

The Messenger

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LANT'S LINES

A Message from our Pastor



*This is a letter being sent by regular mail to each household
in the congregation.*

Dear Congregation,

After considerable thought and prayer, I have decided that next year I will retire from pastoral ministry. Amanda and I are looking forward to having more time for our family. Amanda continues to pursue her interests in early childhood mathematics education, and my retirement from church ministry will give her more time to do that. While we remain very grateful that Amanda's prognosis is very good, her recent illness was certainly a "wake-up" call for us to realize that we need to make time for some retirement fun while our health is still good enough for us to enjoy those activities.

Last night at a meeting of the session of the church, I requested that my call as pastor be terminated on Sunday, August 2, of next year (2020). The session, while expressing gracious reluctance, nevertheless agreed to recommend that to the congregation of our church. A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, August 18, 2019, immediately following morning worship. In our Presbyterian system, a call is a three-way agreement—among minister, congregation, and the presbytery. Thus, assuming the congregation concurs in my request, we will jointly ask the presbytery for their concurrence, as well.

It may seem unusual for me to announce this a full year in advance of the date of termination. However, I am doing this so that the congregation will be allowed to elect a search committee (technically called a "Pastor Nominating Committee") and to begin searching for your next pastor while I am still here. It seemed to me, and the session agreed, that it would be good to forego having an interim pastor during the time of a search. If all goes according to our plan, your next pastor would be able to begin very shortly after my departure.

Continued on pg. 2

God blessed me when you called me to serve Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. In 2016, I knew I needed to come back to Birmingham to be with my father, but I had no assurance of being able to continue as a pastor. You made it possible for me to do both. I'm proud of the things you have accomplished during my time at the church. Thanks to much hard work and financial support on your part, the facility is beginning to sparkle again—new windows, fresh exterior paint, new lighting throughout, shiny floors, parking-lot sealing and striping, and new HVAC equipment. The stained-glass windows are illuminated every night after sundown, as is the steeple. Roof leaks and sanitary systems have been repaired. The church's internet connections are now fast and reliable, with Wi-Fi available throughout the facility. We have new governing documents, including a certificate of formation, bylaws, and a policy on committees of the church. The church rolls have been updated, and a new cloud-based church information system is in place. In just a few more weeks, we hope to begin testing a system for receiving online and texted contributions to the church.

Indeed, our infrastructure is at a point where I think it makes sense for us to begin targeted communications to our neighborhood, letting them (and especially persons new to the neighborhood) know what a great church is in their back yard. I hope that in the next year we can welcome some new families to our congregation, giving your next pastor a great foundation on which to continue building.

So, this is not really good-bye. We have another whole year ahead of us to love God and one another—together. Thank you for three years of great ministry together. Let's make this fourth one count!

Sincerely,

Lant B. Davis, Pastor

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
3405 Brookwood Road
Birmingham, AL 35223
(205) 967-5037 mhall@mbpcusa.org

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STAFF

PASTOR

REV. LANT B. DAVIS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DEWIN TIBBS

ORGANIST

GARY SMOKE

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SPENCER BISSELL

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MELISSA HALL

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

BERNIE GREGSON

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL

MARY LIZ INGRAM

BOY SCOUT TROOP 320

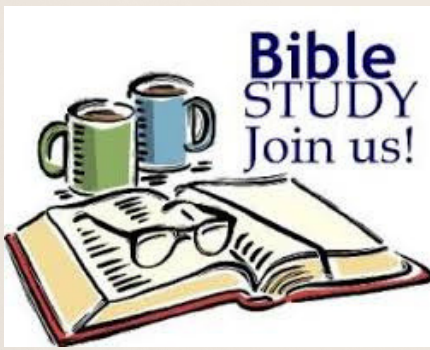
SCOUTMASTER: FRANK TYNES

CUB SCOUT PACK 320

CUBMASTER: JUSTIN KELLY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC	8am - Body Works	8am - Farmer's Market 2pm - Bible Times on Brookwood
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4pm - VBS - Bible Times on Brookwood				8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC	8am - Body Works	8am - Farmer's Market
9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School for	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff Meeting				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School for 12pm - Finance Committee 5pm - Session Meeting	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Christian Education		8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC	8am - Body Works	8am - Farmer's Market
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School for	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9:30am - Prayer Team 11am - Worship Committee 1pm - Worship Staff Meeting		8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC 10am - Preschool Parent	8am - Body Works	8am - Farmer's Market
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School for 2pm - Set Up -Troop #320 50th 4pm - Troop #320 50th Year	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff Meeting		8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC	8am - Body Works	Moore/Trumbull Wedding? 8am - Farmer's Market



Join Pastor Lant Davis for
Bible Study each Thursday
at 10:00 am in the
Reception Room.

Currently they are
studying Daniel.

Do not forget to stop by the
Farmers' Market on Saturdays from
8:00 a.m. until noon in the MBPC
parking lot. It's a great opportunity
to meet our neighbors!



It's going to be an exciting and fun evening at The Club in Birmingham as the Presbyterian Home for Children raises funds for Ascension Leadership Academy which educates at risk and displaced children from across Alabama. We will also be honoring Cindy Fisher, Founder of Kingfisher Media that evening. Please join us Thursday, August 15 from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Missions and Outreach Committee Update



MAGIC CITY HARVEST “FIRST SUNDAY” FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES!

The MBPC Mission and Outreach Committee is pleased to report that the “First Sunday” monthly food drive to benefit Magic City Harvest has been successful! Please continue to bring the following items to the collection area outside the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday of
each month.
First Sunday
of Each
Month
Food Item
(No Glass,
Please!)

MBPC's DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED



August
Bag of RICE

September
Bag of DRIED
BEANS

October
10 oz. cans of
SOUP

November
Box of
CORNBREAD
or BISCUIT
MIX

December
18 oz. jar of
PEANUT
BUTTER

The MBPC session and Endowment Fund Management Committee approved a donation in the amount of \$500 as additional support for this hands-on mission project. Shown above are Linda and Alan Speaker, members of the Mission and Outreach Committee, presenting MBPC's check and July's food item of the month to Ann Wallace of Magic City Harvest. Ann gratefully accepted our check and reported that due to recent unexpected expenses for truck repairs, the donation was especially timely and appreciated!



Christian Education Update



All of us on the Christian Education committee along with all the adult and youth volunteers are excited to teach all the participants this month about the stories of David and Solomon at Bible Times! This will be going on August 4th-7th in the evening. We will be having five of the twelve tribes of Israel represented this year. The children will experience a unique take on the life of the Israelites as they perform Jewish home rituals in their tribes. They will also be performing some crafts linked to the stories such as making their own stone pouch like the one David carried when he took down Goliath and also making sheep to form their own flock like a shepherd. Volunteers will also perform dramas for the children so they can visualize the stories they learn in their tribes. These include the anointing of David, the fight between David and Goliath, and the building of the Temple of Solomon. The festivities will end on August 7th with a family dinner for all families of the participants.

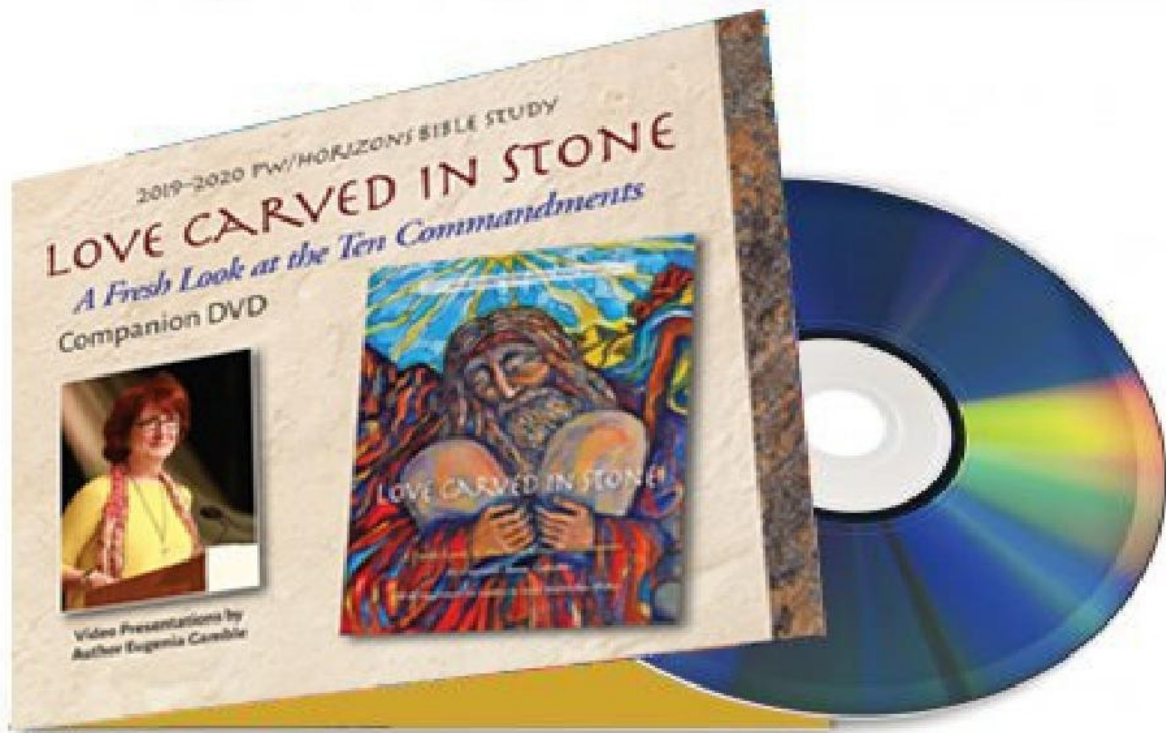
Be on the lookout for a sneak peak at all that we did during Bible Times on Sunday August 11th. You would not want to miss hearing some of the songs the children have learned or even seeing one of the dramas performed for the congregation.

I want to extend a thank you to everyone who is and has helped in any way in putting this all together. An extra special thank you goes out to Amanda Davis who has worked tirelessly and invested greatly in putting together a stellar curriculum and organizing so much. Thank you all! I hope everyone loves it and learns the very least one new thing from this years Bible Times.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRMINGHAM CLUSTER

(This is a time of fellowship and worship for all P.C. Women whether you have active P.W. circles or not. Come for fellowship and worship with old friends and new.)



FALL GATHERING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

COME TO THE HISTORIC WESTMINSTER P.C.

25 SIXTH AVE., S.W., BIRMINGHAM, AL 35211

**9:00 – 10:00 A.M. REGISTRATION- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
SERVICE 10:15 – 11:15**

STUDY OVERVIEW

BY

ELDER EVA CARTER AND MRS. TONEKA BELL.

**QUESTIONS: Belinda Dickinson- 205 979 162- belindabjld@bellsouth.net
OR Charlotte Worsham-205 617 4467- c.worsham52@gmail.com
church phone 205 518 6292**



MPBC Preschool Update



The first half of our Summer Fun program has been a blast! Looking forward to 4 more weeks of fun!





Celebrate 50 years with Scout Troop 320!

Troop 320, which is sponsored by Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year with a special Open House and Reunion of past Troop Members. The celebration will be held on August 25th from 4-7 p.m. at the scout hut behind the church. Thank you MBPC for supporting us the last 50 years! The troop would love to invite all of you to the celebration.

- A chance for the alumni and the church members to "See what Troop 320 is doing in 2019"
- Meet-up and catch up with old friends, and meet new ones.
- Stay and eat, and do a walk through of the Scout Hut or just stop in and say Hi and take a look around!
- Visit a display of campsites - old and new - to take Scout Alumni "back in time"
- Attendees should bring their own chairs/blankets for sitting
- Burgers/Hotdogs on the grill and water will be available, but you might want to bring a bottle or two.

Save the date!



By: Nathan Kruger

Minutes of the Session Meeting
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
June 9, 2019

Rev. Lant Davis, moderator, called the regular meeting of the Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Session to order on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the church library with a quorum present. Dick Trueb offered the opening devotional and prayer.

Elders present were Jill Bonatz, Dick Trueb, David Kaiser, Erskine Carmichael, Alex Wellman, Norton Montague, Alan Speaker, and Karen Ogle. Carroll Barrett was absent and excused.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the May 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

Jill Bonatz will have the devotional and opening prayer for the July meeting. It is uncertain at this time who will participate with Rev. Davis in home communion on July 10, 2019.

There was no correspondence for the session to review.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Committee

The reimbursement from the Birmingham Water Works due to our water leak is a greater amount than we expected it to be, but that amount has not yet been received.

On motion duly made and passed, the financial report for the month ending May 31, 2019 was received.

Personnel Committee

Alan speaker has prepared a draft of a position description for a part-time maintenance worker. The subcommittee, which consists of Dick Trueb, Alan Speaker, and Rev. Davis, will look into this.

Christian Education Committee

Bible Times on Brookwood has been postponed until August 4 - 7, 2019, in the evening. Revised flyers and registration forms are available in the narthex. Spenser Bissell has been a great help with the bible school and other areas of christian education. He has been given a copy of the church child protection policy. Rally Day is September 8, 2019 and all church programs will resume at that time. The advent lunch, which was a big success last year, is slated for December 8, 2019. MBPC will hold a confirmation class this year, with the class members being presented on Easter Sunday.

Property Committee

The Property Committee met on June 6, 2019. Discussion was held regarding the York HVAC system in the Fellowship Hall. Central Heating & Cooling proposes to replace the unit for \$19,565. Hardy Services proposed looking at the unit for possible leaks or repairs to parts. Hardy Services also has the accounts of Canterbury UMC, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, and a number of other churches.

Harold Faught is working on bringing the steeple lighting project to a conclusion.

A proposal was received from YESCO to replace with LED lighting the exterior area lighting (gable of kitchen and standard in parking lot near the sanctuary). That amount is \$790. There is no money for that in the maintenance budget, so on motion duly made and passed, the amount will be charged to the Major Capital Repairs budget (#8128).

The parking lot sealing and striping project has been completed and payment was made through the Special Church Support Fund.

The 2018 “Tree Fall” project has been completed and will be reimbursed from insurance, except for the \$1000 deductible.

There was discussion regarding the care of the exterior of our stained glass windows, the replacement value of which is \$1,787,000. Willet Hauser proposes (1) to use a ¼” acrylic covering at a cost of \$193,413, or (2) a ⅝” double-pane, insulated tempered glass at a cost of \$236,970. While the acrylic covering is less expensive, the double-pane, insulated tempered glass will make up the difference in energy costs over the next ten years, is washable, and will offer a better appearance over time. Rev. Davis will contact Riverchase Methodist Church, which has used this company to repair their existing windows. Methods to pay for this project include a capital campaign, securing a loan from Willet Hauser, or securing a loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. The question was brought up about possibly replacing the carpet in the sanctuary along with the window project. The Property Committee will go to the Finance Committee for advice on how best to pay for this should the church decide to move forward.

Bids are also being taken to replace the church office copier. That lease will expire in August, 2019. The capital lease will require session approval. The office secretary’s computer is beginning to show age, but we will wait and see on that.

Worship Committee

There is no news from the Worship Committee. Communion was served on June 2, 2019, and the extended communion will be served on June 12, 2019. Rev. Davis and Drew Spransy will provide this.

Mission and Outreach

The Dannon Project is finished and was well received. Alan Speaker and Rev. Davis traveled to Serve You Ministries in Eastlake and were impressed with what they saw. If we decide to support it, this mission would serve as a referral source for our church. There is a lot of potential here. Mission and Outreach will help the church determine our part, whether it be working in the food market, interviewing clients, or greeting clients upon their arrival.

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee is always watching for visitors to our church. Plans are being made for their next meeting.

Congregational Care

We need to remember to keep our caterer informed regarding our church Wednesday night schedule.

Preschool

The summer programs have started. New child-proof latches have been placed on the gates.

Moderator's Report

Rev. Davis is thrilled to announce that Amanda is doing great! It is time to elect new officers for the church. Congregational Care and Personnel committees will need new liaisons to the session. Jill Bonatz will serve as liaison for the Worship Committee, and Norton Montague will serve as liaison for the Finance Committee. Alex Wellman has agreed to sign checks for the church. He lives closer to the church and his service is much appreciated. All 2019 church officers have agreed to serve for another year. We will vote on these positions next month.

There being no further business, Rev. Davis adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully,

Jill Bonatz
(for Carroll Barrett, Clerk of Session)

Rev. Lant Davis, Moderator