

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 May 25, 2025

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Ray Whitson Tommy Leavelle *
Russell Blevins

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Gayle Doman JoAnn Burchell Aubrey Martin

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM THREE

Thomas Arnett Jay & Tina King
David Brewer Sam Lonas

VAN DRIVER

David Stroud



IN THE HOSPITAL

Lu Jones, Ft. Sanders



Sermon Series
"Knowing God"
A Study of God's Attributes

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

5:00pm—Community Fun Day Planning Mtg.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

9:30am—Sunday School
10:50am—Morning Worship
Youth to Camp BaYoCa

MONDAY, MAY 26

Memorial Day-Office Closed

TUESDAY, MAY 27

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

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



Michael Martin, Pastor

The Evangel

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VOLUME 71, NO. 21

May 23, 2025

Community Fun Day at Meridian Saturday, June 7th 11am-2pm



Food, Popcorn, Snow Cones
Balloon Animals, Face Painting
Games, Crafts, Inflatables
(Workers, please arrive by 9 am)
If you can assist with monetary donations,
please mark on your envelope
"Community Fun Day."

If you have a canopy we can borrow,
please see Margaret Hancock.

**Invite family, friends, and those
in your community!**



Senior Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, May 27th
at 10:30am

Youth Retreat
May 25-27
Camp BaYoCa
6th Grade thru College
Cost: \$50 (this includes
lodging & meals)



VBS July 13-17
6:00-8:30
4 Years-12th Grade
Adult Class offered

Pre-registration forms
will be available in June bulletins. You
can also call or email the church office
(meridianbaptistoffice@gmail.com)
to register your child or to attend
adult class (taught by Chris Francis).

Next Workers Meeting: June 11 at 5:30

Deacon Election, Sunday June 1st

A ballot box will be provided in the
Sanctuary to turn in your deacon
election ballot on June 1. If you will not
be in attendance, absentee ballots will
be available in the church office.

**Remember those
who sacrificed for
our freedom.**
Memorial Day
May 26
(Office Closed)



THE UPPER ROOMS

The Upper Rooms: The Spiritual Disciplines

Prior to my time serving here at MBC, I was serving at a different church as the Director of Discipleship. In my time observing that role I began to truly understand the need for the believer to daily and intentionally deepen their walk with Christ. I learned that there is a path toward greater intimacy with God, but it's not a secret formula or an emotional high. It's the well-worn, time-tested path of the spiritual disciplines.

Spiritual disciplines are the God-given means by which we grow in Christlikeness. They are not about earning God's favor or checking off some religious box. They are about intentionally placing ourselves where God works—cultivating the soil of our hearts for Him to shape, form, and fill.

Over the next several weeks, we will walk through a series on these disciplines or practices that, when pursued with humility and faith, lead to deeper spiritual health and joy. These are not rigid rituals, but relational rhythms that open us to God's transforming grace.

Here's a glimpse of what's ahead:

- Bible Intake
- Worship
- Fasting
- Serving
- Stewardship
- Evangelism
- Silence & Solitude
- Journaling

Understand that none of these disciplines are meant to be burdens. They are invitations and opportunities to slow down and invest in the only relationship that lasts forever. As 1 Timothy 4:7 urges us: "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." The disciplines are the tools God uses to shape our souls and lead us to deeper joy in Him.

I hope that these next few weeks of articles can help you deepen your walk with Christ and growing your confidence and faith in Him to accomplish what He promises.

From The Upper Rooms,
Christopher S. Milligan

Attendance

May 18 - Sunday School

Preschool	9
Children	10
Youth	15
Adults	71
TOTAL	105
Visitors	5

Worship Service: 135

Contacts for the week of 5/12-5/18 Total: 86
4 & 5 Years—20 Adult 3—10 Adult 4—56

Giving

Giving For May 18

General Budget Fund	\$6,475.64
Pavilion Fund	200.00
Non-Budget Designated	100.00
Grand Total	\$6,775.64
Online Giving	\$60
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,732.00
May Budget Giving	\$24,564.64

Senior Adults Tour Brushy Mountain
State Prison, Thursday, June 12

Leave at 10am. Call the office to signup.

Every Member Involved!!

Please fill out a Membership Service Survey provided in bulletins the month of May. The survey gives each church member the opportunity to express interest in various ministry opportunities of service within the committee life of the church.

Wednesday Meal, June 11 at 5:00

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Slaw
Hashbrown Casserole, Strawberry Shortcake
Cost: \$6 Adults/\$4 Children (12 & under)
Sign up in the Sanctuary foyer or call
the office by Monday, June 9.



LETTER OF RETIREMENT

Today is the day I have dreaded and looked forward to for several months. A day like this is filled with mixed emotions. Over these last 25 years you have become dear friends, family to Deborah and me. All of the good times we have spent with choir members, Sunday School class members, all those times spent on senior adult trips, singing together, praying together, and just having fun together are memories we hold dear. While our relationship will continue, it has become clear that my time as your worship pastor is coming to a close.

We have not made this decision lightly. The support from the staff—Bro. Michael, Cindy, Chris—has been truly meaningful. To partner with them, as well as with Bro. Dana, in ministry has been a privilege and an irreplaceable experience. In the past 43 years of serving churches across our state, none have come close to showing the loving support that you have shown us. Meridian has been a little touch of heaven. We have made many very good friends here, some I'd like to mention by name. Jim Arnett was our first Sunday School teacher at Meridian. A kind, gentle, wise person who loved us and mentored us. G.T. Ballenger, a friend with wise council and a helping hand. I must mention my golf buddies: Gene Walkup, Sam Martin and Charlie Towle.

I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition during my remaining time here. My intention is to help train individuals to assume my responsibilities in ministry and leadership.

With all this in mind I announce my upcoming retirement effective December 31, 2025.

Thank you—a heart-felt thank you—for the opportunity to be a part of this family of believers. We are deeply grateful for the experiences and relationships we've built here. We love you.

Blessings! *Bro. Dennis*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Meridian family,

Once again, we had a very encouraging worship service. It was such a blessing to recognize our 2025 graduates and was especially meaningful to honor and reflect upon the lives of those of our Meridian family who we have lost in the last year. To be sure, the third Sunday in May is always a meaningful day in the life of MBC.

It is hard to imagine, but school is over and summer break is upon us. As we enter the summer months, I ask the Meridian family to pray that the Lord would do a wondrous work within our faith family. From student camp to our Community Fun Day; from our ministry at Montgomery Village to VBS, pray for a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit. God is going to do wonderful things this year! Let's pray believing!

Please pray for our students as they prepare for camp at Camp Ba Yo Ca. Pray the Lord to speak to their hearts and work in their lives. Also, pray for our leaders as they pour into the lives of our students. One other item on the May calendar; our Senior Adults will meet for their monthly Bible study at 10:30, Adult 4 assembly room. Afterwards, we will enjoy a fellowship lunch together.

One final thought; Bro. Dennis Johnson announced his retirement this past Sunday. Here are a few scriptures that come to mind when I reflect on his ministry. His impeccable work ethic and moral compass are similar to Paul's words to Timothy when he penned, "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us" (Titus 2:7-8). I am also reminded of Paul's words to the church at Philippi when he wrote, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – think about such things (Philippians 4:8). The bottom line is this; we have been truly blessed to have this great man of God lead our music department for the last 25 years!

In Christ, Pastor Michael