

The Messenger

July 2017

Lant's Lines

A Message from the Pastor
of Mountain Brook
Presbyterian Church



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)*

Last September Rev. Lindsey Wade, Transitional Pastor at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church, and I sent a joint letter to our respective congregations informing folks of ongoing discussions between leaders in the two churches.

These discussions were focused on how the two churches might combine forces in ministry and mission, perhaps even leading to a merger of the congregations.

Those conversations continued through the fall and into the winter. We accomplished a couple of joint mission projects with Shades Valley—staffing a comfort station at the charity bicycle ride to benefit the Presbyterian Home for Children and going on a mission trip to Chapin, South Carolina, to assist in rebuilding after flooding. During Holy Week this year we shared worship services, with Shades Valley hosting Maundy Thursday and Mountain Brook hosting Good Friday services. However, no conclusions about a merger were forthcoming.

We learned of a presbytery-sponsored program to provide consultants from the PneuMatrix group to assist churches that were in a redevelopment mode. The sessions of Shades Valley and Mountain Brook decided to apply jointly to that program, with the intention of enlisting the aid of the consultants in helping us make a decision—one way or the other—about a merger. (Continued on back)

Lant's Lines (continued)

The plan was for the consultants to meet with each church separately for a few months and then for the two church's PneuMatrix teams to begin meeting jointly.

Meanwhile Shades Valley called Rev. Leanne Reed to be their installed pastor.

She is bright and energetic and has great hopes for Shades Valley as a congregation. She loves the location of that church and believes it is a strategic asset for their ministry. The members of Shades Valley are enthusiastic about her leadership and feel inspired to continue and deepen their ministry in the current location. At the same time, our team at Mountain Brook never sensed much desire on the part of our members to move to a different location from the one we currently enjoy. Thus, Rev. Reed and I have decided that the best current strategy is for each congregation to turn to the challenges of ministry in their respective, separate locations (which challenges are somewhat different for each congregation) and for now to discontinue discussions of a merger, which at this point could serve to distract us from our main focus on redevelopment.

Our PneuMatrix team will continue to meet with our consultant, but we will not be meeting jointly with Shades Valley. Now that we know where things stand on the merger question, we feel free to focus on our own situation at Mountain Brook and to move forward without wondering how it might affect Shades Valley. I suspect Shades Valley has some of the same feelings. Stay tuned!

We hope that our PneuMatrix team (B.J. Hayes, Judi, Huddleston, Norton Montague, Frank Semmes, and I) will come up with some interesting proposals for mission and ministry here on Brookwood Road.

MBPC Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lant B. Davis

Director of Preschool
Mary Liz Ingram

Director of Music
Dewin Tibbs

Financial Assistant
Bernie Gregson

Organist
Gary Smoke

Boy Scout Troop 320
Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes

Administrative Assistant
Sally Gregson

Cub Scout Pack 320
Cubmaster: Dave Caskey

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Contact MBPC

3405 Brookwood Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

(205)967-5037

sgregson@mbpcusa.org

www.mbpcusa.org



Summer Potluck Luncheon

July 9, 2017

After 11 o'clock worship

Join us for a fun potluck luncheon.

Please bring a meat and a side.

Sides can be anything

you want to bring:

veggie dish, salad, dessert...





Lectionary Light: A Bible Group for Busy Women

SAVE THE DATE

Ordinary-Time Retreat

Friday, August 18; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

&

Saturday, August 19; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

Please Email Amanda Davis amandandandand@gmail.com or phone 637-1290 to join the Lectionary Light Email distribution and receive more information about the retreat.

WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME?

Ordinary Time consists of two time periods in the church's liturgical calendar. The first period begins on Epiphany Day and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday. The second period begins the Monday after Pentecost and ends the Saturday before the first Sunday of the Advent season. The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green to symbolize growth. Ordinary Time is not called "ordinary" because it is commonplace but because the weeks of ordinary time are numbered. Its name comes from the Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series.

AN ORDINARY-TIME RETREAT AT MBPC?

Since the Fall of 2016, our group has used the structure of the Revised Common Lectionary to select passages from the Bible and to "wrestle" with the ancient texts, a little at a time. On December 6, 2016, we kicked off Year A of the Lectionary cycle with an Advent New Year party. Now as we pass through the midpoint of Year A, we are planning to gather in August for some "Extra-Ordinary" retreat time – looking back over what we've learned and looking forward to Advent for Year B. Please save the date and join us for this casual and relaxing weekend of learning, fellowship, and spirituality.

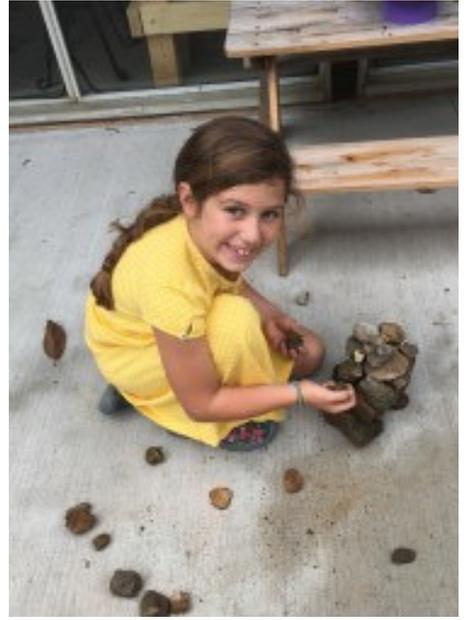
Get Into Scripture....

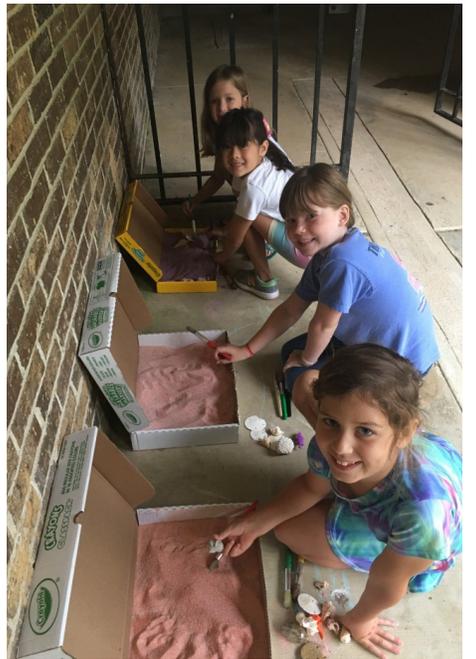
AN ANCIENT FORM OF TEXT-MESSAGING

MBPCP Summer Fun

We've had a great time so far the summer! We have investigated the life cycle of plants, looking closely at seeds, roots, stems and flowers! We explored the "Mysteries of the Earth" by digging deep to discover fossils, rocks, dinosaurs and more. Our summer detectives had an archaeology dig, adopted pet rocks and made their own fossils. We have gotten up close and personal with some amazing insects. Learning all about bugs, we've had bug hunts, special ladybug snacks, lots of fun and cute crafts!







If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the church office:

sgregson@mbpcusa.org/ (205)967-5037.

This project is set to begin on September 7.



Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley 2017 Habitat House



**Sponsored by Birmingham Area
Churches in the Presbytery**
Construction starts September 7, 2017

We need volunteers! No construction experience is necessary, but you do have to be at least 14 years old...Presbytery is also accepting monetary donations to help sponsor the house.

To give either of your time or money: contact your minister, Mission Committee chair or Ralls Coston at the Presbytery office (205-263-6840) or rcoston@pslpcusa.org.

www.pslpcusa.org

MBPC VBS 2017



BIBLE TIMES ON BROOKWOOD

MBPC's VBS, "BIBLE TIMES ON BROOKWOOD" WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS! THERE WERE 58 ATTENDEES! CHURCH MEMBERS, BOY SCOUTS AND IPC MEMBERS ALL VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME. A LOT OF FUN WAS HAD BY ALL AND MUCH BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE WAS GAINED!



EMILY FRANDBEN

MBPC YOUTH DIRECTOR



Emily Frandsen grew up in the Presbyterian Church (USA) where she enjoyed participating in youth group, choir, and mission trips. When Emily was an Undergraduate at Florida State University she had the pleasure of serving as Youth Director at Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Emily received her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature in 2007. She moved to Birmingham in 2010 where she met her husband, Joshua Hamilton. Emily and Josh got married in 2012.

They love to hike, camp, cook, and travel together. Their most recent trip to Italy was the trip of a lifetime! Emily will begin her Master's in Divinity through the distance program at Dubuque Theological Seminary this July. She is excited to get to know all of the families and especially the youth here at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church where she will serve as Youth Director.

Please bring your donations for the Pentecost CANpaign to the narthex,
or drop these by the church office. Thank you!

PENTECOST CANPAIGN

Alleviate Hunger in Central Alabama

June 4 - July 16, 2017

Why have a Pentecost CANpaign?

This time of year, the cupboards are **bare** at food pantries across the state.

What do you do?

Collect and distribute canned goods or other non-perishable food items &/or track financial donations to local food pantries. Then by July 20th report the number of cans &/or amount of money collected and distributed. If you collect non-perishable food items that are not "cans", please estimate the dollar value.

When is the CANpaign?

The CANpaign will run for six weeks, beginning on *Pentecost Sunday, June 4* and ending Sunday, July 16. Although these are the suggested dates, you may pick any six-week period, as long as your CANpaign is completed by July 16.

All participating & reporting churches will be recognized at the August Presbytery Meeting.



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT TO THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE BY JULY 20, 2017.

Name of Church & City: _____

Number of Cans: _____

Dollar Amount Collected: _____

Return this completed form by July 20 to:
Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley
ATTN: Pentecost CANpaign
3603 Lorna Ridge Drive
Birmingham, AL 35216

OR E-mail to psl@pslpcusa.org



Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



CRE Candidates Needed!!!!

Recently Presbytery has provided funds to be used in training needed Commission Ruling Elder candidates for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Once, a candidate has been accepted into the program, the candidate enrolls in Dubuque Theological Seminary on-line CRE training program for which scholarship funds are now available. However, completion of this approximately two-year program does not guarantee a candidate commissioning. There must be a call from a church and Presbytery approval.

Please advertise this program in your church. Candidates may contact me at BevDod@gmail.com for further information. The basic requirements are:

1. Must be a ruling elder in one of this Presbytery's churches.
2. Must be active member of one of this Presbytery's churches.
3. Must secure the necessary enrollment documents from the Presbytery website, complete and forward to me at the Presbytery office.
4. Must secure recommendation from person's session and current pastor. If church is without a pastor, contact me for further information.
5. Must be interviewed by our Commission on Ministry for admission into the program before enrolling in Dubuque.
6. Before enrolling at Dubuque, you must take their Online Learning Certification Course as a prerequisite to enrolling in the Core classes.
7. Once accepted by Dubuque, course fees will be paid by the Presbytery. This payment mandates a two-year commitment to a church if a call is approved and person is commissioned.

Thanks for your assistance in helping find CRE candidates for our Presbytery.t

Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store

Monthly Donation Day at SVPC

The next collection date is **Saturday, July 1**. 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 (terrytingle@gmail.com).

Eagle Scout Project

Evan Trueb's Eagle Scout project is now completed.

The arbor was installed at Greystone Elementary School and is part of a bigger project undertaken by Troop 119 to emphasize Environmental Awareness for the children attending GES.

Congratulations, Evan!



Property Team Photos

Roof Repairs



Session Summary

June 11, 2017

Ministry Reports:

Education, Catherine Carter

Emily Frandsen was hired as MBPC Youth Director, subject to required background check.

VBS was a huge success! Thanks to all who volunteered!

Building and Grounds, Scott Miklic

Discussed expenditures for roof repairs.

Finance Report, Bob Dudelston

Receipts are down.

Worship, Nancy Harper

Pastor Davis and Drew Spransy served communion (three) and visited with homebound members (five).

Congregational Care, Drew Spransy

Next Potluck Luncheon will be June 18 (Father's Day) and July 9.

Missions, Drew Spransy

Looking for volunteers for Presbytery Habitat Home.

Canned food CANpaign continues through July 4.

Preschool, Frank Semmes

Kimmy Wilson accepted the position of Assistant Director. 104 students enrolled with 12 on the waiting list. 107 students enrolled in the summer program.

PneuMatrix, Lant Davis

Team will continue to work with Jim Kitchens, and will work on redevelopment plans. Merger with Shades Valley not moving forward.

Moderators Report, Lant Davis

Revised by-laws for the Chancel Guild were approved. Wedding on Saturday, May 20, 2017 of Caitlyn Smith and Jake Burchfield was performed by Pastor Davis. Thanks to Sue Wellman and her helpers.

Next Session Meeting: July 16 (called meeting).