

Meridian Baptist Church

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ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

Meridian Prayer Line

865-579-6632

CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST

WORKERS FOR SUNDAY

March 22, 2026

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Jim Brackett David Ghormley *

NURSERY WORKERS DURING WORSHIP

Gayle Doman Shauna Kirkland

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM TWO

Sam & Sheree Lonas

Scott Frei Gary Smith Randy Burgin

VAN DRIVER

David Stroud

VBS 2026

"Illumination Station"

Shine bright in a dark world!

July 12-16 Sunday-Thursday

Time: 6:00-8:30

Family Fun Night: Friday, July 17

Sign up how you can help in VBS!

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:30am—Sunday School
10:50am—Morning Worship
12:15pm—Building & Grounds Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

9:30am—Senior Adult Committee
10:30am—Senior Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

6:00pm—TeamKid
6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"
6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
7:15pm—Choir Practice

CHURCH TEXTS

To receive texts from MBC for prayer requests, special announcements, etc., text: mbcnews to 865-822-8635.



The Evangel

Michael Martin, Pastor

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Sermon Series on the
Book of Ecclesiastes

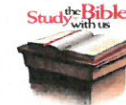


Wednesday Night Verse by Verse Bible
Study On the Book of Ephesians

Women on Mission March Project

Collect money for Mobile Meals
Make checks payable to Meridian

Senior Adult Bible Study
March 24 at 10:30



"Game Night" 5th Sunday
March 29 at 6 pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Invite a friend!



Senior Adults Travel on the
Dogwood Trail, Thursday April 16
Leaving at 10am. Lunch to follow
at Shoney's. Call the office if
you plan to attend.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Our Goal: \$3,000

Given to Date: \$3,010

We met our goal!

Thank you for giving!



Observance of the
Lord's Supper on
Palm Sunday, March 29

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4, 11am

Lunch provided!

If you can help in any way,
please contact Patti Kelley
at 599-1325



Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 5th,
7:15 am at the
Meridian Cemetery



NXTGEN | KIDS

Children's ministry is one of the most important callings within the life of the church. Jesus Himself made this clear when He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). The church has the privilege and responsibility of introducing children to the love of Christ, teaching them the truths of Scripture, and helping them begin a lifelong journey of faith.

A healthy children's ministry provides a place where kids can learn about God in ways that are engaging, understandable, and meaningful to their stage of life. Through Bible stories, worship, prayer, and relationships with caring leaders, children begin to form a foundation of faith that can shape the rest of their lives. These early years are incredibly important. What children learn about God, Scripture, and the church often stays with them long into adulthood.

However, it is important to remember that even the best children's ministry can only reinforce what is happening at home. The church can support, encourage, and teach, but parents and guardians are the primary spiritual leaders in a child's life. Scripture points to this clearly in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Faith is meant to be woven into the everyday rhythms of life.

This means that the most effective children's ministry is not one that replaces spiritual leadership at home, but one that partners with it. When parents pray with their children, read Scripture together, talk about what they learned at church, and model a genuine relationship with Christ, the lessons children hear on Sunday come alive throughout the week.

In this way, the home and the church work together. The church equips and encourages; the home disciples and models. When both are faithful in their roles, children are given the strongest possible foundation for a life of faith.

As a church family, we are grateful for the opportunity to invest in the next generation. And as parents and guardians lead faithfully at home, we trust that God will use these efforts to help our children grow to know, love, and follow Him for the rest of their lives.

Grace be with you,
Christopher S. Milligan

Attendance

March 15 - Sunday School

Preschool	9
Children	9
Youth	6
Adults	79
TOTAL	105
Visitors	5

Worship Service: 136

Contacts for the week of 3/9-3/15 Total: 84
4 & 5 Years—21 Adult 3—8 Adult 4—55

Giving

Giving For March 15

General Budget Fund	\$ 8,388.00
Pavilion Fund	200.00
Reimb. WMU	50.00
Annie Armstrong	185.00
Grand Total	\$ 8,823.00
Online Giving	\$ 180.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,083.00
March Budget Giving	\$27,204.00
Gideons' Offering:	\$1,267

Memorials & Honorariums

A gift was given to the Pavilion Fund in memory of Ralph Fleming & Cynthia Fleming Cornelius from Leona Fleming.

From the Cemetery Committee

Mowing season is approaching. If you have items on graves you would like to keep, please pick those items up soon. Silk flowers & plants that are placed on gravestones are fine & do not have to be picked up; no glass containers, please.

Women of Joy 2026 Conference

October 9-11, Pigeon Forge
\$25 deposit due March 29



Women & Girls "Spring Tea"
Saturday, April 25, 11am-1pm
in the fellowship hall.
More details to follow!

Noteworthy News

UPSIDE DOWN...In January 1997, British yachtsman Tony Bullimore was competing in the Vendée Globe solo round-the-world yacht race when his boat, Exide Challenger, capsized in the Southern Ocean, about 1,400 miles southwest of Australia. The vessel overturned in extreme weather, trapping Bullimore inside an air pocket in pitch darkness. For nearly five days, he survived in freezing conditions with minimal food and sipped seawater to stay alive. Meanwhile, the Royal Australian Navy launched a high-risk rescue mission, deploying the frigate HMAS Adelaide and aircraft to locate him. On January 9, divers reached the upturned yacht and heard Bullimore banging on the hull. They pulled him to safety, an event that made headlines worldwide. Bullimore later described the moment as being "like being born again," and the ordeal gave him a renewed appreciation for life.

Sometimes it is very hard to keep trusting in God, especially when things seem to go wrong in your life. King David often found himself in precarious situations. Psalm 31, believed to have been written when he was running from Saul, is a heart-felt plea for deliverance from enemies and adversity. In Psalm 31 we see five themes that are developed:

Trust in God: Into your hands I commit my spirit (v. 5). Jesus quoted this while on the cross.

Deliverance from enemies: Because of my enemies...I am forgotten as though I were dead, (v. 11-12)

God's steadfast love (Chêsed): I will be glad and rejoice in your love...(v. 7)

Honest expression of grief: Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress...(v. 9)

Praise and hope: Love the Lord...be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. (v.23-24).

Don't know where you are today...hope this helps.

Bro. Dennis

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Meridian family,

I have been blessed with the opportunity this spring to serve as a mentor for a young seminary student through a mentoring program of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I am thankful for the opportunity to pour into the life of a young man going into the ministry. Part of the program involves me answering questions about serving as a pastor in the local church. For the next few weeks, I will use my weekly Evangel article to share a few of my responses to some of the questions I have been asked.

Question: How often should the local church observe the Lord's Supper and why?"

Response: Pertaining to the frequency of communion, I believe there are two dangerous ditches. On one hand, a church could be guilty of neglecting the ordinance by not observing it as frequently as they ought to. Usually when a church does this, the ordinance itself has become an afterthought. This is concerning and is truly an injustice to the ordinance itself. On the other hand, some churches partake of the elements too frequently. Some congregations partake every week. This can be dangerous territory as well; for it breeds an environment of familiarity to where the ordinance itself becomes routine and mundane, which lessens the significance. Now pertaining to the why; the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church, and an ordinance shows the redemptive work of Christ. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the body of our Lord and His blood that was shed on Calvary, accurately depicting the redemptive work of our Lord. So, an ordinance is the gospel in picture – a picture portraying the gospel. With this definition in mind, the communion service is to be a very special and meaningful worship experience; for the service itself depicts the beautiful relationship between Christ and his church.

Meridian family...I thought it would be very appropriate to share my answer to this particular question with you all as we prepare for the Lord's table on Palm Sunday (March 29). Have a blessed week! If there is any specific way that I can minister to you and your family, do not hesitate to let me know.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Michael