

MCLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Mission and Vision:

Mission

Seeking to be a loving and inclusive community that celebrates Christ through worship and service to our world.

Vision

- **Moderate Baptists:** We are a people united by our confession of Christ as our Lord and Savior and believe that each of us is responsible for our own relationship with God. We will promote diversity and inclusiveness in our church community. We will respect our differences and see them as opportunities for growth and maturation. Our diversity of thought is a strength of our church. Our spiritual leaders will continue to lead us in developing and focusing on opportunities to address conflicts in a positive and constructive manner.
- **Worship:** We believe that worship is foundational to the identity of the church and exists for the glory of God and the spiritual nourishment of God's people. Excellence in worship is our standard. Sermons, prayers and music work together to educate, challenge and inspire in a unified and cohesive experience. We will offer multiple opportunities and styles that foster an intimate connection to God.
- **Christian Education:** We value maintaining strong ties to scripture and providing stimulating content with new ideas. We will have a comprehensive and cohesive Biblically-based, spiritual formation ministry for all life stages that employs various methods and approaches to nurture the faith development of our diverse congregation.
- **Missions:** We believe in sharing the Gospel through serving others. We continue to express our faith with active hands-on involvement in a variety of mission programs. Corporately we will support a select number of core projects, chosen through a disciplined process for prioritizing opportunities.
- **Fellowship:** We highly value fellowship and believe it is essential to the health and growth of our church. Our ministers lead us in developing our

responsibility for providing care for each other and our community. We will all make newcomers and members alike feel welcome and included in our church family by improving our outreach and communications.

Based on definitions provided by the Center for Congregational Health, the Mission describes why McLean Baptist Church exists. The Vision describes what McLean Baptist Church aims to accomplish in the next 1-3 years towards satisfying our Mission.

Our history

The Baptists of Northern Virginia trace their beginnings to the mid-18th century when Northern Virginia was almost entirely rural and McLean didn't exist. By 1906 local Baptists were meeting in homes and in a one-room schoolhouse on the Georgetown Pike. In late 1916, they joined together to start an afternoon Sunday school, which soon developed into McLean Baptist Church and on February 28, 1917 the church was officially established.



World War II brought an influx of new residents to the Washington area. Between 1940 and 1950, MBC's membership doubled, and the church outgrew its small building. Groundbreaking for a new church building on Calder Road occurred in October 1952, and with the new facilities came an enlarged church staff and expanded programs.

For most of its first half-century, McLean Baptist Church remained a small-town congregation and was led by a succession of pastors, each serving between one and four years. MBC's second half-century, however, was marked by the leadership of two long-tenured pastors, Rev. Tom Jackson, who served from 1965 until 1986, and Rev. Michael Catlett, serving from 1990 until 2012.



During this period new programs were added to meet the needs of the church's growing congregation. MBC also began to play a greater role in the McLean community by starting to address local needs. Most notably, Share, Inc., an ecumenical community service organization, was begun in 1969. Primarily housed at MBC, Share continues to provide food, clothing, furniture, transportation and financial assistance to those in need.



The 1960s and '70s saw increased growth for the church, with membership surpassing 500. This led to yet another building campaign beginning in 1983 and the dedication of the enlarged and refurbished facilities in June 1988.

MBC first ordained women as deacons in the 1970s and hired its first woman minister in the 1980s. In 2000, the church formally withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention, in large

part as official affirmation of women in ministerial and leadership roles. MBC views itself as a moderate Baptist church that confesses Christ as our Lord and Savior and, in so doing, seeks to be a loving and inclusive community through worship and service to our world.

McLean Baptist Church's first one hundred years have seen growth in membership, discipleship, ministries and missions. But MBC now faces new challenges as it enters its second century. How can we identify and meet the needs of our congregation as well as those others who live in our area? What can we do and what should we do to advance the Kingdom of God in Virginia and around the world? Our history tells us that we can rise to these challenges. And our Savior commands us to do so.

Like any other faith community in the 21st century, we face challenges, such as:

- How do we leverage our facility?
- How do we keep our traditions and remain relevant in a changing world?
- How do we grow membership from our immediate community?

More about McLean Baptist's history can be found on [our web site](#).

Our community

McLean

McLean, an unincorporated suburb of Washington, D.C., is located in Fairfax County, Virginia. McLean Baptist Church (MBC) sits at the corner of Brawner Street and Chain Bridge Road, at the eastern edge of McLean's small downtown business district. The District of Columbia is 10 miles to the east and Tysons Corner Center is 3.5 miles to the west. A residential neighborhood lies immediately east of the church.

In 2015, the estimated population within a 2-mile radius of the church was 34,085. That population consisted of 12,762 households with an average household size of 2.66 and a median household income of \$166,275. The median age of residents was 45.1, with 27.2% of the residents younger than 20 and 31.10% older than 54. Slightly more than 74% of residents identify as white and 14.4 identify as Asian.

There are at least 20 houses of worship in the immediate vicinity of MBC. Among the faiths and denominations represented are Jewish, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic, Muslim, and Society of Friends (Quakers).

Development in the McLean area

McLean has seen a surge in more urban-style residential development that has occurred nationally in recent years, despite the community's longtime resistance to allowing more dense residential "multifamily" planning. Within the last decade, two luxury condominium projects geared toward the wealthy "empty-nester" market have opened within a mile of the church. A mixed-use development featuring 123 luxury condominiums is scheduled to open within a walkable half-mile of MBC in 2018.

Tysons, less than 5 miles from the church, is a major source of residential growth. Already the county's densest central business district, 25,000 new residential units, most of them apartments, are either currently under construction or in the immediate development pipeline. Once these developments are completed, it is expected that Tysons will grow from its current population of 21,000 to a population of 65,000. Tyson's Corner Center is a mall with 300+ stores and 2 million square feet of fashion, dining and entertainment. Tysons II (also known as the Galleria) is near Tyson's Corner Center, and it provides a smaller, more upscale shopping experience. Tysons residents looking to attend church must look to neighboring communities, as Tysons has no church or faith community of any kind.

Fairfax County Schools

Fairfax County has excellent public and private schools. As the 10th largest school division in the United States, Fairfax County Public Schools serve a diverse student population of more than 188,000 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade. More than 52,000 (28% of total population) of those students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals; more than 28,000 (17% of total population) receive English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) services and more than 25,000 (13% of total population) receive special education services. Demographically, 40% of FCPS students are white, 24% are Hispanic, 19% are Asian American, 10% are African American, and 5% are multiracial. McLean Baptist's children and youth attend schools in several areas of Fairfax County, in several neighboring Virginia school districts, and also in Washington and Maryland. McLean High School and Langley High School are

local public high schools within 1.5 miles of MBC. Marshall High School is 3.8 miles away.

Diversity in Fairfax County

The number of persons speaking a language other than English at home is approximately 36.4% of the county's population. Compare that to less than 11% of residents that spoke a language other than English at home in 1980 and one can see the growth of the international community locally. The most frequently spoken languages, other than English, include Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese. MBC has an extensive ministry with internationals, focusing primarily on English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).

Our Church

For most of the year members of McLean Baptist have two opportunities to worship each Sunday: 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning Education classes for all ages begin at 9:45 a.m. During the month of August (and for the first time in 2017 during July as well), Sunday education classes begin at 9 a.m. and are followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.



Average Sunday morning worship attendance:

2016: 163

2017 through June: 163

Average Sunday morning education attendance:

2016: adult-64, youth-12, children-18

2017 through June: adult-58, youth-11, children-15

In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship, a monthly Taize worship service is offered on Wednesday evenings. We also offer a Wednesday morning women's Bible study and Wednesday evening fellowship meals followed by a program. Regular activities throughout the year include a monthly Ladies Dinner Out, a quarterly Men's Prayer Breakfast, regular Food, Faith, and Fellowship gatherings in homes through the summer (where speakers address various interesting and provocative topics), annual men's and women's retreats, and special programs and services during Advent and

Lent. Music plays a large role in MBC and the church hosts periodic concerts with our extended community.

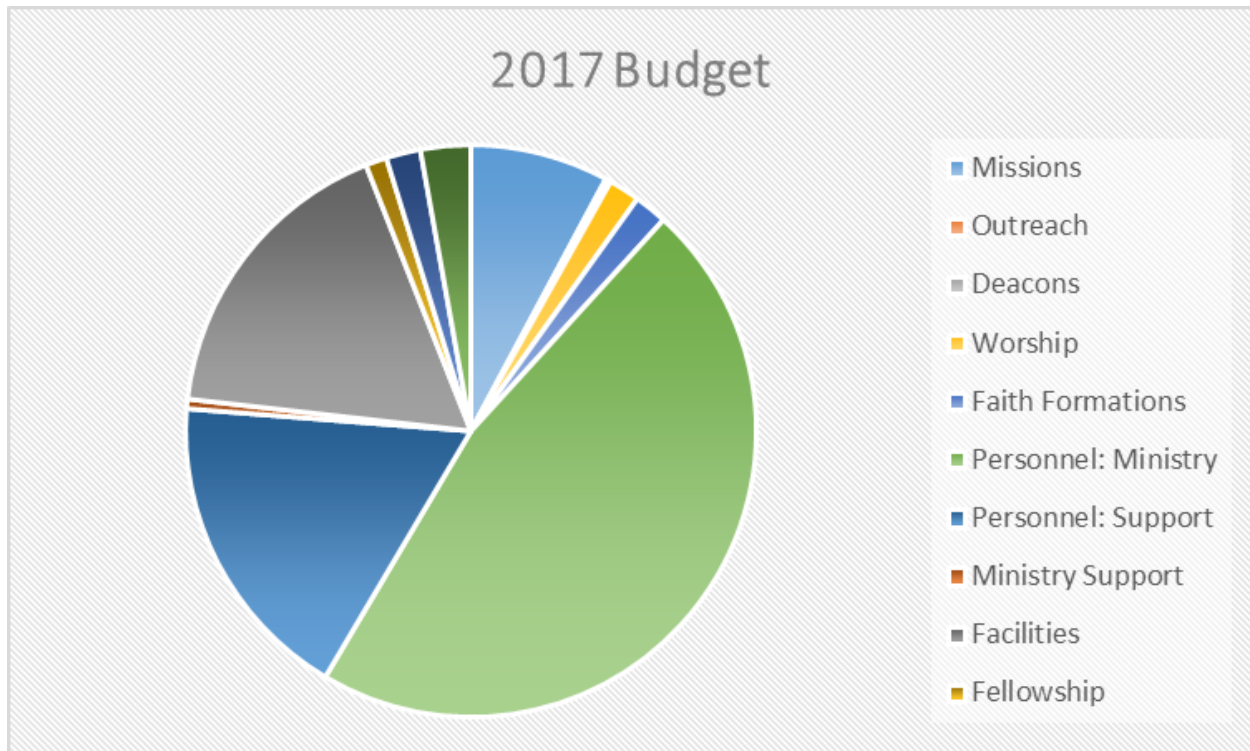
MBC offers a well-rounded program of spiritual formation for children and youth. Special programs, retreats and camping experiences provide multiple opportunities for our children and youth to grow in their love for God and each other. Nursery for small children is available on Sunday mornings and during other large events. The MBC youth group convenes on an almost weekly basis outside of Sunday morning worship and education. Mission project engagement is an important part of our youth programming.

Our members live over an unusually wide geographic area for a church our size. Principal cities are McLean, Falls Church, Arlington, Great Falls, Reston, and Vienna. Members also live in Washington, DC, Sterling, Alexandria, and a number of other cities in Virginia and Maryland, and as a result participate in different local state, county, and city programs as well as local special events, school and community programs. This geographic dispersal says a lot about our members' faithfulness and commitment to McLean Baptist Church. However this diversity also presents an ongoing challenge regarding church programming and predictable attendance at meetings and events other than Sunday worship services. Less than one third of our membership live in the town of McLean.

We currently have an active membership that is less than 300 members. We also have some non-members attending who are active. The largest percentage population in the church are members greater than 55 years of age. Families and even multi-generational families are reflected in the active membership. Families with young children are fewer today than in past years. We have added professional staff to help grow and support this segment of the church body. Single, divorced, or widowed females are a significant portion of the total households in the congregation's membership.

Sunday morning attendance for the past four years has been in the range of 155-175. This is down nearly 20% from the previous four year period. During the years 2000-2005, worship attendance was more typically 250. While this may reflect broader societal issues and trends, it is a concern for our church leadership and current members. Turning around this trend will require thoughtful plans and commitment by our professional staff and all church members. The general population in the McLean/Tysons/Washington metropolitan area is still growing and there are many opportunities for outreach within the immediate radius of our church's location in Northern Virginia.

The 2017 budget for McLean Baptist Church is \$793,374. (See chart below). In addition to the unified budget, MBC gives generously to various ministries and mission projects throughout the year. The giving includes significant hands-on involvement in many of these efforts both local and international.



McLean Baptist Facilities Strategy

A task force was established by the Church Leadership Council (CLC) after the Vision Task Force recommended a detailed review be undertaken regarding the church facility and future facility options.

In 2016, the Facilities Strategy Committee recommended the following:

- **Repair and Refresh the existing facility**

The CLC and its Facilities and Finance Councils should take immediate action to maintain and improve our existing building. The CLC agreed and \$300K was authorized for that purpose, and the identified repairs and upgrades have now been completed.

- **Explore options for a new or substantially remodeled building and for managing the facility**

The church should develop a facilities renovation/replacement plan in the near future. Two options are available: (1) start a capital campaign with a view toward renovating our existing building (estimated total costs \$7M-10M), or (2) seek out partners who would develop the property and construct a new church building as part of a mixed-use complex, taking advantage of our extraordinary location and economic value in the heart of McLean (estimated costs <\$0.5M).

These two options and any major decisions have been delayed by the CLC to a future time. The Facilities Strategy Committee is planning to reconvene sometime in 2017. This topic will be one of the issues that a new Senior Pastor and staff will be engaged in with the MBC congregation.

Leadership

Staff

Our staff includes:

- Intentional Interim Minister Layne Smith
- Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach Katie Morgan-Harper
- Minister to Youth and Young Adults Megan Thomas-Clapp
- Minister of Music Ray White
- Ministry Assistant Suellen Skocki
- Business Manager Al Malayeri
- Organist Soo Young Jung
- Joyful Noise Handbell Choir Director Ingrid Bowers

Lay Leadership

Our Church Leadership Council (CLC) is designated under the By-laws as the key decision-making body for the church. CLC coordinates the church calendar, develops strategic plans for the church, coordinates the development of church policy, monitors the broad scale of balance program needs with financial capability and reviews recommendations that are to be presented to the church. Our Deacons work closely with the ministerial staff and the various church councils in the spiritual leadership of the church.

Our recently completed governance review process confirmed our current structure, and recommended implementation of a gifts-based ministry program. That work has begun.

Connections

McLean Baptist Church currently has formal connections to more than 22 organizations which have developed over many years. They all deserve support and have been important in the church's history, but they also should be subject to regular review. The connections are local, regional and global. A church our size is challenged to maintain meaningful relationships with so many distinct organizations.

The Interim Steering Team recommended to Church Leadership Council and Missions Council a narrowing of our current connections from 22 to 12 as an initial starting point. The IST is hopeful that these steps can be achieved before the arrival of a new Senior Pastor.

The Interim Steering Team assessed our major connections and concluded that steps can be taken to achieve these goals for both denomination and mission categories. The IST took into account: (a) current staff support, (b) member involvement, (c) facility availability (in some cases), (d) communication in worship services, and (e) financial commitments. The IST recommendations have been given to Missions and the CLC.

In 2016, in excess of \$110,000 was given by McLean Baptist Church to these connections. Significant individual giving is also provided to some of these same 22 organizations beyond this church-sponsored level. Time and talent are also dedicated to many of these connections.

Our current Connections are:

MBC Denominational Connections

In general, MBC Denominational Connections are Baptist organizations that provide a broader reach to affiliated churches beyond our McLean community.

- Baptist General Association of Virginia
- Baptist World Alliance
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- John Leland Theological Seminary
- Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Northstar Church Network
- Tyson's Interfaith Network

MBC Mission Connections

MBC Missions Connections are usually specific mission projects that were started with personal involvement by McLean Baptist members addressing one or more specific

crisis needs. The current list of 15 projects involves both community and global projects. The missions connections are typically either global or community focused. With all of these projects, there is one or more strong advocate.

Global Missions

McLean Baptist's current global missions connections are:

- Chande Orphanage (Zambia)
- Children's Fund (Haiti)
- Children's Fund/Shirlie Children Home (India)
- Liberia
- Liya's Camp (Ukraine)
- Nicaragua Housing/Bridges to Community
- Serve Trust/Leena Levanya (India)

Community Missions

McLean Baptist's current community missions connections are:

- Falls Church/McLean Children's Center
- Feeding the Homeless
- Graham Road Elementary P3 Program (in conjunction with Food for Others)
- Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia
- Internationals/ESL Program
- Jubilee Jobs
- Share of McLean
- Shepherd's Center

For more information:

[Worship folders and videos](#)

[Wikipedia article about McLean](#)

[McLean Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Fairfax County, VA](#)

[Fairfax County Public Schools](#)

[Transforming Tysons](#)