

Meridian Baptist Church

6513 Chapman Highway
Knoxville, TN 37920
865-577-6617

Website: mbcknox.org

Email: meridianbaptistoffice@gmail.com

Facebook: Meridian Baptist Knoxville

Instagram: @mbcknoxville

"The Evangel" (USPS 339-980) is published weekly except Christmas by Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Hwy. Knoxville, TN Periodical Class postage paid at Knoxville, TN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Evangel, 6513 Chapman Hwy. Knoxville, TN 37920
ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

Meridian Prayer Line

865-579-6632

CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST

WORKERS FOR SUNDAY

December 14, 2025

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

James Chadwick * Jim Greene

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Gayle Doman Aubrey Martin

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM FOUR

Johnny Lewis David McLemore

Jeff Hinkle Chrissy Johnson

VAN DRIVER

Norman Smelcer

2026 Giving Envelopes

Please pick up your new contribution envelopes located near the Library.
If you need envelopes, please contact the office.

**INFORMATION: NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY-THURSDAY 8:00-4:30**

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

12:00pm—Willing/Ed Arnett & Fellowship/
A3 Couples Christmas Party

6:30pm—Gene Walkup Class Christmas Party

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00am—Mission of Hope to Huntsville

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:30am—Workers; be here for Food Box Distrib.

1:45pm—Senior Adults to Nativity Pageant

6:00pm—PATH Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:45am—Youth Committee Mtg.

9:30am—Sunday School

10:50am—Morning Worship

12:15pm—Children's Christmas Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:30am—Senior Adult Committee

10:30am—Senior Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:00pm—Winsome Class Christmas Party

6:00pm—TeamKid


6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"

6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

7:15pm—Sanctuary Choir Practice

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:00pm—Youth Christmas Party, Evers' home



The Evangel

Meridian Baptist Church
6513 Chapman Highway
Knoxville, TN 37920
865-577-6617

Michael Martin, Pastor

VOLUME 71, NO. 50

December 12, 2025



New Sermon Series

"He Shall
Be Called"



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our Goal: \$12,000

Given to date: \$3,850

Help us reach our goal!



Christmas Food Boxes

Thank you Meridian for giving to the Food Box Ministry. Food box distribution is Saturday, December 13 (workers, be here at 9:30am).

Children's Christmas Party
Sunday, December 14 following service
Call the office if you plan to attend!


Youth Christmas Party
Saturday, December 20 at 6pm
At the Evers' home

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service**
December 24th at 4:00



UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec 11 Noon-Willing, A3Couples, Ed Arnett/
Fellowship Christmas Party
- Dec 11 6:30pm-Gene Walkup Class Party
- Dec 12 7am-Mission of Hope Huntsville
- Dec 13 10:30am-Food Box Distribution
- Dec 13 1:45—Senior Adults to Nativity Pageant
- Dec 13 6pm—PATH Christmas Party
- Dec 14 12:15-Children Christmas Party
- Dec 17 Noon-Winsome Class Christmas Party
- Dec 20 6pm—Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 21 10:50am—Choir Christmas Musical
- Dec 24 4pm—Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 24-Jan 2—Church Office Closed



*Love Came Down at
Christmas*

presented by the
Meridian Sanctuary Choir
with soloists and narrator
December 21, 2025
during AM worship

THE UPPER ROOMS

Discipleship Tips | Discipleship in the Digital Age

We live in a world filled with screens, notifications, and constant connection. While technology gives us instant access to sermons, Bible studies, and encouragement, it also creates real challenges for spiritual growth. Distraction and digital noise often crowd out quiet time with God, even though Scripture reminds us:

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

Another challenge is that we can become consumers of spiritual content without becoming obedient followers of Christ. God's Word calls us to action:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." — James 1:22

Though we are more "connected" than ever, many people feel spiritually and relationally isolated. God designed us to grow through real community in the church:

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another." — Hebrews 10:24-25

When used wisely, technology can also be a powerful tool to advance the gospel:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." — Matthew 28:19

The call is simple: use technology as a tool, not a master, seek God daily, and grow in real Christian community.

Grace be with you,
Christopher Milligan

College & Young Adults SS Class
This new class begins January!



If you ordered a poinsettia, those can be picked up either Sunday, December 21 or Christmas Eve Service, December 24

Attendance

December 7 - Sunday School

Preschool	7
Children	10
Youth	18
Adults	97
TOTAL	132
Visitors	4

Worship Service: 180

Contacts for the week of 12/1-12/7 Total: 109
4 & 5 Years—20 Adult 3—22 Adult 4—67

Giving

Giving For December 7

General Budget Fund	\$19,076.00
Capital Improvements	10.00
Lottie Moon Offerings	1,200.00
Non-Budget Designated	210.00
Grand Total	\$20,496.00
Online Giving	\$ 480.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,083.00
December Budget Giving	\$19,556.00

Search Committee for Music Minister

Randy Burgin, Cynthia Headrick, Tommy Leavelle, Jon McCammon, Brenda Swinson
Weekly Prayer: Pray for the new Minister of Music & Worship and his family to be certain of their call to our church. Ephesians 6:16

Senior Adult Bible Study December 16 at 10:30



Lottie Moon Post Office

The post office is located near the Library and is an opportunity for you to give Christmas cards to those in the church. Cost per card is .20 cents with the proceeds going toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Place cards in alphabetical order by last name.

Senior Adult Trip, Saturday, December 13
Nativity Pageant. Leaving the church at 1:45. Call the office to sign up.

Noteworthy News

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...A SEASON OF HOPE... We have officially begun our Christmas season as we celebrated Sunday with our 37th Annual Hanging of the Green. Our emphasis was on Jesus the Messiah, the hope for all mankind. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to list everyone who came earlier in the week to prepare all of the decorations—the garlands, the trees, the candles, the angel, etc. The flower committee, assisted by several "exofficio" members, are to be commended for their excellent work of preparation.

There have been times in our nation's history when hope was in short supply. During the 17th century, most colonial Marylanders lived in difficult conditions. Food was in short supply. Death rates from disease were high and heavy labor was a fact of life. The immigrants not only had to recover from a long and grueling voyage, but they were exposed to diseases they had not encountered previously, which they had to overcome if they were to survive. The period of 1929—1945 was marked by difficulties of another kind. The Great Depression followed by WW2 were years of despair. Many Americans lost their material possessions—homes, food, status. Many more lost their lives in the conflict. While our most recent trying event—the Covid-19 pandemic was not nearly as severe as the previous events there was tragic loss of life and goods leaving many to wonder if life would ever be the same. These were hopeless times!

And then there is Christmas and its wonderful message of hope and love. Matthew 20:21 says, "In Him the nations will put their hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

Let the celebrations begin!

Bro. Dennis

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Once again, we had an amazing "Hanging of the Green" service this past Sunday. I want to thank everyone involved for putting together such a worshipful service. It truly was very special and meaningful. I especially want to thank Dennis Johnson for all of his hard work and effort in planning the service. As usual, our choir and musicians did an excellent job. It was certainly a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season at Meridian!

We are in the midst of a special Christmas sermon series titled, "He Shall Be Called." In this study, we are unpacking one of the great messianic passages, found in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6) by reflecting on four titles given to the promised Christ Child; Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. We have already considered Jesus as Wonderful Counselor. This Sunday, we will consider Christ as Almighty God. I pray the sermon series speaks to your heart this Christmas season.

There are multiple opportunities of ministry service and involvement this week. To begin with, our Huntsville Mission of Hope project is this Friday. If you plan to make the trip up to Scott County, please be at the church by 7:00 A.M. Also, our food box distribution project is this Saturday at 10:30 A.M. If you plan on helping, please be at the church by 9:30 A.M. Also on Saturday, our Senior Adults will attend the Knoxville Nativity Pageant at the Knoxville Civic Center (Please note the van will depart from the church at 1:45 P.M.) Finally, our annual children's ministry Christmas party is Sunday after the morning service in the fellowship Hall. What a fun-filled week; and that's not to mention all the individual Sunday School class parties!

A few final thoughts; please be in prayer for our choir & musicians as they prepare for this year's Christmas musical (December 21). Also, be in prayer for strong attendance for our annual Christmas Eve service. Our Christmas Eve gathering is always a special highlight of the year for our community!

There are a tremendous amount of events on the December calendar. Be sure to read the bulletin and Evangel each week to stay in the loop. To be sure, these are exciting days at Meridian!

Have a great rest of the week! Live for Jesus and serve Him faithfully till Christ comes again!

In Him, Bro Michael