

The Messenger September 2017

Lant's Lines



A Message from our Pastor

At the end of three days the officers went through the camp and commanded the people, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Joshua 3:2-4 (NRSV)

As the excitement builds toward the beginning of this school year's church program, committees have been meeting and planning, teachers have been preparing, schedules have been written and revised, and supplies have been collected. By the time we reach Rally Day on Sunday, September 10, we will be ready to kick into high gear. As one of the cartoon characters of my youth (Snagglepuss? Yogi Bear?) used to say, "And awaaaay we go!" [Actually, I think it started as a Jackie Gleason song.]

That's the feeling I read into the above quotation from the Book of Joshua. Under the leadership of Moses, and then Joshua, the children of Israel had spent an entire generation in the Wilderness and now had come to the eastern edge of the Jordan River, poised to cross the river and enter into the Promised Land. "Look for the ark of the covenant! Follow the instructions of the Levites! Although this is new territory, they will guide you. Challenges lie ahead, but also great blessings in God's Promised Land!"

We feel that same excitement as we are poised to begin this new school year in the church. We look forward to getting together again on Wednesday nights for kid's play, music, a full array of programs, a delicious meal, and encouraging fellowship. On Sunday mornings, our Christian Education program will be back in full swing. Look to your teachers! Follow their lead; they will guide you! There will be challenges, as there always are when we learn and do new things, but the blessings promise to be great. If you have not been taking full advantage of the church's offerings, "dip your toe in the Jordan River" and watch the dry land appear (Joshua 3:14-17). You'll be glad you took that first step!!

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lant B. Davis

Director of Music
Dewin Tibbs

Organist
Gary Smoke

Administrative Assistant
Sally Gregson

Financial Assistant
Bernie Gregson

Director of Preschool
Mary Liz Ingram

Youth Director
Emily Frandsen

Boy Scout Troop 320
Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes

Cub Scout Pack 320
Cubmaster: Dave Caskey

Contact Us

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Wednesday Nights at MBPC

Session Summary



Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
27	10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 12:30pm - Children's 4pm - Morgan	28	First Day of School 8am - Body Works	29	8am - Body Works	30	6:30pm - Joe Lee 6:30pm - Property 7pm - Choir Practice	31	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Boy Scouts in	1	8am - Body Works	2	
3	10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 4pm - Morgan	4	Office Closed 8am - Body Works	5	8am - Body Works 6:30pm - Christian	6	7pm - Choir Practice	7	deposit Presbytery Habitat 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Preschool	8	8am - Body Works	9	8am - Habitat House
10	RALLY DAY! 9:30am - Breakfast 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 12pm - Finance 3:30pm - PneuMatri 4pm - Court of 4pm - Morgan 5pm - Session	11	8am - Body Works	12	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	13	PEO in Reception 4:30pm - Programs 6pm - Dinner	14	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Power Start	15	8am - Body Works	16	
17	10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 3pm - Church Picnic 4pm - Morgan	18	8am - Body Works	19	8am - Body Works 9am - Prayer Team 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	20	4:30pm - Programs 6pm - Dinner	21	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Power Start	22	8am - Body Works	23	
24	10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 4pm - Morgan	25	8am - Body Works 10am - Chancel 6pm - Troop 320	26	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	27	4:30pm - Programs 6pm - Dinner	28	deposit Preschool Preschool 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	29	8am - Body Works	30	

Youth Update with Emily Frandsen

Friends,

Thank you all so much for supporting my call to ministry while I attended my August Intensive at Dubuque Theological Seminary. It was both refreshing and exhausting to be in class from 8am - 6pm each day and meet my classmates and professors. God is equipping my mind and my heart daily through my studies.

A special thank you goes out to Karla and Randy for stepping in as our adult volunteers for the August 13th AND August 20th BYG events! Thank you both for committing your time and energy to our youth. We are blessed by you and your family.

I am looking forward to joining the youth and parents this Sunday (August 27th) in worship at MBPC and for our BYG Parent's Night Potluck. Bring a dish per family to share Sunday night!

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Sunday Nights November 5th-December 17th: BYG Meets @ Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
Volunteers are needed for Dinner provisions, set-up & clean-up.

Please let me know if you are interested in providing dinner, offering a helping hand for set-up and/or clean-up, or pitching in financially for dinner provisions.

No BYG or Sunday School November 26th

Christmas Pot Luck December 17th

Below are some important upcoming dates:

September 3: No BYG meeting (Labor day)

September 10: Rally Day at MBPC *bring your backpacks to church for the "Blessing of the Backpacks"* BYG: Bowling at Vestavia Bowl on Highway 31 (meet at Bowling Alley), 5pm-7pm, youth bring \$ for fast food dinner

September 13: First Wednesday Night of the School Year @ MBPC: 6pm-7:30pm
Mid-high & High School youth will meet in the youth room after dinner

September 17: Sunday School @ MBPC: 9:30am-10:45am *Mid-high & High School youth will meet in the youth director's office*

BYG: ACE extended Kick Off Event @ Southminster: 3:30pm-7:00pm, dinner provided by Southminster

September 20th: Wednesday Night @ MBPC: 6pm-7:30pm

September 23-24: Presbytery Youth Retreat at Living River *bus leaves from Southminster (DETAILS COMING SOON!)

No Sunday School or BYG on Sunday, September 24th

September 27th: Wednesday Night @ MBPC: 6pm-7:30pm

Rally Day - September 10

9:30 Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 Worship - Bring your
backpacks for a
"Blessing of the Backpacks"



Dinner and
Programs will
resume on
September 13.

Church Picnic September 17 3-5 p.m.

**Come out for a fun
afternoon!
Food will be
provided but bring a
dish if you wish!**

**Chancel Guild
Meeting
September 25
10 a.m.
Reception Room**

*Highlights will include
the announcement of the
new class of 2020 and
the officers for 2018!*

MBPC's Children Need You!!

Please consider volunteering to teach this year! What a great way to give of your time – to be a part of a child's Christian education! It is so important to lay a strong foundation of faith in a child's life as they develop and grow! MBPC's Christian Education Committee has prepared a "scope and sequence" plan for teaching the Scriptures to children, from toddler through high school graduation. We need volunteers to teach:
Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 and/or Wednesday evenings 7:00-7:30

On Sunday morning, we will again use the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. Growing in Grace & Gratitude is rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship; extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace. After Wednesday night dinner, we will use Finding My Way through the Bible. During Rally Day, September 10th, fourth graders will be presented with their own Bibles and we want to begin teaching our young Christians to read the Bible for themselves. Students will bring their Bibles each week; learn the names of the books of the Old and New Testament; look up passages cited by chapter and verse; and receive an early and explanatory introduction to Bible vocabulary.

Volunteering to teach one or multiple classes will be so helpful! You will get to know the children, have fun, make a difference and allow other church members not to have to teach an entire year! Please contact Amanda Davis, Suzanne Cook or Catherine Carter with any questions you may have. Many thanks for your consideration!!



First Light Wish List

SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS: cough drops, aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, chapstick, kleenex packs, small and large antibacterial hand gel, instant oatmeal packs, fresh fruit

Budget-Relieving Wish List for First Light:

Office Products 8.5"X11" white copy paper, Blue and black ink pens, White-out, Highlighters, Manila envelopes for larger mailings, Glue sticks

Cleaning/Laundry Products Disinfectant cleaners, Bleach, Powder laundry detergent, Cleaning cloths, Windex or other hard surface cleaner, Toilet bowl cleaner, Toilet bowl brushes

Food and Kitchen Supplies Breakfast foods (breakfast bars, cereal, individual packets of instant oatmeal and grits, milk, bread, English muffins, fresh or canned fruit, large plastic jars of jelly and peanut butter) Disposable paper goods (plates, bowls, spoons, forks, knives, cups, napkins) Coffee creamer and sugar, Drink mixes, Decaf coffee (we make 60 cups every morning)

Program Supplies Snacks for group therapy

Personal Items Women's underwear (all sizes needed) Deodorant, Hair care products of all kinds, Hairbrushes and combs, Shower caps, Over-the-counter pain relievers (please non-drowsy, alcohol-free, pseudoephedrine-free), Weekly pill organizers, Travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, soap and lotion, Toothbrushes, Alcohol-free mouthwash, Anti-itch cream, Sewing kits, Makeup of all shades and kinds, Razors and shaving cream, Chapstick, Socks



MBPC Helps with Habitat for Humanity Build

Habitat has a new registration site: give.habitatbirmingham.org/campaigns/4928-horn-family-build-sponsored-by-presbytery-of-sheppards-and-lapsley. This site works. However, the old site and this new site do not talk to each other. Please make sure everyone registers on the new site. Thank you for your help in getting through this.

- Ralls Coston



FAMILY SUMMARY

POST OFFICE BOX 540 * FAIRFIELD, AL 35064-0540
(205) 780-1234 OFFICE
(205) 780-1800 FAX
HABITATBIRMINGHAM.ORG

SPONSOR:

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Habitat Birmingham: 205-780-1234

SITE SUPERVISOR:

TBD

LOCATION:

2761 20th Place Ensley,
Birmingham, AL 35208

CONSTRUCTION START DATE:

Thursday, September 7, 2017

FAMILY:

Homeowner: Jamesia Horn
Children: Timothy, age 3
Ja'Kaiden, age 7



JAMESIA, TIMOTHY, JA'KAIDEN

Jamesia was born and raised in Bessemer. She graduated from high school in Bessemer. She has two children, Ja'Kaiden and Timothy, and works at Children's Hospital as a Patient Representative. She attends Lawson State Community College where she's studying to become a Dental Assistant. She's a member of United Apostolic Church of God.

Ja'Kaiden is seven years old and enjoys participating in sports. Timothy, age 3, loves to attend football games on the weekends.

"I am highly grateful and honored to be offered such an excellent opportunity," says Jamesia. "I have always wanted this opportunity and to watch my dream turn into reality is such a blessing."

From Downtown Birmingham to the Horn Family Home:

- Merge onto I-59 S.
- Take the Bush Blvd exit, EXIT 121, toward Ensley.
- Keep left at the fork in the ramp.
- Turn left onto 19th Street Ensley.
- Turn slight right onto Bush Blvd.
- Turn right onto Eufaula Ave.
- Take the 2nd right onto 20th Place Ensley.
- 2761 20TH PLACE ENSLEY is on the left.



Dr. Amanda Neel Davis

Thursday, September 14th and 21st

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

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Giving children an early start in mathematics reaps benefits in later schooling. In these two free presentations, I will share with parents, grandparents, teachers, and other interested adults ways to

- Look at the world through "math lenses"
- Make math fun and part of children's everyday life
- Launch children on the upward trajectory toward math proficiency

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To receive a Power-Start! Mathematics® tool bag at the first session, please pre-register by Monday, September 11

MBPC address: 3405 Brookwood Road; phone 967-5037



Registration Form

Thursday, September 14th and 21st; 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

To receive a Power-Start! Mathematics® tool bag at the first session, preregister by Monday, September 11. Please e-mail or phone Amanda Davis if you have questions: amandandandand@gmail.com ; home phone: 205-637-1290; or cell phone 205-200-8223.

Name (s) _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail, e-mail, or hand-deliver this registration form to:
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
3405 Brookwood Road
205-967-5037

Preschool Fundraiser

Volunteers are needed for the preschool fundraiser on September 28. If you are able to help, please email Mary Liz Ingram at preschool@mbpcusa.org. Many thanks!

PLANT • SEED

• GROW •

MBPC Preschool Garden Party Fundraiser 2017

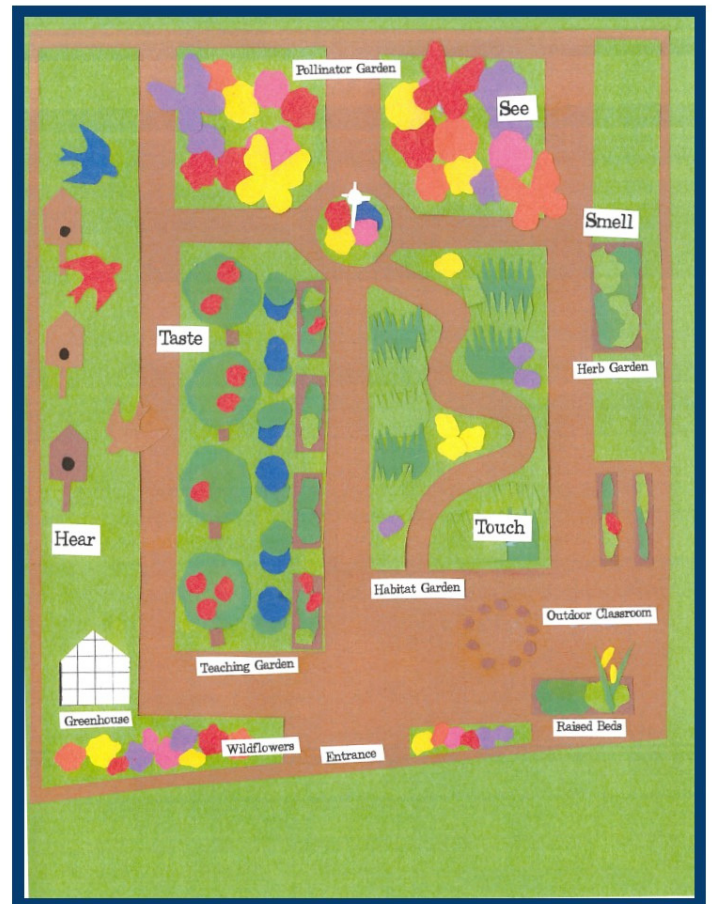
Help us grow our garden into a
5 Senses Outdoor Classroom & Community
Habitat Garden

Your preschooler will be able to:

- Leaf Taste the food that we've helped grow in the teaching garden
- Leaf Feel the textures of native grasses in the habitat garden
- Leaf See the butterflies, bees and flowers in the pollinator garden
- Leaf Smell the many plants in the herb garden
- Leaf Hear the songs of bluebirds, hawks & woodpeckers while we explore

How will our garden grow?

Take a look below at the creative spaces inviting your preschooler to learn and explore:



PLANT • SEED • GROW

MBPC Preschool Garden Party Fundraiser 2017
September 28, 5:30-7:30 in the MBPC Parking Lot

Circle One: \$10 child
Event/
Meal
Ticket

\$15 adult
Event/
Meal
Ticket

Name: _____

1 Ticket per person; return ticket & payment to school.
you do not need to bring the physical ticket to the event.



CALLING ALL ACOLYTES

IF YOU ARE 4TH GRADE THROUGH
HIGH SCHOOL, PLEASE CONSIDER
SERVING AS AN ACOLYTE FOR OUR
WORSHIP SERVICE AT MBPC.

A new fall and winter roster and schedule will soon be made. Please consider joining in this opportunity to participate in meaningful service to Christ and the church. A review for past acolytes and training for new acolytes will be scheduled soon.

Please contact Sue Wellman by phone (967-3790) or email (mswellman2@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving.

Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

Many in the congregation have asked how they might contribute through the church to the relief efforts on the Texas coast. If you would like to make a donation, please make a check payable to Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church and be sure to put "Texas Relief" on the memo line so that we will know how to apply it. The church office will deliver the funds to the presbytery office; and the presbytery office will send it to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which is the agency of our national denomination that helps with disaster recovery. PDA is focused on long-term recovery (cleaning and rebuilding), rather than on immediate relief, which is often well-covered by first responders like the National Guard and the Red Cross. Indeed, it is when the first responders leave and the victims are wondering "what next?" that PDA's work begins. -

Rev. Lant Davis

Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba Living River

This is the mission of Living River! Our mission is lived out through summer camp, environmental education, retreats that restore the spirit, and more.

The Living River Board is seeking people passionate about our mission to serve on our Board of Directors. Board members will serve three year terms, beginning in January 2018.

If you are interested in being part of Living River's mission as a Board member, please submit a nomination form, found here by September 20.

To learn more, please contact Leanne Pearce Reed at leanne.svpc@gmail.com.

From the MBPC Endowment Management Committee

The Endowment Plan had expended \$5000 from the Benevolent and Mission Fund to support the church's members who are working on the Presbytery's Habitat Home. It has also recommended to the Session to expense \$1,870 for a new Ice machine, the old one having expired a short while ago.

- Norton Montague

A Note from the Worship Committee

A funeral pall is missing. If you know where it might be or you have a suggestion of where to look, please contact the church office at (205)967-5037 or email sgregson@mbpcusa.org. Thanks for your help!

Starting September 13

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OFFERINGS AT MBPC

4:30-5:30 **Toy/bike riding and fellowship** in the parking lot

5:30-6:00 **Grace Notes Choir** (Children, ages 4 through 10)

5:30-6:00 **Lectionary Light Bible Group**

6:00-7:00 **Dinner**

Adults are \$10 each and children are free

7:00-7:30 **Finding My Way through the Bible**
(elementary school children)

7:00-7:45 **Youth Group**

7:00-7:45 **Adult Class**

7:30-9:00 **Adult Choir**

Session Summary

August 2017

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Judi Huddleston offered a devotional and the opening prayer. The agenda was accepted.

Clerk's Report

- A Thank you note was received from Abbie Porter.
- The July 16, 2017, session minutes were approved as written.
- Responsibilities for September were reviewed: Session opening devotional and prayer – Catherine Carter; and Home Communion Tuesday, September 5, 2017 – Bob Dudelston.

Ministry Team Reports

Education, Catherine Carter

- Ricky from Glenwood was approved for Wednesday night dishwashing.
- The Lectionary Light Retreat will be held at the church on August 18 & 19.
- Rally Day has been set for September 10, with breakfast from 9:30-10:30 and a “blessing of the backpacks” and presentation of Bibles during worship at 11:00.

Personnel, Frank Semmes

- No changes

Property, Scott Miklic

- Session approved the sale of the blonde Baldwin piano to Courtney Clay for \$50.
- Scaffold to be purchased for lighting and electrical repairs (\$150-200). This will be paid from grounds operating budget.
- Flooring in the fellowship hall, kitchen, and main hallway has been cleaned and buffed. The committee is considering contracting with a company to maintain the floors during the year. Cost and frequency will be factors in the decision.
- Session approved LED replacement of lighting in Bethanne's room and teachers' lounge, and the repair of outlets and wiring issues, at a cost of \$800.00, to be paid from the major capital repair fund.
- The committee has established a tentative list of priorities for the replacement of church lighting:
 - a) Sanctuary
 - b) Reception Room
 - c) Hallway and adjacent classroom (between narthex and fellowship hall)
 - d) Fellowship Hall
 - e) Administrative Building
- We have a total of 99 light fixtures that are candidates for replacement. Joe Lee (of the Lee Jolly Company) will guide these projects. If the committee determines that his input will not meet our lighting needs, the committee will revisit using an engineer.
- The committee will ask Mary Liz to use proceeds from the preschool's annual fundraiser to help pay for lighting needs and upgrades.
- A more uniform approach in charging for the use of church facilities and property is being examined. These fees to help offset the use of water, electricity, gas and wear and tear.
- The committee has asked the assistance of Judy Wilson and Florence Cole in accomplishing the repair of the Reception Room curtains and in developing any lighting project in the Reception Room. The committee hopes that the remaining funds in the account of the Presbyterian Women (no longer meeting) will be a source for these projects in the Reception Room.
- The Property Committee and the Finance Committee jointly had requested the Endowment Management Committee to approve using \$1,870 of the Special Church Support Endowment Fund (#1-8904) to pay for the new ice machine. The Endowment Management Committee agreed, and the session, upon motion made and seconded, and after discussion, concurred.

Finance, Bob Dudelston

- Session received the financial report as of July 31, 2017 (in packet).
- Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the session approved (a) receiving the \$1,870 referred to above as “other income,” transferring the \$1,870 to the Major Capital Repair Fund, and using that \$1,870 from the Major Capital Repair Fund to reimburse the account for Maintenance and Repair—Equipment (#1-5140).
- The session approved the administration by the church of a restricted fund for the Birmingham Youth Group. Bernie Gregson, who has been administering the fund at First Presbyterian, can continue to do so here at MBPC. However, the session prefers that the BYG fund not be a part of the church’s financial statements, which may require that it not be co-mingled with the church’s other funds. Bernie is asked to work with the Finance Committee to accomplish these goals.
- The Finance Committee and the Property Committee concurred in a recommendation to the session that the charge of \$1,200 for tree removal be moved from the “Maintenance and Repair—Equipment” account (#1-5140) to the “Grounds and Garden” restricted fund (#1-8004). The session approved. [The approval came after the session meeting by email vote.]

Worship, Nancy Harper

- Communion was served on August 6, 2017. Norton Montague and Lant Davis will serve communion to shut-ins on August 16, 2017.

Missions, Drew Spransy

- CANpaign supplies were delivered to First Light and Bridge Ministries.
- Habitat House: awaiting assignment for our group.
- Session approved donating \$2,000 to help build a new school in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from the missions account #1-5420, which has a remaining budget of \$5,000 for the year.

Congregational Care, Drew Spransy

- Church Picnic is set for September 17, 2017 from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Successful potluck lunch was served on Sunday August 13, 2017.

Stewardship, Norton Montague

- Lant Davis and Norton Montague are working on this. The session encouraged them to consider publishing a “giving pyramid” for the church in connection with the Stewardship Campaign.

Preschool, Frank Semmes

PneuMatrix met on August 13, 2017

Moderators Report, (in packet) Lant Davis

- Session approved advertisement in the annual athletic poster for MBHS (\$300.00) Lant Davis will change the format, if it is not too late.

Old Business

- Property Team will draft a policy for the use of the building for non-church groups.

New Business

Adjournment with prayer

Next Meeting – September 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the library.