

The Messenger

May 2019

Lant's Lines

• A Message from our Pastor

Lant's Lines

*[Jesus said:] The glory that you [God] have given me I have given them [my followers], so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, **that they may become completely one**, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23 (NRSV)*



Each year Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville together present an author with the Grawemeyer Award in Religion (<http://grawemeyer.org/religion/>), the prize for which is \$100,000. The winning books are selected by a committee comprised of scholars and laypersons, and they are chosen for their insights and also for their accessibility to the general reading public. This year's winner written by Robert P. Jones (CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute) is provocatively entitled *The End of White Christian America* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016). Jones demonstrates that the white, Protestant religious consensus that has guided our nation for 240 years is now waning. For most of our country's history, the cultural identity built primarily by white Protestant Christians "set the tone for our national policy and shaped American ideals. But in recent decades this has changed." For example, there is currently no white Protestant sitting on the United States Supreme Court. Signs of the weakening of this tradition can be seen in its two principal branches—"a mainline Protestant family residing primarily in the Northeast and upper Midwest and an evangelical Protestant family living mostly in the South." The southern branch began to weaken later, but its decline cannot now be ignored.

While the book can make for depressing reading, especially for those of us who celebrate the great cultural contributions of this tradition, it does point to some important facts about our future, among them the importance to our future health of repairing the racial breach in our churches. "To be sure, a move to make White Christian America's boundaries more permeable will leave white Christians vulnerable to uncomfortable conversations and even more difficult actions. Such a choice would require critical self-reflection, humility, and—to use a theological term—repentance. But the payoff would be an enormous boost for white Christians' communal health *and* for the country's overall well-being. While such a shift is difficult, it's not an impossible feat. While today's churches mostly reflect the social segregation of the status quo, some are already pioneering a new kind of Christian community that transcends the color line" (p. 180).

Jones argues hopefully that the church is in the best position of any other cultural institution to bring true racial reconciliation to our country. Integration that begins in the pews can soon carry over into social relationships. Until whites begin to have black friends whom they invite to their homes, etc., and *vice versa*, we are still a divided country.

This coming Sunday our church will have an opportunity to host the Miles College Choir, who will be serving as our choir for the entire worship service. The expenses of hosting them were not in our budget, but the session decided that this important event should go forward anyhow. Those who want to contribute to this event are invited to do so. This is a small step in the direction of racial harmony, but each step is important. I hope we'll make some new friends.

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Living a Friendly Faith
"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

THE STAFF

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	
Rev. Lant B. Davis	Melissa Hall	<i>Boy Scout Troop 320</i>
<i>Director of Music</i>	<i>Financial Assistant</i>	<i>Scoutmaster: Frank Tynes</i>
Dewin Tibbs	Bernie Gregson	<i>Cub Scout Pack 320</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Director of Preschool</i>	<i>Cubmaster: Dave Caskey</i>
Gary Smoke	Mary Liz Ingram	

The governing board of our church is called the "session," and the current members of the session are listed below. Please don't hesitate to communicate with them concerning any matter in the church.

2019	2020	2021
Judi Huddleston	Jill Bonatz	Carroll Barrett
Norton Montague	Alan Speaker	Alex Wellman
Drew Spransy	Dick Trueb	Erskine Carmichael

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Please access the church website at www.mbpcusa.org
to view the church calendar, video of portions of our weekly services, and The Messenger.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			Decorator Show 4:30pm - Endowment 5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk	Decorator Show 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	Van Reservation - Boy Scouts Decorator Show 8am - Body Works	Decorator Show
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Van Reservation - Cinco de Mayo Decorator Show 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship--	8am - Body Works	Decorator Show 8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff 6:30pm - Christian	Decorator Show 5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7:30pm - Chancel	Decorator Show 8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	Van Reservation - Boy Scouts Decorator Show 8am - Body Works	Decorator Show
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Van Reservation - Decorator Show Mother's Day 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship--	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	9am - PEO Meeting 5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works 11am - Living River	8am - Farmer's 2pm - Piano
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship-- 11:15am - Sunday	8am - Body Works	8am - Body Works 9:30am - Prayer 11am - Worship 1pm - Worship Staff	Fellowship Hall used for VBS staging 4:30pm - Property 5pm - Hand Bells 5:30pm - Bible Book 6pm - Dinner 6:30pm - "Let's Talk 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works 6pm - Rehearsal-	8am - Farmer's 12pm - Wedding 4:30pm - Wedding -
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Fellowship Hall used for VBS staging 9:30am - Sunday 10:15am - Chancel 11am - Worship 11:15am - Sunday	Memorial Day 8am - Body Works	Bible Times on Brookwood 8am - Body Works 1pm - Worship Staff	8am - Body Works 5pm - Hand Bells 7:30pm - Chancel	8am - Body Works 10am - Bible Study	8am - Body Works	

Miles College Choir



Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
Sunday May 5, 2019
11:00 A.M.
3405 Brookwood Road

Congratulations to all of our graduating Seniors!

MAY 12, 2018:

DURING 11 O'CLOCK WORSHIP

Senior Recognition
SUNDAY

FOR GRADUATING SENIORS



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

On May 17, 2019, the **Patton Picnic Pavilion** will be dedicated at Living River, and a picnic lunch will be served by Linda and Alan Speaker.

The pavilion is in memory of Ann Dudelston's father. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Mission and Outreach committee. Please contact Melissa Hall with your reservations at church office at (205)967-5037.



Mark your calendars! The Farmers' Market will open Saturday, May 18 thru September 14, from 8:00 am until noon in the MBPC parking lot. Come join us!

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at MBPC



Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church presents...

BIBLE TIMES on **BROOKWOOD**

2018 VBS for ages 4 – 10

Tuesday, May 29 – Friday, June 1

9 a.m. – 12 noon

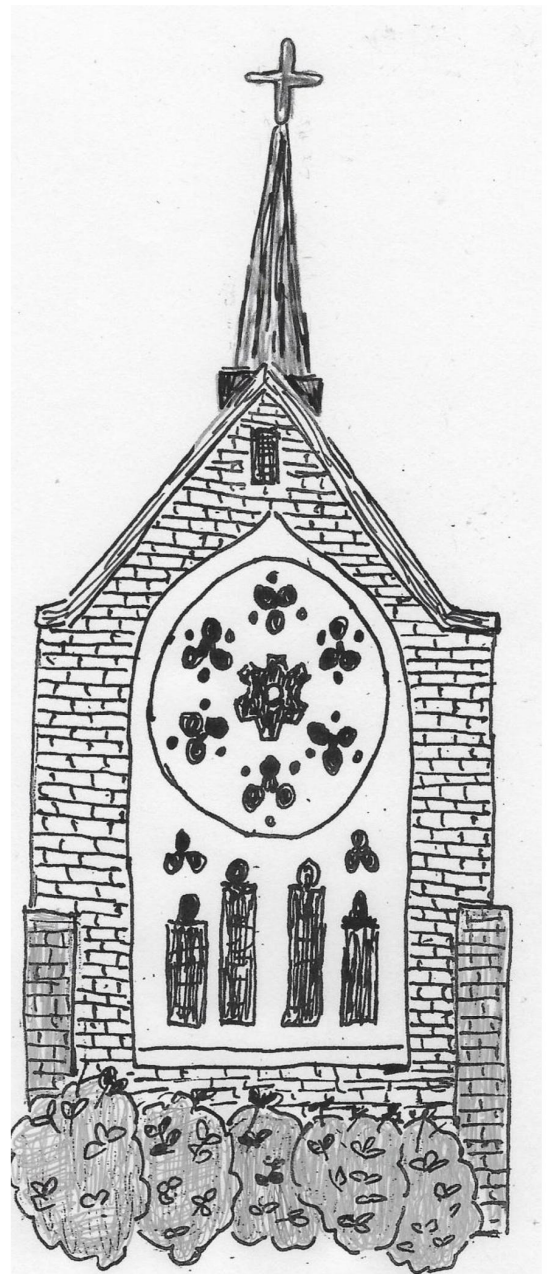
- Go back in time to the ancient Egypt of the pharaohs
- Follow Moses, Joshua, and the Israelite tribes on their journey to God's Promised Land

Registration forms: www.mbpcusa.org

Phone: 205-967-5037

Email: sgregson@mbpcusa.org

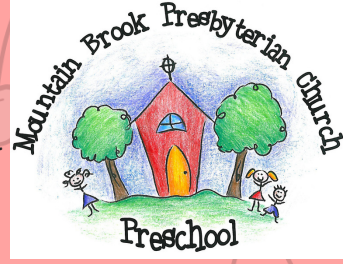
or stop by the church office



Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church † **3405 Brookwood Road, 35223**

Garden Planting Days

We spent two beautiful days enjoying our Five Senses Outdoor Classroom and Community Habitat Garden. We planted vegetable plants and seeds in our teaching garden raised beds, sunflowers by our giant ruler, and perennial flowers in the pollinator beds.



Each age group enjoyed time digging and playing in the Children's Exploration Area, with a sand box, gravel box, fairy garden, dinosaur garden, and lots of garden tools and dirt! Please stop by when you get a chance, and take a peek at the growing plants, the little peaches, apples, blueberries and blackberries.





Please Join Us in Celebration!

Preschool Graduation

Wednesday, May 15th
12:00 in the Sanctuary

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
3405 Brookwood Road
Birmingham, AL 35223



UPCOMING

EVENTS & DEADLINES

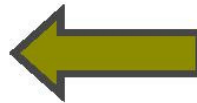
ENC COMMITTEE

Youth Council Applications

Deadline: April 30

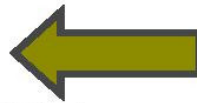
<http://pslpcusa.org/youth-council/>

Betsy Murphy - Bets_southmin@bellsouth.net



Living River Summer Camp Dates

<https://livingriver.campbrainregistration.com/>



June 9 – 14 Elementary, Senior High Work/Mission

June 16 – 21 Explore Elementary and Middle School

June 23 – 26 – Night Owl Middle and Senior High

June 26 – 28 – Mini Camp

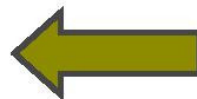
June 28 – 30 - You and Me

July 7 – 12 – Creative Elementary and Middle School

Camp Scholarships –

<http://pslpcusa.org/summer-camp/>

Phyllis Ward (334) 260-0567



YOUTH TRIENNium

– July 16 – 20 –

Registration Deadline:

May 31

Barrett Abernathy,
Presbytery registrar.

pastordba@gmail.com or
(205)-609-8955.





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you have taught me.

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or visit www.pcusa.org/pentecost.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Minutes of the Session Meeting
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church
April 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the session of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Lant Davis, on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the church library with a quorum present. Dick Trueb offered the devotional and opening prayer.

Elders in attendance were Carroll Barrett, Jill Bonatz, Erskine Carmichael, Judi Huddleston, Norton Montague, Alan Speaker, Drew Spransy, and Dick Trueb. Alex Wellman was absent and excused. The agenda was accepted as presented.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the session meeting of March 10, 2019, and of the administrative commission meeting of March 24, 2019, were approved as written. The administrative commission received Jo Edwards into membership by transfer of letter from South Highland Presbyterian Church.

On motion duly made and passed, the session voted to amend a motion previously passed so that the composition of the administrative commission will consist of at least any two session members and the pastor.

Drew Spransy will have the devotional and opening prayer for the May meeting; Alex Wellman will participate with the pastor in home communion May 17; and Erskine Carmichael will attend the presbytery meeting May 16, 2019, at Living River.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Committee

On motion duly made and passed, the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2019, was received. On the recommendation of the finance committee and on motion duly made and passed, the session voted to allow \$100,000 to be transferred from the Regions checking account to a Vanguard short-term, investment-grade bond fund where we hope it will earn approximately 2 ½ per cent interest.

Christian Education Committee

A written report which included plans for Holy Week, a flyer and registration form for Bible Times on Brookwood, and plans for a confirmation class was distributed.

Property Committee

The committee is in process of getting bids from several companies for possible changes in the lease or purchase of a new copy machine. The current contract expires in August, 2019. The session discussed forming a subcommittee to explore the possibility of hiring an outside person to help manage and/or perform property repairs. No action was taken. The movie production company withdrew its request to use the parking lot as a staging area.

Worship Committee

The Lord's Supper was served in the Sunday worship service on April 7, 2019. Extended communion is scheduled to be served on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The Magic City Harvest food drive and the Dannon Project clothing drive continue. On May 17, 2019, the Patton Picnic Pavilion will be dedicated at Living River, and a picnic lunch will be served by Linda and Alan Speaker. The pavilion is in memory of Ann Dudelston's father. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Mission and Outreach committee.

Congregational Care

The Lenten luncheon was enjoyed by many on April 14, 2019.

Preschool Committee

Mary Liz Ingram, director, will present a Minute for Mission about the MBPC preschool during the worship service on Sunday, April 28, 2019. The mobile phone usage policy for preschool employees has been revisited and strengthened.

Moderator's Report

Rev. Davis will be in Louisville from April 23-28, 2019, for the spring board meeting and inauguration of the new president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Connor McCraney will lead worship and preach on April 28. The session encouraged Rev. Davis to have a pulpit supply for May 12, 2019, and also changed its May meeting to May 19, 2019, since Amanda Davis will have surgery on May 10, 2019. The session was reminded that the Miles College Choir will provide musical leadership for the service on May 5, 2019. They will stay after for a luncheon served by the MBPC choir members. There being no further business, Rev. Davis adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully,

Carroll Barrett, Clerk of Session

Rev. Lant Davis, Moderator