

THE MONTE VISTAN

NEWSLETTER OF MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH / MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

FINDING OUR NICHE

Someone recently reminded me that McDonalds is known for its hamburgers and fries, Chick-fil-A for its chicken nuggets and waffle fries, and Arby's for its roast beef and curly fries. None of them try to be like the other. They know who they are and it guides everything they do.

When we forget who we are, we wander aimlessly grabbing for anything. The pressure to be like other churches (especially the ones with many participants) which is always present, grows even stronger.

When we look at who God has brought together in this congregation and the uniqueness of this group, we discover an identity as family. Many will tell you that the relationships they have formed here have been as deep and sustaining as the ones with their biological family, sometimes even more meaningful. Sitting around our table is the unconditional love and wisdom of a grandparent, the shaping influence of a parent, the adventuresome spirit of youth who believe anything is possible, the inquisitiveness of children who see the world through the lens of innocence, the loyalty of best friend, and empty chairs reserved for additional family members we have yet to meet.

With identity comes our mission. For us, it is to help people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We introduce people to Jesus Christ and walk together as we all become like him.

So, now where is God taking us? I have shared on several occasions my sense that God is leading us to be bridge builders, extending a hand to people on the other side who may be very different from ourselves. One of those gaps is generational. As we seek to be stronger in our intergenerational relationships, it means we need to know and understand one another, how we think and make decisions, what we value, how we view the world, and how we relate to God. It is a two-way street as we connect with those who are older or younger than ourselves.

This year we are going to be asking four questions of ourselves. Is this a place where:

- Radical hospitality is practiced in such a way that people know they are welcome just as they are?
- Fearless conversations are entered with all thoughts, doubts, and questions welcome?
- Genuine humility is displayed as we put Jesus Christ and others first?
- Anticipating God's presence and power daily leads to connecting with him in fresh ways?

Early in 2017, we have several opportunities to build bridges across generational gaps. On **Wednesday evenings in January**, we are launching conversations based loosely on Adam Hamilton's book, "When Christians Get It Wrong." We want to understand what the church has done to alienate young adults from the church. A quick preview of a few of the things to come: Jessica Stollings, President of ReGenerations, will present **a one-day session in the spring** to help us understand generational differences; **a multi-generational mission experience in June** is planned to assist families who lost their homes in the Gatlinburg fire; and the people leading aspects of our worship experiences will reflect the diversity of our church family.

A congregation like this is not for everybody, yet everyone is welcome. We are looking for people who are being led by God to be part of such a congregation, people who will invest, sacrifice, grow, and learn.

Jerry Mantooth

WHEN CHRISTIANS GET IT WRONG

Wednesday 6:00 PM

Starting January 4

Room: 351

A conversation about the attitudes and behaviors of some Christians that young adults have found alienating.

Topics include:

Science

Politics

Other Religions

Tragedy

Sexuality

Discover how "Christians Can Get It Right."

JOURNEY GROUPS? RESTARTS? WHAT'S THIS?

Monte Vista has a small group ministry called Journey Groups where people can experience spiritual growth through close-knit relationships with others in an informal, convenient environment. Each group of 10 people or less comes together on a regular basis of their choosing to study, share and support one another as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

This ministry began in 2006 and is being revitalized as we move forward a decade later. You will soon have an opportunity to express your interest in joining or forming such a group as the church begins a new year. Watch for further announcements and a sign-up opportunity in January.



MV KIDS

Upcoming Events: Mark Your 2017 Calendars

January 13 Preteen Lock-In

February 17 Grades 2-6 Sleep with the Sharks at Ripley's Aquarium.

June 25-29 Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule for Grades 1-6

January 1 Worship in the sanctuary

January 8 Begin worship time in the sanctuary until dismissed to children's worship in Kid's Crossing. This is led by Bobby Whedbee, Ken Strickland, and Holly Phillips.

January 15 Begin worship time in the sanctuary until dismissed to children's worship led by Lee Ann Bland and the Monte Vista Youth.

January 22 & 29 Begin worship time in the sanctuary until dismissed to children's worship in Kid's Crossing. This is led by Bobby Whedbee, Ken Strickland, and Holly Phillips.

Wednesday Night Kid's Club for Christ: 6:00-7:00pm for 3 years old – 6th grade.

RACE DIRECTOR NEEDED FOR RUN

The annual Resurrection Run will be Saturday, April 15, 2017 will be Monte Vista's 6th year to host this Saturday-

Monte Vista
RESURRECTION RUN
5K

before-Easter event. The run has raised over \$80,000 in those six years. Our 2017 goal is to raise at least \$20,000 to reach a goal of \$100,000. All proceeds go to support Family Promise of Blount County, a program for homeless families in our area.

Chuck Blair, who has served well as race director, is ready to step down after five years of service. He has put together a detailed, step-by-step organizational manual for the race.

The job description is to provide overall leadership at meetings and insure pre-race and race day objectives are met. Members of the race team have done this so often that other than reporting progress, little oversight is required. During the transition for Resurrection Run 2017, Chuck is willing to share co-leadership with the new director.

The Resurrection Run has become an exceptional community outreach for MVBC and an essential fund-raiser for Family Promise. If interested in serving as race director, or if you need more information, contact Jerry Mantoath, Chuck Blair or Dennis Ridley.

JANUARY DOLLARS IN THE PEW

Your dollars left in the pew during January will help the Blount County Emergency Housing Program provide short-term housing for homeless individuals and families in our county this winter. These funds cover the first 48 hours when a homeless person comes for help. They are immediately assigned to a case manager from the Helen Ross McNabb Center who evaluates their situation and assists them in finding transitional housing with programs such as Family Promise, True Purpose, Heaven Sent Home or Haven House.

PrimeTime Seniors

Let's do lunch and a movie!

Date: Tuesday, January 10

Time: Noon

Place: Fellowship Hall

Covered Dish Lunch: Bring your favorite dish and bring a friend along

Program: Socialize and catch up on all our holiday news and then enjoy a DVD showing of **War Room**, a film with a Christian-focus, for those who would like to stay. Popcorn and soft drinks provided. No charge.

MV STUDENTS

MVS Wednesday evenings, with dinner at 6:30pm followed by music, study and discussion, return on **January 4**. During January, we will travel through a study by Eric Mason titled: Decisions.

In this Bible study, Eric Mason encourages students to make every decision out of a worldview shaped by God's Word and centered around our Savior, Jesus. Eric calls teens to abandon the idea that choices made in youth are temporary and meaningless and, instead, to make decisions now that will impact both their lives and God's Kingdom for eternity.

I hope you will make plans to join us each Wednesday evening.

January 20-22 will be the annual ski-trip to Sugar Mountain in North Carolina. We will leave Friday evening, ski/snowboard Saturday and Sunday and then return Sunday evening. For more information on costs, how to sign up, etc. please contact Chris.

Also in January, you are invited to start your day together at Hardee's on **January 19** at 7:10am and serve our community at the Welcome Table on **January 24** at New Providence beginning at 4:30pm.

Looking ahead, please check your calendar and make plans to go on mission in early June to help our neighbors in the Gatlinburg area as we join together as a church family to assist with rebuilding efforts. More details coming soon.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 7

8:00am in Fellowship Hall

Pancakes, bacon and the fixings

Special guest: Paul Priest, with John 316, a non-profit organization that seeks to share God's amazing love by serving those in need in our community and around the world.

Monte Vista partners with John 316.

