, wrote Bullinger, the Scriptures should be studied in their original languages—usually Hebrew and Greek—and according to their plain meaning. Most of us have not had special training in the ancient languages, but all Presbyterian Ministers of Word and Sacrament have received that training and are expected to share with their congregations their insights based on that original-language study. Second, due care should be given to the various cultural contexts in which the passages of Scripture originally were written. Third, we should use passages that are clear in their meaning to help us interpret those that are more difficult. Fourth, our interpretations always should be consistent with the “rule of love.” That is, if our initial interpretation of a passage suggests that we should do something that conflicts with “loving our neighbor,” we should keep studying the passage until a more loving message presents itself.

Finally, our interpretations should always be consistent with God's great glory and with God's plan for the salvation of humankind. Not bad for 1561, right?

As you will see from other articles in this edition of the Messenger, our plan for Christian Education this year—from children through adults—is all about the Bible and its interpretation. I'm looking forward to a lot of good discussions. While, as my Old Testament teacher often said, “The answer is not in the back of the book,” nevertheless, committed Christians working together can come to very meaningful interpretations of Scripture. Let's see how this works for us at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church in the coming year.



# Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

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Christian Education  
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Preschool Update  
Preschool Fundraiser  
Session Minutes

## Staff

Pastor - Rev. Lant B. Davis  
Director of Music - Dewin Tibbs  
Organist - Gary Smoke  
Administrative Assistant - Melissa Hall  
Director of Preschool - Mary Liz Ingram  
Financial Assistant - Bernie Gregson  
Boy Scout Troop 320  
Scoutmaster:  
Frank Tynes  
Cub Scout Pack 320  
Cubmaster:  
Dave Caskey

## Contact MBPC

3405 Brookwood Road  
Mountain Brook, AL 35223  
(205)967-5037  
[www.mbpcusa.org](http://www.mbpcusa.org)  
[mhall@mbpcusa.org](mailto:mhall@mbpcusa.org)

*Sign up to be a liturgist* by clicking the link to signup genius on our website's homepage.

*Like us on Facebook:*

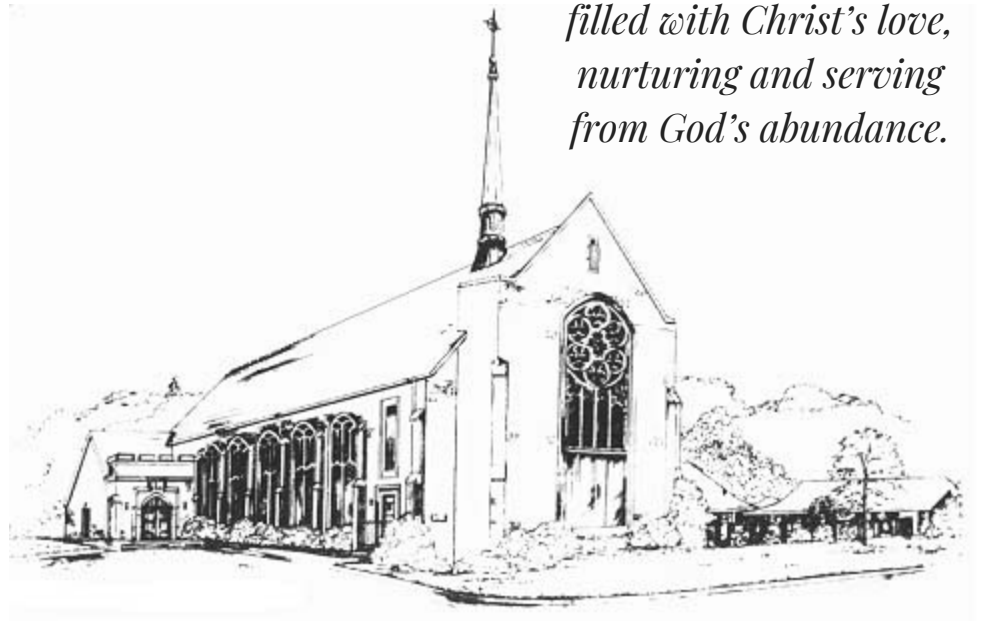
<https://www.facebook.com/mbpcusa/>

*Access the church google calendar at:*

<https://calendar.google.com/>

## Our Mission

*We are a congregation  
filled with Christ's love,  
nurturing and serving  
from God's abundance.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 4pm - Morgan	Labor Day, No 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 6:30pm - Christian		deposit 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9:15am - Preschool	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am - Rally Day 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 12pm - Finance 4pm - Morgan 5pm - Session	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	6pm - Dinner (Linda)	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	Cub Scout Camp Out Van Reservation - Boy Scouts 8am - Body Works	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 4pm - Morgan	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9am - Prayer Team 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	6pm - Dinner	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship-- 11:15am - Sunday 4pm - Morgan	8am - Body Works 10am - Chancel	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Property 6pm - Dinner	deposit Fall Fundraiser 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study--	8am - Body Works	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Stewardship insert 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship-- 11:15am - Sunday 4pm - Morgan						

# Wednesday Nights at MBPC



As we resume our Wednesday evening dinners here at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, our plan is to base discussions and teachings on the 2 scripture selections for each upcoming Sunday. Attached to this Email is our first Monday newsletter, "The MBPC Texter." Below is the schedule for Wednesday evenings. Please join us this week or any Wednesday in the future. Childcare is available from 5:30 -- 7:30 p.m.

- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Play in the parking lot (before end of Daylight Savings Time)
- 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. (children) “Bible Book Bonanza” Activities, songs, and games focusing on Bible learning. A first goal will be memorizing the Old and New Testament books: 39 books in the Old Testament; 27 books in the New Testament -- 66 books in all).
- 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. (adults) Pastor Lant Davis teaches a class connecting stories in the Bible storybook received by first graders with the week’s scripture passages.
- 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (4th grade and up) Reading the Bible for Myself In this class, new Bible recipients and older students will practice looking up Bible passages by section, book, chapter, and verse; and participants will also learn to use available resources to read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Other activities will include projects, artwork, and games.
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (adults) Let’s Talk It Over: For adults, Pastor Lant Davis elicits feedback from last Sunday’s sermon and gathers thoughts from an initial reading of next Sunday’s sermon text.





## The MBPC Texter ... get into scripture – an ancient form of text messaging

Issue 1: Monday, September 10, 2018  
Lectionary Year B



As the 2018-19 school year begins for all the students in our lives, let us embrace a plan for Christian education for increasing Bible knowledge of all ages guided by the structure of the Revised Common Lectionary or RCL.

### What's a Lectionary?

A lectionary is a book or listing that contains a collection of scripture readings appointed for Christian or Judaic worship on a given day or occasion. Both Jews and Christians began using lectionaries by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The RCL (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>) is currently used by some churches in Protestant denominations – including Presbyterians, Methodists, and Episcopalians – to structure scripture passages selected for study and worship throughout the liturgical year. For each Sunday, the RCL proposes four or more passages, with at least one coming from the Gospels; one from the Epistles; one from the Old Testament; and one from the Psalms. The lectionary operates on a three-year cycle (Year A, Year B, and Year C) and thus, within a three-year period, there will be a passage from every book of the Bible. An advantageous aspect of lectionary-based Bible study is that someone can begin at any time – there's not a starting or ending place in its cyclical pattern. Also, if you miss several weeks you don't feel as if you're falling behind.

Moving from September 2018 toward the Advent and Christmas seasons, we complete Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary's cycle, and throughout Year B, gospel passages for our worship services usually come from Mark. On the first Sunday of Advent (December 2, 2018), Year C will begin, and we will switch our gospel-passage focus to Luke. For the upcoming week – the week leading up to Sunday, September 16 – our passages for study will come from Mark and Proverbs.



The Potluck/Picnic Lunch held on August 26th was a huge success! Thank you for all who helped to make this such a great event and everyone who attended.

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**UKirk UCook!**

Join us for a tailgate fundraiser complete with grub, drinks, music, and games to support the ministry of UKirk Birmingham

**TICKETS**  
\$25 for adults  
\$10 for children 12 & under  
FREE for college students

**3-8pm**  
**9.23.18**

**WANT TO COOK?**  
\$100 per team to enter dishes

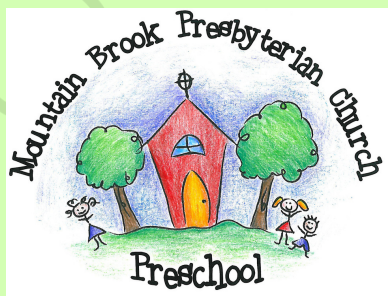
Children's Fresh Air Farm  
501 Park Ave, Hoover

To enter a team, purchase tickets, or ask questions,  
email Patrick at [patrick@ukirkbirmingham.org](mailto:patrick@ukirkbirmingham.org)



Please submit any news/announcements for the October Messenger to [mhall@mbpcusa.org](mailto:mhall@mbpcusa.org) or drop them by the church office.





# MBPC Preschool News

**We are having a great start to our school year here at MBPC Preschool! From our babies to our 5K, the school is full of smiles, laughter and learning. We are looking forward to all the great things this year will bring!**





From painting classrooms  
to updating the  
playground, help us  
brighten up by partying  
80s style!

**DINNER + SILENT AUCTION + DJ + BOUNCIES + GAMES + CRAFTS + FUN!**

Join us for an evening of outdoor fun by the garden!  
All are welcome...family, friends, church members,  
preschoolers and neighbors!

**TICKETS: \$15 per adult, \$10 per child**

Includes dinner, drinks, dessert and 2 hours of party  
fun. All proceeds will go directly back to the school  
to make the classrooms and playground a brighter  
place to learn and grow!

**TICKETS & PAYMENT DUE BY SEPTEMBER 24TH!**

Turn in your completed tickets, donation cards &  
payments to the preschool office. The more we sell,  
the more we can improve! You must purchase a ticket  
(1 per person) to attend, but you do not need to  
bring the physical ticket to the party.

**Donations are tax deductible!**

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR ITEMS  
FOR THE CLASS BASKET!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you'd like to volunteer, please  
contact Mary Liz Ingram:

preschool@mbpcusa.org or 967-5037



# Troop 320

## Historian's Report - EVENTS IN REVIEW Nantahala River

TROOP 320 WENT TO THE NANTAHALA TO GO KAYAKING ON JULY 27-29. FOURTEEN SCOUTS AND FIVE ADULTS ATTENDED THE TRIP. ON FRIDAY, THEY DROVE TO NORTH CAROLINA. THEY GOT TO THE CAMP SITE AFTER DARK AND DURING QUIET TIME. SO THEY HAD TO PUT UP THEIR TENTS IN THE DARK AND BE REALLY QUIET.

ON SATURDAY, SCOUTS TRAVELED TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES TO THE NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER. AFTER WATCHING A SAFETY VIDEO, SCOUTS RAFTED DOWN THE NANTAHALA IN SINGLE INFLATABLE KAYAKS. THIS TOOK ABOUT THREE HOURS.

AFTER KAYAKING, SCOUTS WENT MOUNTAIN BIKING, RODE THE ZIP LINE, PADDLE BOARDING, AND SWIMMING. SOME SCOUTS TOOK A SHORT HIKE ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL. THE SCOUTS HAD A LOT OF FUN.  
BY HISTORIAN SAM HECKER



## August Session Minutes (Draft)

The Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Session held its regular meeting in the library of the church at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 12, 2018, with a quorum present. Rev. Lant Davis, moderator, called the meeting to order. Drew Spransy presented a devotional and opening prayer.

Those present were Carroll Barrett, Jill Bonatz, Erskine Carmichael, Norton Montague, Drew Spransy, Dick Trueb, and Alex Wellman. Judi Huddleston was absent and excused.

The agenda was accepted with the following changes: one item was added to the report of the Worship Committee, and, upon motion duly made and passed, several items were agreed upon in a consent agenda. These items consisted of the acceptance of the minutes of the session meeting on July 8, 2018, and of the commission to receive new members on July 15, 2018; the continuance indefinitely of the term of the commission to receive new members, the commission being composed of Rev. Lant Davis, Carroll Barrett, Drew Spransy, and Jill Bonatz; participation by MBPC members in the building of a Habitat for Humanity house to be built this fall through a hands-on workday in October and the contribution of \$5,000 approved by the Endowment Management Committee; the previous approval by the session in an email vote of the preschool's budget for the 2018-19 school year, as well as the proposed use of the surplus generated from preschool operations in the 2017-18 school year, including replacing the carpet in the youth room with vinyl flooring in coordination with similar work being done in the preschool rooms.

MBPC received correspondence from the presbytery requesting that churches contribute to C.E.T. Ministries, which assists with clothing and food for needy persons in Dallas and Perry counties. The session referred the request to the Mission and Outreach Committee.

Dick Trueb volunteered to present the devotional for the September session meeting and Carroll Barrett volunteered to serve home communion with Rev. Davis on September 4, 2018.

The following membership changes were noted: Wayne White died July 9, 2018, and a memorial service was officiated by Rev. Lant Davis in the sanctuary on July 11, 2018; Corrinan O'Banion England died on July 27, 2018, and a memorial service was officiated by Rev. Lant Davis in the sanctuary on July 31, 2018; Cory and Ted Kim were received into membership on July 15, 2018, by reaffirmation of faith. (Cory and Ted's daughters, Emily and Audrey, will be placed on the roll of baptized members after their baptisms.



## Ministry Team Reports

**Stewardship Committee:** The committee by email has reviewed and approved proposed copies of literature for the fall campaign provided by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The theme of the campaign is "Live Courageously."

**Finance Committee:** The financial report prepared as of July 31, 2018, was received and reviewed. It was noted that expenditures for nursery workers' salaries exceeded the budget and that this needs to be addressed in the budgeting process for next year.

**Personnel Committee:** The committee proposed to the session that the policy language concerning the pay rate for extended (overnight and weeklong) events by the youth director be interpreted as follows: the pay rate is the normal hourly rate for eight hours of work per day for such long-term events, plus \$100.00 per night or \$500.00 per week, as the case may be. By vote, the session passed the motion.

On motion duly made and passed, the youth director was given a 3% pay raise retroactive to March in accordance with previously set terms that this would follow her six-month probationary employment period.

The youth director, Emily Frandsen, has resigned effective August 31, 2018, to take a full-time position. By consensus, the session decided to ask the Christian Education Committee for information detailing the number of children by age and grade currently on roll or attending programs at MBPC. This information, as well as consultations with parents, will be considered before a decision is made regarding the hiring of another youth director or other staff person to meet the needs of these age ranges. Whether to continue participation in the Birmingham Youth Group is also dependent upon this information.

**Education Committee:** Members participated in a worship service and workshop July 25, 2018, to make long-term plans and to organize for the fall.

**Property Committee:** On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to ask the Endowment Management Committee permission to pay the current balance due in the parlor/reception room project (\$1626.45) from funds previously allocated but not entirely used in the fellowship hall lighting project. The committee proposed that the session proceed with a bid to power wash the sidewalks and soft wash the limestone and portions of the woodwork in various buildings. The money would be paid from account 5135: Repair of building/plumbing.

Worship Committee: Communion was served to those attending the Christian Education workshop on July 25, 2018, to the congregation during morning worship on August 5, 2018, and to Eukie Woodall, Lew Whitehead, Clara Horton, and Jane Patton by Rev. Davis and Erskine Carmichael on August 9, 2018. On motion duly made and passed, the session authorized the pastor to conduct the baptism of Emily and Audrey Kim, daughters of Cory and Ted Kim, on Sunday, August 26, 2018, or at a mutually convenient time thereafter, and then to add Emily and Audrey to the roll of baptized members. Dick Trueb volunteered to assist.

On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to receive the donation by Angela and Robert Cole of a PlayDisc (Young Chang) piano to be placed in the parlor, and to sell the Wurlitzer piano currently in use to MBPC member Ann Massey. [After the meeting the session approved by email the payment of the cost of moving the pianos from the proceeds of the sale of the Wurlitzer, which will be placed in the Music Fund (#8008), if not covered by donations from the Coles and Ann Massey.]

Mission and Outreach: An outreach mailing will be sent to neighbors, Farmers' Market visitors, and vacation Bible school families describing the church and our educational programs and inviting them to Rally Day, September 9, 2018.

Congregational Care: The session continued the discussion of possibilities for Wednesday night suppers beginning in September. Several suggestions will be pursued. The church picnic will be August 26, 2018.

Moderator's Report: Rev. Davis informed the session of a grant program being offered through Samford University and funded by the Lilly Endowment. The grant would be used to design a program that would encourage members to identify their particular Christian calling. After discussion, the session decided to take no action.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Davis.

Respectfully,

Carroll Barrett, Clerk of Session Rev. Lant B. Davis, Moderator