

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

January 2017

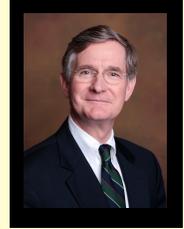
For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

*If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. . . . If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
1 Corinthians 12:13-20, 26-27 (NRSV).*

Lant's Lines

A Message from our Pastor



Happy New Year! I trust that you all had a great Advent/Christmas season. If you were traveling, I hope your travels went smoothly. If you had houseguests over the holidays, then I hope your guests arrived without a hitch, enjoyed their stay, and are now safely departed.

Amanda and I want to express our deep appreciation for your many kindnesses to us at Christmas, and always. And, on behalf of the church staff, thank you for your generosity, which provided some nice year-end gifts.

Now, on to the new year. One of the first orders of business will be to fill our roster of church leaders. Perhaps you're already thinking, "I wonder if they will call me to serve this year." I'd like to turn that thought around. A church with our size membership can only succeed if everyone is actively engaged. Thus, the question should be, rather, "In what ministry or activity of the church can I use my gifts and talents best?" As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, we are all "members" of the body of Christ; and his body cannot function as it should unless all the parts are present and working.

This year the Nominating Committee, rather than just filling the nominations for new elders, will be attempting to help everyone find a place in the committee structure of the church.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have a preference, and please be open if we suggest a position to you based on our knowledge of, and belief in, your particular gifts and graces. With all of us working together, 2018 could be a banner year for Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church!

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
Sally Gregson

Director of Preschool
Mary Liz Ingram

Financial Assistant
Bernie Gregson

Boy Scout Troop 320
Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes

Cub Scout Pack 320
Cubmaster: Dave Caskey

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MBPC Calendar, MBPC Preschool

Jan 2018 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Christmas Break	1 New Years Day- 8am - Body Works	2 Office closed 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Lectionary 1pm - Worship Staff 6:30pm - Christian	3 PEO in Reception	4 Back from break deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	5 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Preschool	6
7 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship-- 12:30pm - "Unhangi 6pm - Cub Scouts in	8 8am - Body Works	9 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Lectionary 1pm - Worship Staff	10 4:30pm - Endowmen 4:30pm - Programs 5pm - Hand Bell 6pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Chancel	11 deposit In House 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	12 Van Reservations- Boy Scouts Open House 8am - Body Works	13
14 Van Reservations- Boy Scouts	15 MLK Holiday - No 8am - Body Works	16 8am - Body Works 9am - Prayer Team 9:15am - Lectionary 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	17 PEO in Reception 4:30pm - Programs 5pm - Hand Bell 6pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Chancel	18 deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	19 8am - Body Works	20 Van reservations -
21 Van reservations - 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 12pm - Finance 3:30pm - PneuMatri 5pm - Session	22 8am - Body Works 6:30pm - Step Sing	23 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Lectionary 1pm - Worship Staff	24 4:30pm - Programs 5pm - Hand Bell 6pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Chancel	25 deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study-- 6:30pm - FH: Step	26 8am - Body Works 4pm - FH: Step Sing	27 9:30am - PEO 2pm - FH: Step Sing
28 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship	29 8am - Body Works 6:30pm - FH: Step	30 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Lectionary 1pm - Worship Staff 6:30pm - FH: Step	31 4:30pm - Programs 5pm - Hand Bell 6pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Chancel	1 deposit 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - FH: Step	2 8am - Body Works 9:15am - Preschool 4pm - FH: Step Sing	3 10am - FH: Step

Thank you to all our 2017 liturgists!
In early January,
the church office will send out the
link for volunteer liturgists to
signup for 2018 Sundays.
Please consider volunteering!



Pictured to the right:
Lant Davis with Emily Wilson, at our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Announcements

MBPC Chancel Guild

We will be **taking down Advent decorations**, including the Chrismon Tree, on **January 7**, immediately after worship. Please join the Chancel Guild ladies, as we carefully put away and store our beautiful Advent decorations.

Chancel Guild will have their **first meeting for 2018 on January 22**, at 10 a.m., in the Reception Room. All members of the guild are encouraged to attend.

Congregational Meeting

Please take notice that there will be a special, **called meeting** of the congregation of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church and of the members of its church corporation on Sunday, **January 21, 2018**, immediately following morning worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider and take action on the adoption of (i) a Restated Certificate of Formation (with Amendments) of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church and (ii) revised and restated Bylaws of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, as recommended by the Session. Copies of the two documents under consideration are available on the table in the narthex. In addition, Sally Gregson in the church office can mail copies to anyone who requests them.

Lant and Amanda Davis Honored by Indiana State University

(December 12, 2017 <http://www2.indstate.edu/news/news.php?newsid=5036>)

Jones Medals presented to employees, community members

Some colleagues and community members deserve a medal for their dedication to Indiana State University. And that's just what President Dan Bradley and First Lady Cheri Bradley presented them with on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Bradley, who retires on Jan. 3, awarded the William Albert Jones Medal to more than three dozen people in recognition of their outstanding service, exemplary advice and counsel to his presidency. "The Jones Medal is one of ISU's most important gifts to departing presidents. It allows Cheri and I to show our admiration and appreciation to some of the people who have been important to our personal and professional lives," Bradley said.

Created by President Richard Landini in 1992 in conjunction with his retirement, the award is named after the first president of the Indiana State Normal School. Each president since Landini has continued the tradition of recognizing individuals with this award either during their presidency or upon their retirement.

"Narrowing it down to about 40 was extremely difficult," Bradley said. "I know there are at least an equal number of people from the campus and the community that we considered, but we felt that we need to try and stay close to the number awarded by others."

[The honorees included, community members **Lant and Amanda Davis**]

"The help that the recipients gave us - some directly related to the mission of the university and some of a more personal nature - made it possible to focus on the university and making it better to a much higher degree than would have been possible otherwise," Bradley said.

Presbytery News and Updates

SAVE THE DATE: Jr. & Sr. High Winter Retreat

Feb. 2-4, 2018 at Living River - More info to come later.

Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store

Monthly Donation Day at SVPC

The next collection date is Saturday, January 6. Bring your usable discards, gently used clothing, etc., to the Presbyterian Home for Children's reception center in the rear parking lot, below the playground of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church. Terry Tingle will be serving as host. Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle and to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. The center will be open from 8 AM - 12 noon. To volunteer or for more information, email Terry Tingle (terryjtingle@gmail.com).

Living River News

Registration for summer camp 2018 at Living River is now open! Don't miss out on a summer of fun, growth, spirituality and community. This summer we are introducing some new concepts to our camping programs including; new camps, longer camps, new volunteer positions and new activities! This summer everyone at Living River will be able to experience a loving, intergenerational Christian community. Registering someone for camp is also an excellent Christmas gift!

It is truly the gift that will help children and youth develop some lifelong friendships and some of the most important skills they need in every part of their lives. Register now!

Living River is also looking for new volunteers who would like to have an impact on the lives of campers. This summer we are introducing two new positions to anyone who is capable and interested. The first position is that of Camp Healthcare Provider. This position is crucial to keeping all of our participant's safe and healthy while at camp. To qualify for this volunteer position you must be a paramedic, nurse or doctor that has all of the necessary, and up to date, certifications or degrees. The second position is just as important for the campers well being, the Camper Advocate. The Camper Advocate is just that, and advocate for the campers. They are an adult on site that is there for the campers when they need it. Home sick, tired, medically sick, frustrated or any other emotion or thought that camper might have that needs some extra attention, the Camper Advocate is there to help. The only qualifications required are the desire to help children when they are away from home. Both of these positions are crucial to the health, comfort and safety of our campers and come with some perks. All of our volunteers are given a free place to stay at camp and free meals all week long. We ask if you can help the campers and Living River, please do so.

A Message from Ralls Coston, Project Coordinator for the PSL Habitat for Humanity House

Thank you for all you all did in getting the Habitat house built for the Horn family in Ensley. I wanted to report to you about what God has enabled us to do.

Habitat for Humanity in Birmingham charges \$50,000 to build a house. We raised \$45,000 for the project this year. We gave Habitat \$42,000 for this year's house. Habitat can make up the difference. I am keeping \$3,000 for seed money for next year's house.

Twelve Birmingham area churches [including Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church] offered money and/or volunteers to build the house. Sixty-six Presbyterians volunteered to work at the house. This number includes multiple visits by some volunteers. The Habitat website says that a total of 158 people volunteered to work on the house.

It is great that all your churches came together to help build this house for the Horn family. Presbytery has sponsored a Habitat house in the Birmingham area for the past 25 years. It is wonderful that you have continued this ministry. Thank you for all you all have done.

Next spring, I plan to be contacting your churches again to raise money for a Habitat build in 2018. But for now, have a merry Christmas.



MBPC Christmas Pageant Photos
December 17, during worship



THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY PRESENTS

THE MAIN EVENT

Leadership Training & Development



February 23-24, 2018
First Presbyterian Church
900 Greensboro Ave
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

OUR CHURCH'S CONTACT:

<http://pslpcusa.org/main-event>



MBPC Preschool 2018-2019 Registration

Registration for current preschool families & MBPC church members with children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2018 begins January 5th 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.

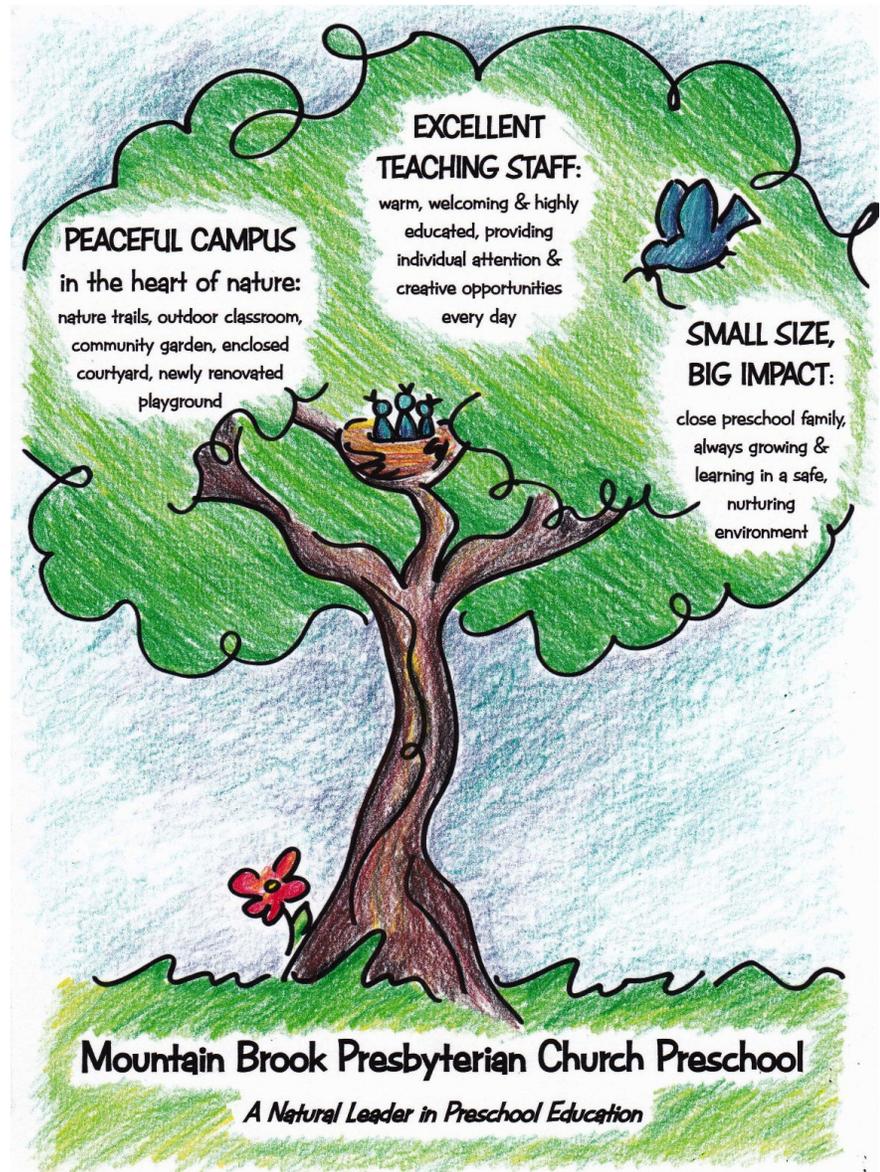
Forms will be time-stamped and accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration fee must be submitted within 24 hours of registration either by dropping off cash or check to the preschool office, or by paying with Paypal through our website www.mbpcpreschool.com.

Registration for families currently on our Waiting List opens at 6:00am January 7th.

Open registration for all children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2018 begins January 12th, so spread the news to your family, friends and neighbors!

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

You may pay your registration fees easily with PayPal. If you choose this option, please add 4% to your total payment to cover the PayPal fee. We accept checks (to MBPC Preschool) and cash in the preschool office.



MBPC PRESCHOOL

Christmas Pageant Photos



January Youth Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone!

Wonderful things are ahead for 2018. We'll begin the new year at a new location for Sunday night youth group (BYG) at Shades Valley Presbyterian. We will be participating in a service project on Sunday, January 14th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Look for details on the project in an email coming soon! The first weekend in February is our youth retreat at Living River and we also have dates for Montreat Middle (July 18-22) and the High School Montreat (July 7-14) Conferences this summer. Be sure to reply to this email if you are interested in any of these upcoming events. May this new year bring each of us hope, joy, and peace. ~ Emily

Please see below for our January calendar.

BYG (Sunday night youth group) will meet at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church beginning January 7th.

January 7th: 9:30-10:30am - Mid-high & High School Sunday School Class
5:00-7:00pm - BYG @ Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

January 10th: 6:00-7:45pm - Wednesday night youth group

January 14th: 9:30-10:30am - Mid-high & High School Sunday School Class
BYG Service Project - *details coming soon*

January 17th: 6:00-7:45pm - Wednesday night youth group

January 21st: 9:30-10:30am - Mid-high & High School Sunday School Class
5:00-7:00pm - BYG @ Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

January 24th: 6:00-7:45pm - Wednesday night youth group

January 28th: 9:30-10:30am - Mid-high & High School Sunday School Class
5:00-7:00pm - BYG @ Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

January 31st: 6:00-7:45 - Wednesday night youth group

February 3-4th: Youth Retreat @ Living River

*No mid-high/high school Sunday school or BYG on February 4th

MBPC December Session Summary

Opening

Moderator, Lant Davis, called the meeting to order with a lesson on the meaning of “holy catholic and apostolic church” followed by a prayer.

Excused Absences: Frank Semmes and Judi Huddleston

The agenda was accepted.

Clerk’s Report

- November minutes were approved as written
- There was no correspondence
- Lant will be assisted by Norton Montague for communion for shut-ins on January 10, 2018.
- January Session devotional and prayer will be given by Norton Montague.
- Sign up for Elders Commissioners for 2018 presbytery meetings.
 - o Friday, February 23, at First Tuscaloosa: Nancy Harper
 - o Thursday, May 17, at First Livingston: [waiting for volunteer]
 - o Thursday, August 16, at Auburn-Opelika Korean: [waiting for volunteer]
 - o Thursday, November 8, location TBA: [waiting for volunteer]
- The Elders will now serve through May instead of ending their term in January. Elders who want to rotate off are asked to tell Pastor Davis. Also it has been recommended that new elders serve for a 3 year term with other congregation members chairing the committees.

Ministry Team Reports

Stewardship, Norton Montague

- Pledges of \$298,800 have been received so far and “thank you” notes have been sent.
- The Finance Committee has sent “follow up” letters to those who have not yet responded.

Finance, Bob Dudelston (Written report in session packet)

- Bob Dudelston thinks that we will have balanced the 2017 budget by the end of the year.
- A motion was made and carried that a year end monetary bonus be given to Dewin Tibbs, Gary Smoke, Bernie Gregson, Sally Gregson, Emily Frandsen, and the nursery workers.
- The salary for the youth director has been put in the budget since the donor money has run out.
- The session approved a 3% salary increase for Bernie Gregson, Sally Gregson, Dewin Tibbs, and Gary Smoke for 2018. Emily Frandsen as a new employee is on the usual probationary period of 6 months and will receive a 3% increase after that time.

The session voted to increase the Pastor's annual compensation by \$3,000.

Education, Catherine Carter

- Anna Stephens has been hired to fill the nursery vacancy.
- \$20 Starbucks gift cards with notes have been sent to 12 college students.

Property, Scott Miklic

- Old box lights in the sanctuary will be refitted with more efficient LED lights.
- There will be an upgrade of lighting in the rest of the buildings.
- Scott Miklic recommends that tile sealant be applied to the grey slate floors.
- The hallway in the main building will be painted by Christmas.
- Floor polish will be applied to the Fellowship Hall and maybe the hall.

Worship, Nancy Harper

- Communion was served Sunday, December 3, 2017 to the congregation with extended
- Communion to shut-ins on December 6. Jane Patton (Communion), Lew Whitehead (visit), Clara Horton (phone call; she was out), Dottie Hays (visit), Corrinan England (visit), Eukie Woodall (Communion), and Dot McCraney (Communion)
- A motion was made and approved for a new wedding policy rate as follows:

Non Member

Wedding - \$1,000.00, Director (we will require that they use a director, not yet named) - \$350

Organist - \$300.00, Minister - \$300.00 includes counseling sessions, Deposit - \$200.00 non-refundable

Member weddings should be church members, children or grandchildren of members and are as follows:

Wedding - \$300.00, Director - \$350.00, Organist - \$250.00, Minister - no fee (honorarium may be given)

Counseling included, Deposit - \$100.00 non-refundable

NOTE: If a member wants a “simple” wedding, with no (or one) attendant, no fee is charged.

- Session members were asked to be on the lookout for a really nice grand piano for the sanctuary.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 P.M. with music starting at 4:30 P.M.

Missions, Drew Spransy

- 29 shoe boxes have been filled and turned in to Samaritan’s Purse.
- An Angel Tree signup sheet has been posted. Erskine and Jane Carmichael will send out names to those who want to participate and \$25 gift cards will be sent to those in need.
- A \$1,000.00 check to Habitat for Humanity Club at Vestavia Hills High School has been written. The oldest two Plugge girls are active in this club. Once the necessary funding has been raised, a home will be designated; and then interested church members will be able to participate in the “build.”
- With the balance of the mission budget, action on other missions will be recommended. Action can be taken by Email balloting.
- A wonderful Advent Luncheon was held on December 10 after Worship thanks to Joe and Drew Spransy and their helpers.

Preschool Report

- The Preschool Christmas Program was moved to December 11, 2018 at 12:00 noon because of the snow on the scheduled Friday, December 8th.

PneuMatrix Team - No report