

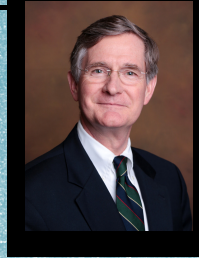
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

January 2018

Lant's Lines

*A Message from our
Pastor*



*We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 (NRSV).*

Our adult Sunday school class is just now finishing up the study of a short book by Rev. Dr. F. Morgan Roberts called *A Beautiful View: A Friendlier Christianity as a Way of Life* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade, 2018). Some of you have heard me refer to Dr. Roberts in the past as “Morgan.” Indeed, I consider him my mentor in ministry and try to visit him in Florida when I can. Morgan’s book, I think we all agreed, was easy to read and very engaging, not unlike his great preaching.

The thesis of the book, which is often illustrated with references to Jesus’ parable of the “Prodigal Son” (Luke 15:11-32; also called the “Man with Two Sons”), is that, while there are many Christians who are loving and friendly, our theology can sometimes seem unfriendly and off-putting. Morgan argues that God is not a stern parent who lives in heaven, fastidiously marking down our many errors and shortcomings. Rather, God’s mercy and grace are at the center of how God relates to us. Jesus, who is the best evidence we have of God’s own personality, never quit(s) trying to come into loving relationship with us.

Moreover, Jesus did not come to earth in order to change God’s mind about us; his mission was to change our minds about God. Morgan gives us scripturally sound reasons to incline our own personal theologies in the direction of God’s love, instead of first thinking of God’s judgment. And, he would say, even God’s judgment turns out to be loving.

As we studied this book, it occurred to me that “living a friendly faith” actually goes hand in hand with the friendliness our church members already show to one another and to those outside the church. That is, we’re more than halfway there: we simply need to articulate our faith in a way that matches the friendliness we already are trying so hard to exhibit. As we reach out into the neighborhood and have occasion to tell people about Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, it’s helpful to have a brief description that captures succinctly what we are about. I think it’s accurate to describe us as a church that seeks to “live a friendly faith.”

Rob Robinson, whose family has been visiting with us for several months, has recently lent his considerable expertise to helping us tweak our online presence and our social media pages. We decided to give the new slogan a try, so now when you Google search for churches in Mountain Brook, our church should come up fairly near the top of the list. Our listing is brief, but to the point. First, because we emphasize the study of scripture, there is a Bible verse right after our name—“We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Second, is the tagline, “Living A Friendly Faith.”

Please give this some thought and let me and the members of session know what you think about this way of describing our church. And if you think it fits, try using that brief description as you talk about the church to others. I’m interested to see where this might lead us in the new year.

Contact MBPC
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Our Mission:
We are a congregation filled
with Christ's love,
nurturing and serving
from God's abundance.

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lant B. Davis

Director of Music
Dewin Tibbs

Organist
Gary Smoke

Youth Director
Emily Frandsen

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

Contents

Lant's Lines

Calendar

Announcements

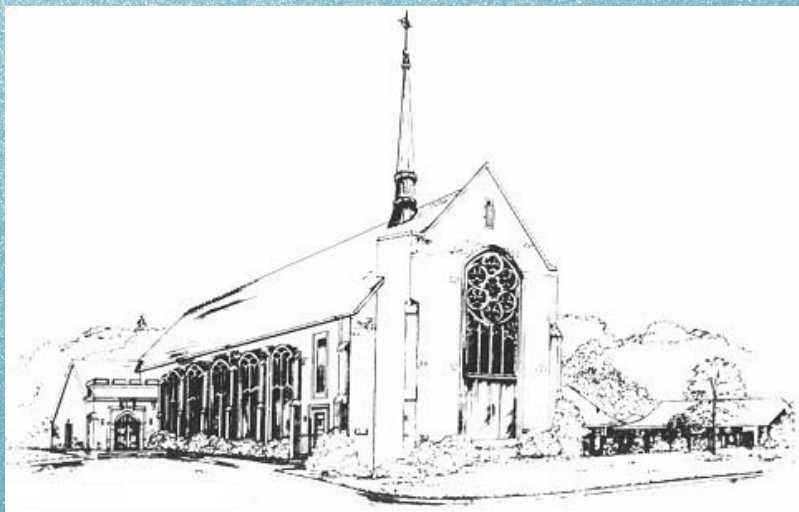
Christmas Pageant

Christmas Workshop

Preschool

Presbytery's 2019 Summer
Camp Dates

Session Minutes



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Church Office Closed 8 am - Body Works 1 pm - Cancelled--	9 am - PEO Meeting	deposit 8 am - Body Works 10 am - Bible Study--	8 am - Body Works	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 12pm - Special	1st Day Back 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff 6pm - Christian	4:30pm - Endowment 5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7pm - Chancel Choir	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	In-house 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Preschool	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 12pm - Finance 5pm - Session	Open Registration 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9:30am - Prayer 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7pm - Chancel Choir	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	Van Reservation - Boy Scouts 8am - Body Works	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Van Reservation - Boy Scouts 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday	MLK Day- No School 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Property 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7pm - Chancel Choir	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday	8am - Body Works 10am - Chancel	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7pm - Chancel Choir	deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study		

Announcements

MBPC Chancel Guild

Chancel Guild will have their first meeting for 2019 on January 28, at 10 a.m., in the Reception Room.

All members of the guild are encouraged to attend.



Thank you to all our 2018 liturgists!

In early January, the church office will send out the link for volunteer liturgists to signup for 2019 Sundays.

Please consider volunteering!

Wednesday Night Activities Resume January 9th



5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Children (Youth Room): **Bible Book Bonanza** Children learn the names of books of the Bible through songs and games.

Adults (Reception Room):

Presenting a Big-Picture View of the Bible to Children

How Many Wise Men Were There?

· Matthew 2 (Read the whole chapter)

· *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* (pages 282-284)

During this half hour, Pastor Lant Davis will lead discussion about the week's selected Bible books and scripture passages. A focal point of these chats will be seeking ways that parents and grandparents might connect particular stories and books of the Bible with children's ideas and questions about God and Jesus.

6:00 -- 6:45 p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Children (Youth Room): Bible-story videos and other activities

Adults (Reception Room):

Let's Talk it Over

The Wise Men Appear Only in Matthew

Pastor Lant Davis will lead a discussion about sermon and scripture passages used in worship on Sunday, January 6.

MBPC Christmas Pageant Photos December 9, during worship



MBPC Christmas Craft Workshop



MBPC 2019-2020 Registration

MBPC Registration for current preschool families & MBPC church members with children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2019 begins tomorrow, January 8th at 6:00am. You get first priority, and with our classes filling quickly, be sure to complete the online registration form and pay the registration fee soon. You will be notified later this week if a class fills and your child is placed on the waiting list.

Forms will be time-stamped and accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration fee must be submitted within 24 hours of registration either by dropping off cash or check to the preschool office, or by paying with your SmartCare app or with Paypal through our website www.mbpcpreschool.com.

Registration for families currently on our Waiting List opens at 6:00am January 11th.

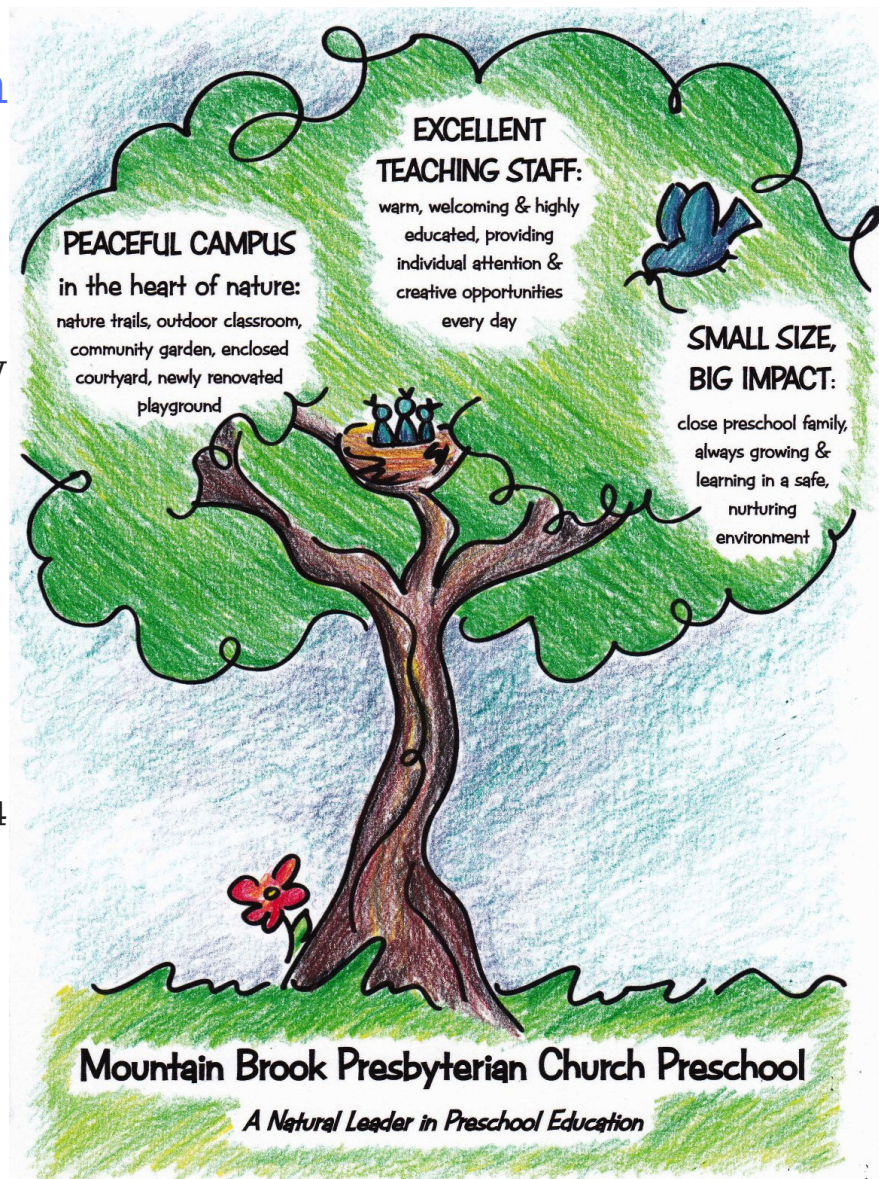
Open registration for all children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2019 begins January 14th, so spread the news to your family, friends and neighbors!

Online Registration Forms for the 2019-2020 school year:

(available at 6:00am Tuesday, January 8th)

Online Registration 2019-2020 for Current Families

Registration Fees: \$150 for one child, \$125 per child for multiple children in program.
school 2019-2020Registration





LIVING RIVER

Summer Camp 2019

Peace Works

Empowering the Next Generation of Peacemakers

Date	Camp	Grade Completed
June 9 - 14	Elementary Camp	2 - 5
	Senior High Work/Mission	9-12
June 16 - 21	Explore Elementary	2 - 5
	Explore Middle School	6 - 8
June 23 - 26	Night Owl Middle School	6 - 8
	Night Owl Senior High	9 - 12
June 26 - 28	Mini Camp	1 - 3
June 28 - 30	You and Me	K - 2
July 7 - 12	Creative Elementary	2 - 5
	Creative Middle School	6 - 8

MBPC November 2018 Session Summary

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, November 11, 2018, in the church library. A quorum was present. Jill Bonatz offered the devotional and opening prayer.

Elders attending were Norton Montague, Alan Speaker, Erskine Carmichael, Drew Spransy, Alex Wellman, Dick Trueb, Jill Bonatz, and Carroll Barrett. Judi Huddleston was absent and excused. Rob Robinson attended as a guest.

The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the session meeting of October 14, 2018, were approved as written. Correspondence from UKirk was referred to the Missions Committee. Notification of a donation to the Presbyterian Home for Children by the Montague Family in honor of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church was read and appreciation expressed to the Montague family. Alex Wellman volunteered to have the devotional and opening prayer for the next meeting.

Ministry Team Reports

Stewardship Committee

The committee is following up on prior pledgers who have not yet replied. Thank you notes have been written to those who have pledged.

Finance Committee

A motion by the committee that the session receive the financial reports passed. The budget development for 2019 was presented.

Christian Education Committee

The revised job description for the position of a director of Christian Education was presented. On recommendation made by the committee and seconded by the session, the description was approved and the request made that the Personnel Committee pursue hiring a person to fill the position.

Property Committee

Proposals were solicited from four painters for the painting project and two replied. On recommendation made by the committee and seconded by the session, Stephen Parks with All-Purpose Restoration was approved to complete the project at a cost of \$7500.00. This expense will be charged to account #1-5140, Maintenance and Repair. The preschool has undertaken most of the work required by the Jefferson County Department of Health with the rest scheduled for November 12, 2018. The amount will be paid from the preschool reserve fund and their fall fund raiser.

Worship Committee

The Lord's Supper was served in Sunday worship on November 4, 2018. Extended communion will be served Wednesday, November 14, 2019.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The workday at the Habitat House was successful. Boxes for Samaritan's Purse have been filled and will be delivered this week to the distribution center.

Welcome Committee

The committee has had its first meeting and made plans for ongoing activities.

Preschool Committee

On recommendation made by the preschool and seconded by the session, the following two items were approved: that tuition be increased for next year (in varying amounts based on class); and that church members receive a ten percent reduction in tuition in addition to participation in early registration and the waiver of the registration fee.

Moderator's Report

Because our technology consultant, Crabtree Computing, has been acquired by ION247 Managed Services, a new Master Services Agreement is necessary. After a review of the new document by Rev. Davis and Bernie Gregson, our financial assistant, and on motion duly made and passed, the session authorized the appropriate officers of the church corporation to execute and deliver the Master Service Agreement.

The presbytery has adopted an amended and restated child and youth protection policy which requires each church to have its own policy. Session members were asked to study the draft of a policy written by Rev. Davis for action at the next session meeting.

The presbytery has adopted its budget for 2019, including the per capita payment of \$23.40 per active member. The break-down is \$8.95 to GA, \$3.98 to Synod, \$9.47 to Presbytery, and \$1.00 for UKirk Campus Ministry.

Lant and Amanda Davis have met regularly with Rob Robinson who volunteered to help with a marketing plan for the church. Since Rob's involvement, traffic on the church's website has increased notably. The marketing theme currently being used is "Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church/ Living a Friendly Faith/ 'We love because God first loved us.' 1 John 4:19"

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