

THE MESSENGER



Lant's Lines

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



[Y]ou shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the covenant, and over all its equipment, and over all that belongs to it; they are to carry the tabernacle and all its equipment, and they shall tend it, and shall camp around the tabernacle. Numbers 1:50 (NRSV)

As the children of the church prepare for this summer's Bible Times on Brookwood (our vacation Bible school program), they are learning about the transition in Israel's worship space from the moveable tabernacle, which existed from the time of Moses to King David, to the Jerusalem temple, which was constructed by David's son, King Solomon. As the biblical book of Numbers makes clear, an entire tribe of Israel—the Levites—were designated to take care of the worship space (tabernacle or temple) and to keep it ready for worship.

At MBPC we don't have a designated tribe, but we do have a number of projects that could use the help of some good Presbyterian "Levites." During the summer we attempt to make sure all our church committees are operating with a full contingent of members. If you are not yet serving on a program committee of the church, please take the initiative to let me know where you would like to serve. We may be calling some of you soon to ask if you would be willing to serve. Or maybe you are currently serving on a committee but would like to change to another committee; that's fine, so please let me know. Our committees include the following: Christian Education, Congregational Care, Finance, Mission and Outreach, Personnel, Preschool, Property, Stewardship, Welcome, and Worship. Descriptions of the responsibilities of these committees may be found in the session's Policy on Committees, a copy of which may be obtained from the church office. As a church with a limited staff of employees, most of the work of the congregation gets done through committees. Our church's ministry is only as strong as its committee work.

In addition, here are some projects that would benefit from the loving attention of talented and motivated persons:

- Completing the bulletin boards in the main hallway that have pictures of our congregation. The ones we have are great, but we don't have pictures of everyone, as we should.
- Serving as a librarian/archivist to keep our library and historical materials sorted and preserved.
- Occasionally hosting the church's tent at the Farmer's Market.
- Serving as the church's social media content provider—taking photographs and writing brief explanatory articles about our events that can be posted on social media and our website.

Maybe you have seen a job around the church that is not encompassed in the descriptions above and that you feel called to help with. Please let me know so that the session can consider the project you have in mind.

Thank you for all that you do. We have some members who, if anything, are “overfunctioning.” They need some relief, so do consider helping. Please be a Levite!

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lant B. Davis

Director of Music
Dewin Tibbs

Director of Christian Education
Spencer Bissell

Administrative Assistant
Melissa Hall

Director of Preschool
Mary Liz Ingram

Financial Assistant
Bernie Gregson

Boys Scout Troop 320
Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes

Cub Scout Pack 320
Cubmaster: Jeff Kelly

Content

- Lant's Lines
- Contact Us, Staff
- July Calendar
- Presbytery Reflection
- What's Happening Around MBPC
- Mission Update
- Christian Education
- MBPC Preschool
- Troop #320
- Session Minutes

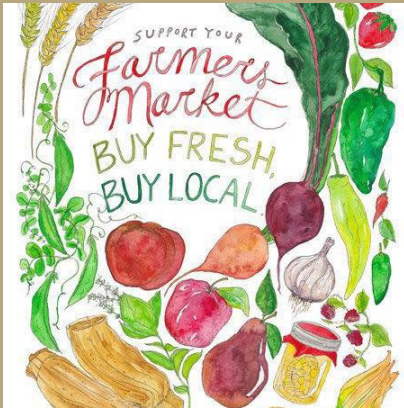


Contact Us

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mhall@mbpcusa.org***

| MBPC Calendar, Holidays in United States | | | | | | | Jul 2019 (Central Time - Chicago) | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|--|-----|--|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| Sun | | Mon | | Tue | | Wed | | Thu | | Fri | | Sat | |
| 9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School | 30 | 8am - Body Works | | 1 | 8am - Body Works 1 pm - Worship Staff 6:30pm - Christian | 2 | | 3 | 4 Church Office Closed Independence Day | 5 8am - Body Works | 6 8am - Farmer's Market | | |
| | 7 | 8am - Body Works | | 8 | 8am - Body Works 1 pm - Worship Staff | 9 | | 10 | 11 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC | 12 8am - Body Works | 13 8am - Farmer's Market | | |
| | 14 | 9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School 12pm - Finance Committee 5pm - Session Meeting | | 15 | 8am - Body Works 9:30am - Prayer Team 1 pm - Worship Staff | 16 | | 17 | 18 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC | 19 8am - Body Works | 20 8am - Farmer's Market | | |
| | 21 | 9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School | | 22 | 8am - Body Works 1 pm - Worship Staff | 23 | | 24 | 25 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study @ MBPC | 26 8am - Body Works | 27 8am - Farmer's Market | | |
| 9:30am - Sunday School 10:15am - Chancel Choir 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday School 12:30pm - Bible Times on | | 8am - Body Works | | 29 | 8am - Body Works 1 pm - Worship Staff | 30 | | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |

What's Happening Around MBPC



Stop by the Farmers Market located in the MBPC parking lot. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, homemade breads, jellies, and sugar cookies, fresh flowers, eggs, handcrafted jewelry, and more will all be available. We hope to see you at the market this Saturday!

The "First Sunday" monthly food drive item for July is 12 oz boxes of macaroni and cheese. Donations can be placed in the marked basket in the narthex.



Mark your calendars!! Rally Day has been scheduled for Sunday, September 8.

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Susan Clayton

MAY 2019

HOST: LIVING RIVER, A REATREAT ON THE CAHABA

Highlights of the May Presbytery meeting



The Lord's Supper



Guest Musician,
Byron Thomas



PSL Musicians Revs
Yarboro and McLeod



Eva Carter celebrating
the ministry of Rev.
Terry Newland

God Calls Us Together

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley held its regular stated meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba in Montevallo, Alabama.

Moderator Susan Clayton opened the meeting with prayer. Stated Clerk Tom Winter declared that a quorum was present and presbytery adopted the docket for the day. The presbytery welcomed first time commissioners, visitors and corresponding members to the meeting. At this point, the Moderator turned the meeting over to the Anti-Racism Team of the presbytery to lead us through worship and morning discussion around tables.

We Listen for God's Word



Members of the Anti-Racism team led us in a wonderful worship of God, with The Rev. Dr. Joseph Scrivner preaching a sermon entitled "Don't Miss It!" based on a Scripture reading from Mark 2:23-28. Musician Byron Thomas shared his considerable talents in leading the music during worship.

Table Conversations



Following worship, members of presbytery gathered in small groups around tables throughout the room to share conversation with one another. Our conversations were guided by questions provided by the Anti-Racism Team of the presbytery. Conversation centered on our own experiences with issues of race in our own lives, in the church and community. Each table reported on lessons learned and everyone remarked on the honest, open sharing they experienced around the tables.

Following these table conversations, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Living River staff. During the lunch hour, many members of presbytery took advantage of the good weather and the physical beauty of Living River to spend some time exploring the area of the Cahaba River around the dining hall, giving thanks to God for the beauty of God's creation. After lunch, presbytery reconvened to consider business items on the docket.

Ministry Within our Presbytery

Some highlights of the presbytery meeting include:

1. Presbytery voted on the Amendments to the PC (USA) Constitution from the General Assembly. Presbytery voted in the affirmative on all amendments, with the exception of 18-C which received a negative vote.
2. The Nominating Committee nominated The Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore to the Commission on Ministry, Class of 2021 and presbytery approved his nomination, as well as several nominations to serve on Presbytery Youth Council.
3. The Commission on Ministry celebrated the ministry of The Rev. Terry Newland, as he prepared to retire from his current position as Synod Executive for the Synod of Living Waters. Eva Carter led us through many wonderful stories and memories of Terry's time with us in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, from his time as an Associate Pastor at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church in Birmingham; as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Anniston; as Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and then as Synod Executive. We gave thanks to God for Terry's faithful service and for his friendship among us over many years of ministry in our midst.

4. The Stated Clerk's report included a report from Jonathan Yarboro celebrating the successful work of the Administrative Commission to merge the Memorial and Westminster Presbyterian Churches in Montgomery. We celebrated the formation of the newly named Providence Presbyterian Church in Montgomery. We also marked the closing of the Center Point Presbyterian Church effective April 28, 2019 and the Good Shepherd Church in Anniston effective May 26, 2019, and gave thanks for both of these churches' faithful witness over many years.
5. We heard a thorough report from Nick Reed, President of the Living River Board of Directors, informing the presbytery of the financial difficulties of Living River, largely due to a substantial load of debt Living River is currently servicing. Nick talked about the hopes and dreams for a new business plan and increased partnerships that the board hopes will have Living River on sound footing by 2020. In order to achieve that goal, the debt must be eliminated.
6. Jane Clayton reported on behalf of the Executive Council of presbytery. On motions made by Executive Council, presbytery approved the cosigning of a \$10,000 loan from the Synod of Living Waters to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham for renovation of their building; approved the Volunteer Nurture Coordinator position and asked Pat Goodman to serve through the end of 2019; approved a change to the standing rules related to the process of disciplinary charges; and approved authorizing the Living River Board to use funds previously allocated for the pool or adult lodge to be used as needed at the Living River board's discretion, with the understanding these funds will most likely be used to service the debt of Living River.
7. Following a report from our General Presbytery Jay Wilkins, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Chuck Kukal.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Clayton, Moderator*

MBPC Missions Update



The Dannon Project

www.dannonproject.org

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church | *Living a Friendly Faith.*

During the month of April, the Mission and Outreach Committee sponsored a clothing drive to support the mission of The Dannon Project. This drive was for gently worn, clean, men's or women's dress clothes suitable for wearing to a job interview.

The Dannon Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps unemployed or underemployed at-risk youth and non-violent returning citizens reentering society.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is pleased to report that our campaign was very successful and thanks the congregation for its great support. Over 100 items of clothing were collected that were gratefully accepted by The Dannon Project. In addition, the session and Endowment Fund Management Committee approved a donation in the amount of \$500 as additional support for this hands-on mission project.



Alan Speaker, a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee, presents MBPC's donation to The Dannon Project.

Christian Education



This August MBPC will be having our Bible Times on Brookwood!

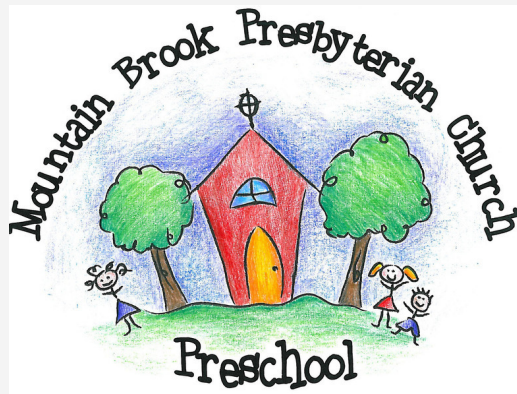
It will be August 4-7 and at an afternoon/evening time of 4pm-7pm. Please join us for our 2019 ancient-world adventure when children and adults will experience Hebrew tribal life and learn about events and characters of the Old Testament. In 2017, stories from the book of Genesis told about God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – promises of many descendants and land. In 2018, our stories came from the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua. We learned about how Moses and Joshua led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and back to the land God promised Abraham in Canaan. This year we'll experience adventures along with the Biblical hero, David, a shepherd boy from Bethlehem who becomes king, and unites the tribes of Israel. We invite you to sign your children up for this amazing experience! But this is not only for the children ages 4-10. If you have older children who would like to help or if you yourself would like to help in being a tribal parent or in other facets please let Spencer me know.

You can view the registration form by Googling: Bible Times on Brookwood and going to the MBPC website link www.mbpcusa.org.

If you would like to help in other ways such as a tribal parent please email: spencer.bissell@mbpcusa.org

We are looking forward to a fun and amazing adventure this year!

By: Spencer Bissell



Summer Fun 2019

We're having a great time at our Summer Fun program. Lots of Happy Campers!





CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

1969-2019

50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY,

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH, 4:00 TO 7:00 AT THE SCOUT HUT

FAMILY COOKOUT AND OPEN HOUSE



Troop 615, League City, TX, visits on June 15

Troop 615, the best uniformed troop you will ever meet, spent the night in our Scout Hut on June 15th. They drove all day Saturday from south of Houston. They are on their way to Camp Rainey Mountain in Clayton, GA.



Minutes of the Session Meeting
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
May 19, 2019

Rev. Lant Davis, moderator, called the regular meeting of the Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Session to order on Sunday, May 19, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the church library with a quorum present. Drew Spransy offered the opening devotional and prayer.

Elders present were Carroll Barrett, Jill Bonatz, Erskine Carmichael, Judi Huddleston, Alan Speaker, Drew Spransy, Dick Trueb, and Alex Wellman. Norton Montague was absent and excused. Also attending were recently elected elders Dave Kaiser and Karen Ogle.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the April 14, 2019, minutes were approved as written.

Dick Trueb will have the devotional and opening prayer for the May meeting, and

Drew Spransy will participate with Rev. Davis in home communion on June 5, 2019.

Jill Bonatz agreed to take the minutes for the June meeting in the absence of Carroll Barrett.

Examination of Dave Kaiser for the Office of Ruling Elder

Rev. Davis summarized the study and preparation completed by Dave Kaiser for the office of ruling elder, and Dave answered questions from members of the session. On motion duly made and passed, the session sustained his examination. A tentative date for the ordination and installation of Dave as well as the installation of Norton Montague and Karen Ogle was set for either May 26, 2019, or June 9, 2019, depending on coordination of schedules. Rev. Davis welcomed all to ministry as ruling elders.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Committee

On motion duly made and passed, the financial report for the month ending April 30, 2019, was received

The sign-up process to enable online and electronic giving for church members through ACS/Realm is almost complete. There will now be a testing period and then the publicizing of this capability.

Personnel Committee

Alan Speaker has prepared a draft of a position description for a part-time maintenance worker. The committee will meet to review it.

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.

Property Committee

The replacement playground equipment has finally been installed. Repairs of the gate and fence surrounding the playground will be completed by June 3, 2019, so that the area will be fully functional in time for the summer children's program.

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On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to let Nancy Harper use the reception room for a sorority ceremony honoring long-time members on October 27, 2019.

The Decorators' Showhouse committee made a \$300.00 donation to the church in gratitude for the use of the parking lot for the shuttle for tours of the house.

Boy Scout Troop 320 plans to have its fiftieth anniversary celebration in the fellowship hall on August, 25, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

On the recommendation of the Property Committee and on motion duly made and passed, the session voted to approve the proposal by Asphalt Solutions of Alabama for repairing, sealcoating, and relining the parking lot at a cost of \$13,880, to authorize church officers to accept the proposal, to contact and ask the Endowment Management Committee to approve funds for the project from the Special Church Support Fund, and to apply the recent \$300.00 donation for use of the parking lot to the project.

Worship Committee

The Lord's Supper was served in the worship service on Sunday, May 5, 2019, and extended communion was served on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The Committee, which was commended on its work, was asked by the session to consider a worship service in which all church volunteers would be recognized and thanked.

Mission and Outreach

On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to donate 40% of the Special Pentecost offering to the Presbyterian Home for Children.

The first day of the Farmers' Market was May 18, 2019, with eight vendors. The ending date will be September 14, 2019.

On motions duly made and passed, the session voted to pay the balance of \$766.50 of the \$2060.50 cost for the Miles College Choir visit on May 5, 2019, from the Miscellaneous Mission Relief Fund; to ask for \$500.00 from the Endowment Management Committee to be taken from the Benevolence and Mission Fund to donate to the Dannon Project, in addition to the clothes contributed by members; and to donate \$500.00 to Magic City Harvest on June 10, 2019, Pentecost, also from the Benevolence and Mission Fund, in addition to food contributed by members.

Members of the committee and other members of the congregation attended the dedication of the Patton Picnic Pavilion at Living River on May 17, 2019. The pavilion was the gift of Ann and Bob Dudelston and their family in memory of Ann's father, John Jefferson Patton. Rev. Davis conducted the dedication, and Linda and Alan Speaker provided a picnic lunch.

Moderator's Report

Rev. Davis expressed gratitude for the support he and Amanda have received during her recent surgery and recovery.

At the request of Rev. Davis, Erskine Carmichael, presbytery commissioner, reported on the meeting on May 16, 2019, at Living River. He noted that a main portion of the program was provided by African-American members of the presbytery and centered on racial bias, resulting in some cohesiveness of those at the meeting. A major concern presented and discussed involved the current financial status of Living River.

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

Respectfully,

Carroll Barrett, Clerk of Session

Rev. Lant Davis, Moderator