

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (silent prayer)

Your steadfast love endures forever, O God; your name is heralded throughout the land. Songs of rejoicing are heard in your sanctuary as hymns of praise proceed from our mouths. You fill your people with the gift of your Holy Spirit; you send forth a Savior with the promise of new life. You are our God, and great are your wonderful deeds. We worship you now in great adoration. Amen.

Worship begins with the chiming of the hour.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

As the session gathers at the chancel steps to pray for our worship, we invite you to join us in prayer.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland J. S. Bach

* INTROIT

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts Saint-Saens

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lloyd Gathings

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

People: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."

People: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

Leader: Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Sarah and Bonnie Hartley

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You send forth your Spirit, yet we ignore your counsel. Christ dwells among us, yet we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Angels herald good tidings, yet we commit evil deeds. Forgive our deliberate and indirect misuse of your graciousness, and make us worthy to receive Christ in our lives. Hear now our silent confession.

(A time of private confession.)

Amen.

KYRIE (sung in unison)

Organ Congregation G. R. Smoke
Lord, have mer - cy up -
on - us. Christ have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* GLORIA (sing refrain of Hymn 23)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

**The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

* HYMN 38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

ANTHEM

The Little Road to Bethlehem Head
Lesley Nichols, soprano

THE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

(p. 887)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Ready for a Miracle?

Cary Speaker

✠ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed (traditional)

Hymnal p. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Offertory Statement

Offertory *Magnificat* Friedell

* Doxology Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

✠ SENDING ✠

* HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* RESPONSE

Nunc Dimittis Friedell

POSTLUDE

Toccata Pachelbel

*Those who are able, please stand.
The Congregation stands with the choir.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ❖ Harriet Anne Menzel
- ❖ Emil Menzel
- ❖ Calvin Long
- ❖ Lamar Osment
- ❖ Jane Long
- ❖ Jon Horton
- ❖ Dot Clark

Christian sympathy to Traci Finch for the loss of her grandfather.

Christian sympathy to Ray Swords on the death of his wife, and Margaret Semmes for the loss of her mother, Louise Swords.

If you have requests for prayer for the Prayer Team or the congregation, please fill out the pew card and place it in the offering plate or call Mary Frances Whitmer (663-6813) or the Church Office (967-5037).

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Presented by the Children of
Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

Narrators..... Candler Brown and Averie Plugge
Mary Arden Plugge
Joseph..... George Terry
Angel Gabriel Zoie Terry
Innkeepers Joe Eshleman, Heath Eshleman,
Ryan Eshleman
Speaking Angels..... Shelby Howard, Sedona Segars,
Ella Speaker
Speaking Shepherds Ethan Clark, Ralph Cook,
Rob Gunn, Jack Howard
Shepherd Boys Ben Brown, Miles Plugge,
Liam Skates, Charlie Wellman
Little Angels and Animals Daniel Carter,
Savannah Moran, Adair Plugge,
Silas Segars, Evy Skates, Mindy Skates

Music Selections: *Silent Night* Traditional
Away in a Manger Murray

Accompanist..... Jill Bonatz
Costumes, Props, & Technical Coordinator.... Alisa Long
Dir. of Children's Music Ministry..... Peggy Thompson

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Nursery is provided for birth to age 3 from 9:30 - 12

Children's Sunday School

There is no 9:30 Sunday school class for children

2 and 3 Year Old Class 11:00-Noon

This new class uses curriculum based on Godly Play by Jerome Berryman, but written specifically for our MBPC children. This class meets in Room 109 next to the Nursery.

Step x Step Kids Learn 2 Live B.I.G.* 11:15-12-15

Following the Passing of the Peace in the worship service, children age 4 through grade 6 are invited to leave with their teachers for Sunday school. (*On the first Sunday of each month, there is no Sunday School for age 4 through grade 6.* Families are encouraged to worship together and join in the celebration of communion.)

Age 4 through Grade 2 meet in Room 201 St. Stephen
Grades 3 through 6 meet in Room 208 St. Stephen

**Live B.I.G.* curriculum helps children see, hear and live their Belief In God.

parenTeen Sunday School 9:30-10:30

This class for youth (grades 7-12) and their parents meets in the St. Stephen Youth Room. Parents and their teens get to discuss and learn together in a friendly setting. The curriculum (*BLAY* — Bible Lessons for Youth) focuses on how Scripture relates to our lives and covers the entire Bible in six years. The teachers are Ralph Cook, Traci Finch, Ev Gunn, and Rosh Plugge.

Adult Sunday School 9:30-10:30

The *Adventure Class* led by Larry Harper meets in the Reception Room. They are studying the book of Genesis. They are using *The Mighty Acts of God* by Arnold Rhodes as a resource, but go into more detail in their study.

The *Other Class* meets in the Pastor's Classroom in the Administration Building and is led by Rev. Cary Speaker. This class is studying *Year of Plenty: One Suburban Family, Four Rules, and 365 Days of Homegrown Adventure in Pursuit of Christian Living* by Craig L. Goodwin. In 2008, Pastor Craig Goodwin and his young family embarked on a year-long experiment to consume only what was local, used, homegrown, or homemade. In Year of Plenty, Goodwin shares the winsome story of how an average suburban family stumbled onto the cultural cutting edge of locavores, backyard chickens, farmer markets, simple living, and going green. More than that, it is the timely tale of Christians exploring the intersections of faith, environment, and everyday life.

We welcome visitors who are worshipping with us today. We hope you feel and experience the love that makes Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church a unique and warm Christian family. If you are seeking a church home and would like to follow Jesus Christ through the fellowship of this congregation, we invite you to membership. For more information please speak with our pastor after worship or call the church office 967-5037.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 18– 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Sunday School – Adults and Youth
11:00 am Worship – Christmas Pageant
12:00 pm MBPCY...G Lunch and Caroling

Monday, December 19

8:00 am Body Works
9:00 am Preschool Jolly Days

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am Body Works
9:00 am Preschool Jolly Days

Wednesday, December 21

12:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday dinner & classes resume
Wednesday, January 11, 2012

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

8:00 am Body Works
6:00 pm AA Meeting

Friday, December 23

8:00 am Body Works

Saturday, December 24

**5:00 pm Service of Lessons & Carols,
Communion & Candle light**

Sunday, December 25– CHRISTMAS DAY!

No Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

December Ushers

Michael Melvin, head
Kathryn Barr
Mark Clark
Ev Gunn
(Alt) Charles Foster



Please recycle your bulletin,
use the baskets in the narthex.

The Worship Committee is searching for anyone interested in the liturgist's position in January. Please contact the church office by December 23.

THE STAFF

Pastor:

Cary Speaker

Director of Music:

Dewin Tibbs

Organist:

Gary Smoke

Director of Christian Education & Children's Music:

Peggy Thompson

Director of Youth Ministry:

Traci Finch

Administrative Assistant:

Bonnie Hartley

Financial Assistant:

Bernie Gregson

Preschool Director:

Kelly Huddleston

THE SESSION

2011

Tom Barr
Katherine Brown
David Copeland
Ann Dudelston
Kelli Eshleman
Nancy Harper

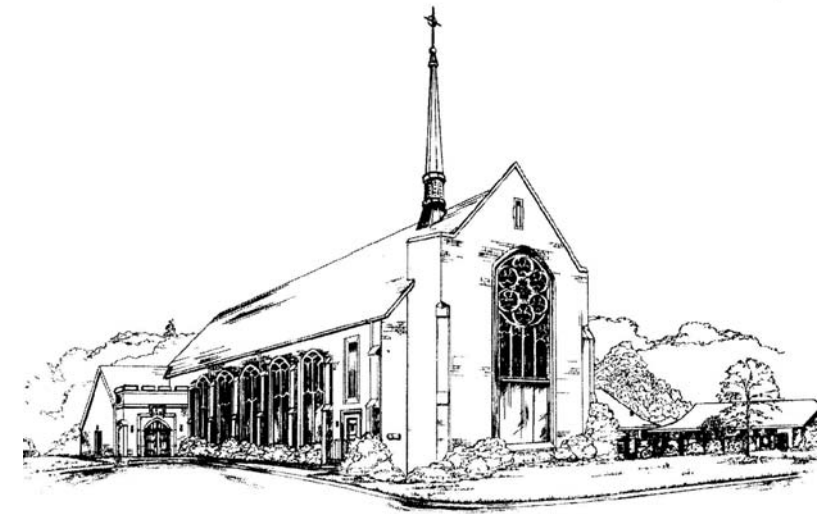
2012

Suzanne Cook
Lloyd Gathings
Bill Hester
Dot McCraney
Charles McKell
Michael Melvin

2013

Joseph Bonatz
Margaret Nichols
Donna Speaker
Drew Spransy
Mike Terry

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Our Mission

*We are a congregation filled with Christ's love,
nurturing and serving from God's abundance.*

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