

## Meridian Baptist Church

6513 Chapman Highway  
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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 31, 2024**

**DEACONS OF THE WEEK**  
Gerald Blake \*

**EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS**  
Gayle Doman Barbara Pickens  
Ella Mae Hood

**SAFETY TEAM — TEAM ONE**  
Randy Burgin David Brewer Roger Long  
Karissa Marcum Chrissy Johnson

**VAN DRIVER**  
David Stroud



### **SYMPATHY**

To the family of Betty McCulley  
in her passing.

Periodical  
Postage  
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



# The Evangel

Meridian Baptist Church  
6513 Chapman Highway  
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VOLUME 70, NO. 12

March 29, 2024

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Saturday, March 30**  
**at 11:00**  
Toddlers thru 5th Grade  
Bring Your Basket!  
Lunch Provided!



**Easter Sunrise Service**  
**Sunday, March 31st**  
**7:30 a.m. at the**  
**Meridian Cemetery**



**Church Office Closed**  
**Good Friday, March 29th**



**150th Anniversary**  
**Celebration Service**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.**

**All Adults meet in Sanctuary**  
**Worship Celebration - 10:50 a.m.**  
**Church-Wide Potluck Dinner**  
**Following the Celebration Service**

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**  
**Our Goal: \$4,500**  
**Given to Date: \$3,708**

### **From the Pastor Search Committee**

The Pastor Search Committee has voted unanimously to extend an invitation to Rev. Michael Martin to come in view of call on Sunday, April 7th. A biographical profile of Bro. Michael as well as a schedule of related activities will be published in the bulletin for March 31st and also the April 5th edition of The Evangel. Benefits package will be discussed at a called Business Meeting following the AM worship service on April 7th.

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#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

Office Closed—Good Friday

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

11:00am—Children's Easter Egg Hunt

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 31—EASTER SUNDAY**

7:30am—Easter Sunrise Service

9:45am—Sunday School

10:50am—Morning Worship  
(also streaming live on YouTube)

#### **MONDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 1—5**

Church Office Open 8:00am-4:30pm

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

6:30pm—150th Anniversary Committee

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

6:00pm—TeamKid

6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study  
(also streaming live on YouTube)

6:15pm—Youth Unite

7:15pm—Sanctuary Choir Practice

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

9:30am—Senior Adults to Dogwood Trail

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

Speaking last week of the O.T. being fulfilled within the N.T., there is no week that further proves this than Easter week! Easter is the time in which most of the fulfilling happens. Palm Sunday is spoken of as the triumphal entry that is prophesied about. The fact that Jesus is betrayed by a friend, the trial, the hard hearts of the Sanhedrin and ultimately the death of Jesus. While the people at the time did not fully see the fulfillment, we can now see how Jesus was the Suffering Servant and the Lamb that took away the sins of the world. But it does not end there. If the story ended at the cross, we would have just another dead person on our hands. What makes the prophecies work is the fact that Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He rose and allowed us the opportunity to defeat death alongside Him. That is what truly makes the prophecies point directly to Him. So remember and try to focus this week on the gift of who Jesus is, and share that gift and freedom He brings to someone you come across!

Sincerely, Chris

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY  
Easter Sunday Morning, March 31st

Students will be serving cinnamon rolls on Easter Sunday in the fellowship hall from 9:00-9:45 or you may pick those up after the worship service near the Library. Proceeds benefit individual student accounts for student events. Cost per cinnamon roll: \$5.00. Coffee, milk & juice will be provided.



Senior Adults to Dogwood Trail  
Thursday, April 4th

The Senior Adults will be going on the dogwood trail April 4th, leaving at 9:30am. Lunch to follow at Shoney's. Call the office to sign up if you plan to attend!



Senior Adults to Baxter Gardens  
Thursday, April 25th

Leaving the church at 9:30am  
Call the office to sign up!

Our Attendance

MARCH 24

Preschool	7
Children	8
Youth	12
Adults	69
TOTAL	96
Visitors	

CONSTANT CONTACT CONSCIOUSNESS

Contacts for the week of 3/18-3/25 Total 84  
4&5 Years—22 Adult 3—18 Adult 4—44

Our Giving

FIGURES FOR MARCH 24

General Budget Fund	\$11,677.00
Capital Improvements	200.00
Pavilion Fund	75.00
Reimb. WMU	70.00
Annie Armstrong Offerings	200.00
Non-Budget Designated	50.00
Grand Total	\$12,272.00
Online Giving	\$510
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,926.00
March Budget Giving	\$37,978.76
Annie Armstrong Offering To Date:	\$3,708

Memorials & Honorariums

A gift was given to Capital Improvements in memory of Bill & Margaret Carpenter from Norman Hunley.

A gift was given to the Pavilion Fund in memory of Shane Lonas, Margaret Carpenter, Maggie Ledford from Debbie Arnett.

An anonymous gift was given to the General Fund in memory of G. T. Ballenger.

March Collections for OCC Shoeboxes

Combs Brushes Hair Accessories  
Dental Floss Toothbrushes Travel Kleenex  
(Place items in tote located near office)

Women on Mission March Project  
Collect money for Mobile Meals

Make checks payable to Meridian Baptist Church

Noteworthy News

**DIRTY, ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS...**that's the title of a 1988 comedy. In the movie 2 competing con artists decide to settle a bet by being the first to swindle a young heiress out of \$50,000. The loser must leave town. Wealthy native Brit Lawrence Jamieson, living on the French Riviera, earns most of his money through big cons such as pretending to be a foreign deposed Prince who needs money to finance a secret war to liberate his people. His world is invaded by another con man, brash American Freddy Benson, whose cons work only on tens or if he is lucky hundreds of dollars. Doesn't sound very scriptural, does it? Well, there's a man in Genesis who fits the bill quite well. Not only is he a dirty, rotten scoundrel, his mother is complicit in his cons. I speak of Jacob. His story is quite familiar. By his underhanded methods he cheats his older brother out of his inheritance. And then with his mother's help, he lies to his father, treats him dishonorably, misuses God's name, and steals what is not his. This is all very interesting, if not angering. We find ourselves shaking our heads, fully expecting him to receive his just due. And Jacob does suffer extreme consequences. He is forced to flee for his life. He spends the next 20 years under the oppressive hand of his uncle. And as far as we can tell, he never sees his mother again. Isolated and estranged from his family, he encounters God. We would expect God to dress him down properly, to declare judgement on him for his unscrupulous behavior. Instead He spoke only words of comfort, reassurance, protection, and blessing. God revealed his core character: He is the God who restores. He tells Jacob, "I am with you, I will keep you, I will not leave you" Why would God pour out His favor on a scoundrel, a con artist? The answer is found in God's grace. We may not be con artists, but we can identify with Jacob. We all need God's grace! In the days leading up to Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' words, "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17) Thank you God, for Your Amazing Grace!

Blessings! Bro. Dennis



From Joe Sorah,  
Interim Pastor

A friend of mine texted me recently to inform me of his brother's failing health. His brother has been placed in hospice care with his kidneys shutting down and needing his leg amputated. His days on this earth are short and the family knows it. This man has lived a pretty rough life. His brother is concerned about his salvation and had spoken with him about it. The brother in hospice care claims everything is okay, but the concerned brother wanted me to pray for him. Through the assistance of the concerned brother, I called the brother in hospice. We had a conversation about his soul. He gave the "right" answers, but I am still praying for him. I am not judging him (rendering final judgement), but I do know he has lived a spiritually fruitless life.

I have been thinking about this guy. Is there hope for him? Can he find grace (if he doesn't know Christ) from his deathbed? A look at the cross provides the answers to these questions. Jesus was crucified between two thieves. One berated Jesus from the cross, while the other placed his trust in Him. Jesus' response to the repentant thief is music to our ears: "today you will be with me in paradise." Hope was found. Forgiveness was poured out. Mercy was extended. No, he didn't deserve it, but Jesus gave it, even as he drew his last breaths.

When you stop and think about it, none of us deserve his grace. That's why it is called grace. None of us merit his mercy, his forgiveness, his salvation. Whether we are breathing our last or in the prime of our lives, we don't deserve what Jesus did for us on that cross, but friend we sure needed it. The message of the cross is good news for all of us- the healthy or the dying, the wealthy or the poor, the popular or the outcast. Just typing those words makes me want to sing the words of the hymn writer: "Hallelujah, Oh What a Savior."

I am looking forward to celebrating Resurrection Sunday with you. Come prepared to worship the Risen King.

Blessings, Joe Sorah