

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

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00-4:30

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ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

Meridian Prayer Line
865-579-6632
CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST

WORKERS FOR SUNDAY
July 26, 2026

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

David McLeMore David Stroud *

NURSERY WORKERS DURING WORSHIP

Gayle Doman Jeannie Cummings
Hope Smelcer

SAFETY TEAM – TEAM FOUR

Johnny Lewis David McLeMore
Jeff Hinkle Ray Whitson Chrissy Johnson

VAN DRIVER
David Stroud

PRAYERS:

Sympathy

To Alissa Sullinger in the passing
of her mother, Michelle Sullinger.

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 23-25

Youth Rally Nights

SUNDAY, JULY 26

8:00am—Quarterly Teachers Mtg.

9:30am—Sunday School

10:50am—Morning Worship

12:15pm—Building & Grounds

MONDAY, JULY 27

1:00 & 6:00pm—GROW

TUESDAY, JULY 28

9:30am—Senior Adult Committee

10:30am—Senior Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

5:30pm—Nominating Committee

6:00pm—TeamKid

6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"

6:15pm—Bible Study

7:15pm—Choir Practice



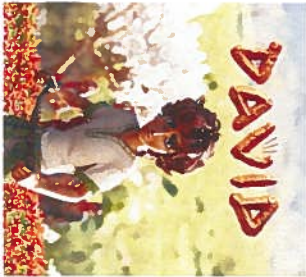
Michael Martin, Pastor

The Evangel

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VOLUME 72, NO. 29

July 24, 2026



5th Sunday Fellowship
Popcorn &
Movie Night
August 30 at 6pm
"David, The
Animation Film"
Everyone invited!



Be Involved in G.R.O.W.
Monday, July 27
Daytime Team-1:00
(canvassing the community
with door hangers about MBC)
Evening Team-6:00
(make home visits to church prospects)

Women on Mission July Project
Collect School Supplies
for Montgomery Village
Spiral binders 3-ring binders
Backpacks Pencils Pens
Crayons Glue sticks
Colored markers Pencils
Wide-ruled paper Pocket folders
Place items in box located near office!



Pray for Our
SCHOOL
and faculty as
school will be
starting back soon!



Sunday Sermon Series
"Fish Stories"



Wednesday Bible Study
"Ruth: A Love That Redeems"

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS
Youth Rally Nights
Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25
Back to School Lock-In
Friday, August 7

Quarterly Sunday School
Teachers & Assistants Meeting
Sunday, July 26th at 8:00 am in the
fellowship hall. Breakfast provided.

Senior Adult Bible Study
July 28 at 10:30



The Fool, The Need, and The Savior

A Devotional on Psalm 14

King David begins Psalm 14 with one of the most well-known statements in all of Scripture: “*The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*” (Vv. 14:1). David is not simply describing someone who denies God’s existence. He is describing anyone who lives as though God has no authority over their life. Foolishness, according to scripture, is not merely an intellectual problem—it is a spiritual one. The Hebrew word here is **נָפֵל**(Nabal) a word that is used 11 times within scripture. This word does not simply translate to someone who is uneducated or stupid, but as someone who is wicked and vile, this is someone who is especially impious. This verse is not speaking on an intellectual level of atheism, but of a practical one. This speaks of a lifestyle that is mute of God’s sovereignty.

As the psalm continues, David paints a sobering picture of humanity, “*There is none who does good, not even one*” (Vv. 14:3). Left to ourselves, we all fall short of God’s perfect standard. The Apostle Paul would later quote these very words in Romans 3 to show that every person is in need of God’s grace. Psalm 14 reminds us that the greatest problem in the world is not merely around us, it is within us.

Yet this psalm is not meant to leave us in despair. Instead, it points us to our need for a Savior. We cannot rescue ourselves from sin, we are completely and utterly incapable of making ourselves righteous. Our only hope is the immaculate grace and mercy of God. In Christianity there is a theological concept called The Velvet Backdrop. The idea is that sin works like a black velvet cloth that is used to display a bright diamond, human sinfulness magnifies the absolute holiness and justice of God. No, sin is not an appropriate response in our lives, but God utilizes it to display his divine attributes all the more. David ends the psalm by calling out his desire to see the beauty of the diamond shining bright, “*Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad*” (Vv. 14:7). As New Testament believers, we know that the very glimmering diamond has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is the salvation David anticipated. Through His life, death, and resurrection, sinners can be forgiven and restored to God.

A. W. Pink once wrote, “It is only when we see ourselves as lost that Christ becomes precious.” Psalm 14 leads us to that very place. It humbles us before God so that we might find hope in His grace. The message of Psalm 14 should be both

Attendance

July 19 - Sunday School

Preschool	4
Children	12
Youth	12
Adults	93
Total	121
Visitors	11

Worship Service: 140

Contacts for the week of 7/13—7/19 Total: 55
4 & 5 Years—17 Adult 3—7 Adult 4—31

Giving

Giving For July 12

General Budget Fund	\$ 8,899.49
Pavilion Fund	50.00
Non-Budget Desig.	150.00
Grand Total	\$ 9,099.49
Giving For July 19	
General Budget Fund	\$ 7,245.30
Grand Total	\$ 7,245.30
Online Giving	\$ 613.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,083.00
July Budget Giving	\$28,419.09

Welcome New Members

Daniel Mazzoni
617 Brown Mtn. Loop
Knoxville, TN 37920
Conner McAllafferty/Coral Vargas
9171 Rolling Stone Way
Knoxville, TN 37920



The Fool, The Need, and The Savior (cont.)

sobering and hopeful. It should remind each and every one of us that we are all sinners in need of a Savior. But it also reminds us that God has provided that Savior in Jesus Christ.

So today, don’t place your confidence in your own goodness. Place your confidence in the One who lived the perfect life you could never live and who died the death you deserved. For in Christ, the fool can become wise, the sinner can be forgiven, and the lost can be found.

Grace be with you,
Christopher S. Miligan

Music Ministry News

VBS 2026 had a child (Daniel Mazzoni) receive Christ as his Lord. PTL, Thank you Lord for this blessing from all the hard work of the VBS volunteers workers. Prayers were made (M&Ms) by the whole church and God answered. We were also blessed with a new young couple, Conner and Coral. They have been attending SS, Worship and attended a Wednesday night Youth Worship service, and helped in the VBS music classes, looking to see where they might fit in at Meridian. Welcome to Meridian.

Let me say a quick thank you to several men who joined me at our home on last Thursday to help move my library to the church, 51 boxes, a couch, cabinet and washer and dryer that went to the Mission House. And we have had a donation of a filing cabinet to the Music Ministry, helping store many orchestration pieces I brought with me. Thank you for all the kindness & generosity.

This morning in my devotional, I read “Seek ye first” (Matt. 6:33) as we have all done, countless times, but it really spoke to me. Lord, help me seek You first, before I decide what I think I should do in the things of the day. Every moment, You should be first and foremost in my thoughts and decisions. Your children are ALWAYS on His mind and in His planning.

Heading to South-Doyle HS band camp today, for a quick outreach to the kids and faculty with water and snacks. Just another simple way to reach out to the community.

Psalm 95:1 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Scripture even says, shout for joy! When was the last time you heard shouting for joy in the church. If the Spirit says do it and we don’t, are we obedient? Sing out with praise for all His marvelous works!

Soli de Gloria!
Mark

Memorials & Monotariums

A gift was given to the General Fund
in memory of Carolyn Green from
Sandy Kolinsky & Johnny Lewis.



We all know the cliché, “You are what you eat.” It is a documented medical fact that certain foods can manifest themselves through a person’s pores and sweat glands. For instance, people that consume high amounts of garlic will smell like garlic. This medical fact is true all across the globe. Many Americans who have traveled overseas attest to the fact that various nationalities carry distinct odors, odors that in all probability originate in their diet. But before you think that we Americans come out smelling wonderful, you might find it interesting to know that people in Europe think Americans smell like beef. This is probably because we consume cow more than any other country. In 2004, documentaryarian Morgan Spurlock produced a film called “Super-Size Me.” Spurlock ate only McDonald’s for an entire month, three meals a day. He also completed every item on the menu at least once, over the course of the 30 days. Any and all outside consumption of food was prohibited. Over time, Spurlock began smelling like McDonalds!

This potent odor was released through his sweat glands, and was very hard to hide and cover up. It did not matter the amount of showers he took nor the brand of deodorant, there was still a continual trace of the nauseating smell of McDonald’s. There is a spiritual lesson here. The Bible says God’s word tastes good. The Psalmist says God’s words are sweet to his lips and is likened unto the sweetness of honey (Psalm 119:103). Psalm 34:8 says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

If you are feeding on the junk of the world, people will smell it on you. But if you feed upon God’s Word, it will be evident as well. Feed on God’s Word so much that the sweet aroma of the Lord follows you everywhere we go. Your supersized daily diet of God’s Word should penetrate you in such a way that the people you come in contact with pick up on the fact that you have spent time with the Lord.

Bro. Michael