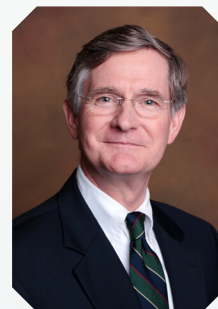


The Messenger

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LANT'S LINES

A Message from our Pastor



And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord. 1 Chronicles 28:20 (KJV)

The books of Chronicles in the Old Testament cover the history of Israel beginning with the United Kingdom under Saul (around 1000 BCE) and ending with the Edict of Cyrus the Persian (538 BCE), which allowed the exiled residents of Judah to return to their homeland. Generally thought to have been written after the Exile, it covers much of the same history that we find in the books of Samuel and Kings. Because it is more of a secondary source, it does not appear in the lectionary of Sunday readings as often as those other books. Even so, it has some passages that are unforgettable.

The passage quoted above is one of my favorites. It comes from a longer setting in which King David is telling the people that he has made ample provision for the building of the Temple and even has received plans from God for how the Temple should be constructed. Yet he acknowledges God's command that David's son Solomon should be the king who actually constructs the building. Solomon is young and inexperienced and, presumably, is daunted by the task of erecting the Temple, the long-foretold place of awe, where God would meet his people. Addressing Solomon's misgivings, David then offers the advice that is quoted above: "Be strong and of good courage; fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God will be with you."

As the year 2020 breaks upon us, we all have things that we plan to accomplish. Some of them may be daunting. Our church has some important work ahead in 2020, so collectively we need hope and courage. Individually, too, we want to grow in our discipleship. That process, called "sanctification" by the theologians, is rarely easy. Becoming better disciples of Jesus often involves freeing ourselves of attachments to things, ideas, and even relationships that weigh us down on our Kingdom road.

Letting go of our attachments is hard work. Withdrawal can be painful, as increasingly we learn to put God first in our priorities.

Just when we begin to wonder if we can do it, we hear King David's advice in Scripture. Anticipating by centuries the exclamations of the Christmas angels, he exhorts us, "Fear not!" We are not alone in our efforts, for God's grace supports us throughout. God will not fail us, nor forsake us, until our work is finished. Thus, we can be strong and of good courage as we take on the new year.

I pray that your New Year is happy and that all of us will continue to experience God's grace in our lives. Amanda joins me in thanking you, for us and for the whole church staff, for your kindnesses shown to us during the Christmas season. We are blessed to serve Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church.



MAGIC CITY HARVEST "FIRST SUNDAY" FOOD DRIVE

The MBPC Mission and Outreach Committee invites the congregation to participate in a "First Sunday" monthly food drive to benefit **Magic City Harvest**. Please bring the following item to the collection area outside the sanctuary on or before the first Sunday of each month.

First Sunday of Each Month

March - 15 oz. cans of VEGETABLES (corn, beans or black beans)
April - 12 oz. SPAGHETTI NOODLES
May - Box of JELL-O or INSTANT PUDDING
June - 12 oz. box of CEREAL
July - 12 oz. box of MACARONI AND CHEESE
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 REALITY:
16.5% OF ALABAMIANS ARE HUNGRY:
804,333 PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY
180,975 ARE CHILDREN
6TH POOREST STATE IN THE U.S.

JEFFERSON, SHELBY AND TALLADEGA COUNTIES:
160,565 PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY
35,012 ARE CHILDREN

www.mbpcusa.org
www.magiccityharvest.org



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

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PRESCHOOL UPDATE



Trying to figure out what to do with all of those hotel shampoos and soaps you've been collecting? Bring them to the collection basket in the narthex and they will be delivered to Serving You Ministries, our mission partner, to be distributed to those in need at their Merchant Market.

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

MBPC Calendar, Holidays in United States, Property Committee

Jan 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Church Office Closed New Year's Day			Kelly Higgins - Set
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 12pm - Removing 2pm - Higgins/Brint	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff 6:30pm - Christian	Wednesday Night 5pm - Hand Bells 6pm - Dinner & 6:45pm - Adults' 6:45pm - Children's 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	9am - Ann Russell -
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday	8am - Body Works 6:30pm - Pack #320	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Hand Bells 6pm - Dinner & 6:45pm - Adults' 6:45pm - Children's 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 5pm - Session	Martin Luther King 8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9:30am - Prayer 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Endowment 5pm - Hand Bells 6pm - Dinner & 6:45pm - Adults' 6:45pm - Children's 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday 2pm - Annie Butress	8am - Body Works 6pm - Tiger Den	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	5pm - Hand Bells 6pm - Dinner & 6:45pm - Adults' 6:45pm - Children's 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	



Clean Out Your Attic. Change Someone's Life.

Presbyterian Home for Children
Talladega, AL Thrift Store
Drop Off Point for Donations

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
2305 Montevallo Road, Birmingham, AL

*1st Saturday of each month
from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm*



All Wednesday Night Activities
resume January 8, 2020.

We will be starting the New Year
with guest speaker Don Hagen at 6:45
pm following dinner at 6:00 pm.

Reminder - reservations are needed by
noon on Mondays. You may also make a
standing reservation with Melissa Hall at
mhall@mbpcusa.org or (205) 967-5037



A Note from Serve You Ministries

Dear Mttn Brook Presbyterian Church Members,

We want to take a minute and thank you for your partnership in 2019.
As you can see by the insert, your church's generosity helped a record number
of families in crisis this year. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and
look forward to another year of helping those God puts in our path.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Serving Him by Serving You,

John, Kathy, LeAnn, Stephen & Jonathan

Missions Committee Update



The Mission Committee-sponsored drive to support the mission of First Light and their Emergency Shelter Gift Bags project was a huge success! This drive was conducted in November and was specific to new women's warm socks, earrings and reusable decorative tote bags. As a participating organization, MBPC's congregation donated over 60 of each of these items.

MBPC has a long history of supporting First Light. In addition to this successful drive, the session and the Endowment Fund Management Committee approved a contribution in the amount of \$500 to support this hands-on project.

Mission

First Light's mission is to work with homeless women and their children to create hospitality in a safe and nurturing community, to encourage them to maintain dignity, to find hope, to seek opportunity, and to grow spiritually, thereby achieving their full potential.

www.firstlightshelter.org



Alan Speaker, Mission Committee Chair, presents MBPC's donation to Ruth Crosby, Executive Director of First Light.



MBPC supports the mission of Serving You Ministries ("SYM") by providing on-site hands-on volunteer opportunities and financial support from the Benevolence and Mission Endowment Fund.

Training is provided prior to a volunteer being placed into service. A background check is required. Currently, volunteers are needed in the following areas.

Intake (inputting clients' information into SYM's database - minimal computer skills needed)

Chaplain (praying and discerning how the Holy Spirit is moving in clients' lives)

Hospitality (greeting clients and getting them to fill out the proper paper work)

Merchant Market (assisting clients fulfill food orders by greeting and escorting them through the market)

For more information, please contact Kathy Woods, Director of Volunteers at Kathy.woods@servingyou.org.

Mission and Vision

SYM is a non-profit organization serving as a ministry arm to area churches and partnering non-profits to love our neighbor within its four core values of relief, development, relationships and reconciliation. SYM's vision is to serve our community in areas of need through a Christ-Centered, Relational, Servant, Accountable and Sincere attitude.

Through its umbrella organization, Thrive Together – Jefferson County, the organization assists in education, child care, job readiness, safe and affordable housing, health and nutrition, and crisis relief through its hub partnerships.

www.servingyou.org Serving You Ministries, 6523 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35206, (205) 777-3653



Mission Committee members Alan and Linda Speaker present a donation to Serving You Ministries from MBPC's Endowment Fund to Kathy Woods, Director of Volunteers and Jonathan Edwards, Director of Development.

MBPC Preschool



2020-2021 Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is just around the corner!

Registration for current preschool families & MBPC church members with children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2020 begins January 8th at 6:00am.

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

Registration fees are waived for church members.

Registration for families currently on our Waiting List opens at 6:00am January 10th.

Open registration for all children ages 3 months to five years old by September 1, 2020 begins January 14th.