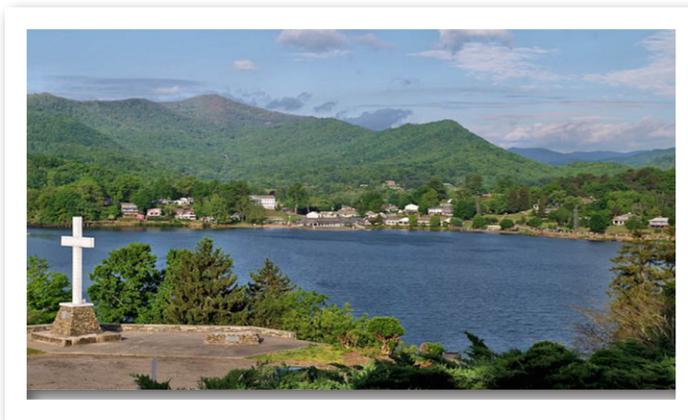


THE MONTE VISTAN

NEWSLETTER OF MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH / MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

IT IS TIME TO GET AWAY!

If the rush of December has left you exhausted; if you have been paying attention to other people for so long you have neglected yourself; if you feel like you have hit a dead end spiritually; or if you simply want to take the next step in your spiritual journey – then sign up now for our Spiritual Retreat at Lake Junaluska Retreat Center near Waynesville, NC.



The retreat is February 9-11. It starts with dinner on Friday and ends before lunch on Sunday. It includes group sessions, time for personal reflection, free time to visit Waynesville or Asheville, worship, and some fun activities. The cost is \$150 per person, (includes two nights lodging and 5 meals). We only have 20 rooms available, so sign up in the church office with a \$25 deposit ASAP.

Our theme is “Growing Like Jesus.” Jesus visited the Temple when he was twelve-years-old. As he and his family were leaving Jerusalem, Luke tells us, “As Jesus grew, he increased in wisdom and in favor with God and with people” (Luke 2). Wouldn’t you like to know what he did during those years that enabled him to increase in wisdom and favor with God? We are going to explore those practices and learn how to include them in our own lives.

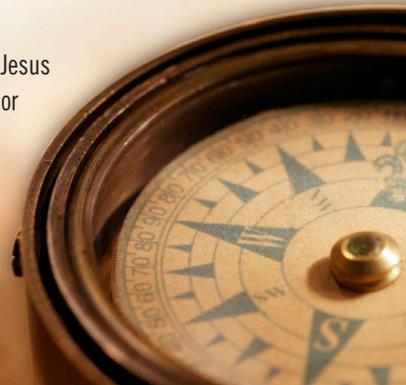
Our retreat leader is Rick Bennett, Field Coordinator for Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Rick is a popular retreat leader in developing the spiritual part of our lives. The depth of his own spiritual life, his practice of prayer and pastoral wisdom shape his character and guide his work. You will learn, grow, have fun, and be blessed.

EXPLORE: PORTRAITS OF JESUS

Do you ever wonder what Jesus really looked like? Over the centuries there have been many attempts. A statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd stands in a cemetery. A church stained-glass window depicts Jesus standing on a hillside preaching. A painting in the Sistine Chapel portrays Jesus as a returning victorious judge calling the saints to come home. These pictures of Jesus are presented by artists who lived centuries after Jesus died.

There are no portraits, carvings, statues, or stained glass from his first-century contemporaries. If we want to know what Jesus looked like, we turn to the gospel writers and their communities of faith. Their portraits of Jesus have little to do with the color of his hair, the dimensions of his chin, or his height. They left a living art gallery through stories, conversations, and their recollections of him. Each of us present portraits of Jesus colored by our politics, lifestyle, choices, and experiences.

In January, we invite you to “EXPLORE: Portraits of Jesus.” It is a fresh look at the church’s first portraits of Jesus. We will attempt to understand how each gospel writer portrayed Jesus and if it changes how we see him today. This class is designed for people who want to go deeper in their understanding of Jesus. It is a safe place to ask hard questions. Every opinion is welcome. All people are respected. **EXPLORE meets on Wednesday evening in room 240 at 6:00 PM.**



BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

We are nearing the end of the behind-the-scenes work. Within the next few weeks the facilities will begin to come together and be ready to use. The contractor is predicting a finish date in early February. Here are some things that have been completed and/or still in progress:

- Concrete has been poured for stairwells and landings
- Elevator is on-site and ready to be constructed
- Outside of building pressure-washed
- New windows installed
- HVAC installed and working
- Center stairs removed, filled, and are being plumbed for restrooms
- Kitchen hood, floor, and fire-protected walls installed
- Doors are being framed
- Wiring for audio/visual being installed

Thank you for your continued prayer, interest, and support. Prior to Christmas, we had received \$122,521 during 2017. We will pay interest only for the next two years before creating a loan payment that will include principle and interest. The more we can pay toward the principle now, reduces the amount of our final loan in two years. Every gift you give helps lessen our indebtedness.

WELCOME NEW PARTNER

Mary Hicks

Mary lived in upstate New York and Florida before moving to Tennessee. She has a son, two daughters and five grandchildren. Mary is a horse-lover and has been involved in hippotherapy which is the use of horseback riding as a therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment, especially as a means of improving coordination, balance, and strength. Other interests include antiques, museums, music, plays, teaching and flowers.

Mary says, "Everyone at Monte Vista has made me feel at home. The people are wonderful, and the services are inspirational."



RESURRECTION RUN 5K

Mark your calendars for our next Resurrection Run on March 31, 2018. This spring will be our 7th Run to benefit Family Promise of Blount County. Volunteers will be needed to help with registration and course monitoring. Online registration begins on January 1. Go to <https://runsignup.com/race/tn/maryville/resurrectionrun>.

SCRAPBOOKING HELP

During the months of January and February, volunteers will be on hand every Friday from 9 am until 12 noon to help you sort and compile your photographs into keepsake albums. We'll have all the supplies on hand, just bring your photos and reserve your spot by calling Annie Johnson at (865) 724-5158. A \$10 fee per album will cover the cost of scrapbooks and materials.

MV KIDS

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

We spend this time learning about God's word. We also use this time to concentrate on mission opportunities. Resumes January 3.

Upcoming Events:

January 12-13, Preteen Lock-In, 6:00pm to 9:00am

March 24, 2:00-4:00 Easter Event and Egg Hunt

May 4, Children's Spring Slumber Party for 1st – 6th Grades

MVS JANUARY 2018

MVS Wednesday evening activities return on January 3, 2018. In January, we begin a new series called *Jesus Changes Everything* by Nick Hall. The study will focus on how a relationship with Jesus changes everything—our identity, relationships, habits, and mission. Students will be challenged to allow Jesus to transform every aspect of their lives. Wednesday evenings begin with dinner at 6:30pm on the third floor.

January 19 – 20, MVS will travel to Boone, NC for our annual ski trip to Sugar Mountain. This is a wonderful group-building event that includes first time skiers and those who look to tackle something more adventurous. The cost, which includes lift tickets, equipment rental, and 2 nights lodging with breakfast, is \$240 for skiers and \$260 for snowboarders. A \$100 deposit is due January 7. Sign up now by emailing chris@montevistamaryville.com.

As we begin this new year, we are already looking ahead to summer. Save the following dates on your calendar:

Student Leadership University in Orlando for Juniors and Seniors, June 18-22, 2018.

Fuge Camp at Ridgecrest for all students July 6- 10, 2018.

More details coming soon.

JESUS AND RACE FORUM

Sponsored by Blount United Faith Committee

Saturday, January 6

11:00am to 1:00pm

New Providence Presbyterian Church (Lunch provided)

Featuring personal sharing and reflections from area clergy along with opportunities for conversation.

JANUARY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 6, 8:00am

MVBC, Kids Crossing

Pancakes and Bacon