

Meridian Baptist Church

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"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

April 12, 2026

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

David McLemore * David Stroud

NURSERY WORKERS DURING WORSHIP

Nicole Gray Pam Ford

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM ONE

Randy Burgin Roger Long
Jack Oody Chrissy Johnson

VAN DRIVER

David McLemore

PRAYERS: IN THE HOSPITAL

Mary Hurst, Ft. Sanders

SYMPATHY

To the family of Maxine Shirk
in her passing

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

6:00pm—Youth MS Girls Tea

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

9:30am—Sunday School
10:50am—Morning Worship
3:30pm—Church Council/Budget & Finance

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

5:00pm—Personnel Committee Meeting
6:00pm—TeamKid
6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"
6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
7:15pm—Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

10:00am—Senior Adults to Dogwood Trail



Michael Martin, Pastor

The Evangel

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VOLUME 72, NO. 14

April 10, 2026



Sermon Series on the
Book of Ecclesiastes



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

Women on Mission

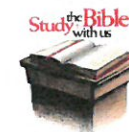
April Project

Collect snacks
for I.C.U. Lounges

Place items in box located near office

Quarterly Sunday School
Teachers & Assistants Meeting
April 26 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall
Breakfast will be provided.

Senior Adult
Bible Study
April 28 at 10:30



Ladies "Spring Tea"

Saturday, April 25

11am-1pm

in the fellowship hall

Linda Francis will be our guest speaker.

Please RSVP by April 20 to
the church office.

Senior Adult Banquet

Friday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

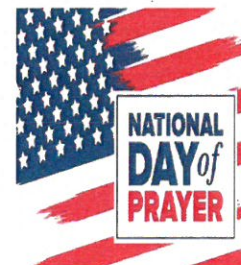
Entertainment by Kevin Hamilton

Join us for an evening of food & fellowship!
Call the office by Wednesday, April 29
if you plan to attend.

Senior Adult Sunday

May 3

Recognizing our Senior Adults



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

The Sanctuary will be
open 7am-5pm
Devotion time at 11am
Pray for our Nation!

When Things Go Changing / A Week of Reflection and Anticipation

Reflecting on my journey—from a 9-year-old sitting in a small church Bible study in the backwoods of East Tennessee to now, at 30, serving as Minister of Children & Students in South Knoxville—I can't help but stand in gratitude and awe at the work of the Spirit in my life. The Lord has been faithful at every step, guiding, shaping, and sustaining me. As Scripture reminds us, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

It is truly a blessing beyond words to serve in this capacity alongside each of you.

I've had all of this on my mind this week as we have witnessed two significant moments in the life of our church. First, we have said, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23) to Dennis Johnson, who has run his race with faithfulness—carrying the baton of ministry with diligence and care, and now passing it on with the same humility and grace with which he served.

At the same time, we have also had the joy of welcoming Mark Branson into our church family as he steps into the role of Minister of Music. What a gift it is to see both faithfulness honored and new beginnings embraced in the same breath.

Change can often feel uncertain, even unsettling, and it naturally raises questions about what lies ahead. Yet we are reminded that our confidence is not in circumstances, but in the Lord who ordains them. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The same Spirit who has led us to this moment is already at work preparing what comes next.

While I am saddened that my time serving alongside Brother Dennis on staff at MBC has come to a close, I am deeply grateful for his example and friendship. And at the same time, I am excited to welcome Brother Mark and to serve alongside him in this new season.

More than anything, I am filled with anticipation for what the Lord has in store—for Dennis, for Mark, and for Meridian Baptist Church. The story God is writing here is not finished, and we have every reason to trust that what comes next will bring Him great glory.

Grace be with you,
Christopher S. Milligan

Attendance

April 5 - Sunday School

Preschool	3
Children	9
Youth	13
Adults	84
TOTAL	109
Visitors	5

Worship Service: 174

Contacts for the week of 3/30-4/5 Total: 120
4 & 5 Years—19 Adult 3—17 Adult 4—84

Giving

Giving For April 5

General Budget Fund	\$ 9,930.00
Capital Improvements	10.00
Kitchen Fund	6.00
Reimb. WMU	200.00
Non-Budget Designated	30.00
Grand Total	\$10,176.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,710.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,083.00
April Budget Giving	\$11,640.00

Memorials & Honorariums
A gift was given to the Member Emergency Fund in memory of Maxine Shirk from the Winsome Class

Senior Adults Travel
The Dogwood Trail
Thursday April 16
Leaving at 10am.



Lunch to follow at Shoney's.
Call the office if you plan to attend.

Youth Middle School Girls
You are invited to a Spring Tea to be held Saturday, April 11 at 6pm in the youth room (4th floor).



He is Risen! Risen indeed!

Christ is risen, the tomb is empty, death is defeated and we have a reason to sing, so SING! If you know the song, sing. If you're learning the song, worship through the new lyrics, then sing. Sing with joy, sing with abandon; all for the glory of God. He has done so much for us. SING! What a great blessing available to each of us to use MUSIC as a tool to worship and bring your friends to Jesus.


YOU (Meridian) are a blessing. Every card, call and prayer offered in our name continues to help us through these days. It is a joy to serve with a compassionate staff, concerned about us, even before we got here. Thank you Bro. Michael and Chris!

I want to thank Bro. Dennis for exceptional leadership and his friendship to welcome me to Meridian. I am looking forward to our friendship growing. Also thank you to the Music Search Committee who have worked with us in such kind ways.

Continue to pray for Adrienne and me as we relocate and as I continue to heal. Also, pray for the continued increasing success of the Meridian Music Ministry, for the glory of God alone.

If for some reason you've been sitting out your involvement in the music ministry NOW is your chance to jump in, with vocals, instrumental, and by the use of media and audio. We will work together to find a place for your talents to be used. Please don't hesitate to contact the church office if you are interested.

Bro. Mark Branson



VBS 2026
"Illumination Station"
July 12-16
Sunday-Thursday
Time: 6:00-8:30
Family Fun Night: Friday, July 17

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It has been a great blessing to serve as a mentor for a seminary student through a program of New Orleans Seminary. Part of the program involves me answering questions about serving as a pastor. I have been using my Evangel articles to share with you some of my responses to some of the questions I have been asked.

Question: What role does Sunday School play in the growth process of the church.

Response: Sunday School is a vital aspect of the life and ministry of the local church. It has been said that "Sunday School is the backbone of the church." I certainly cannot disagree with that statement. Show me a growing church, and I will show you an active Sunday School ministry. Sunday School provides many opportunities for the church member. To begin with, the SS classroom setting offers an environment where likeminded Christians are able to gather together and study the Scriptures. Sunday School also provides a sense of family and fellowship. I know that within my church family at Meridian, we offer classes for all ages and seasons of life, providing small group settings where believers can spiritually flourish. Within these classes, relationships are built and a sense of church community is cultivated. To be sure, it would be easy for someone to attend the worship service only and get "lost in the crowd." But being involved in the Sunday School ministry will lead to greater personal and spiritual growth. In recent years, there has been a trend within many congregations where Sunday School is no longer seen as a priority. This is a travesty! God created his people for community. God did not intend for us to go it alone within the Christian life.

Meridian has an amazing Sunday School program, and as our church grows into the future, my prayer is that our Sunday School would flourish for God's glory. Yes, we keep attendance records, and even have "High Attendance Sundays." (Some churches are criticized for these things). But why do we celebrate our attendance numbers? We do so because numbers are people and people are souls. We count people because people count! I am forever grateful for growing up in a church with an active Sunday School, and I am thankful that God has called me to be the pastor/shepherd of a church with a sincere heartbeat for Sunday School ministry. For Him, Pastor Michael