

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

August 17, 2025

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Jim Brackett Joe Fielden * Johnny Lewis

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Gayle Doman Amy Arnett Starlene Williams

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM THREE

Thomas Arnett David Brewer

Jay & Tina King

VAN DRIVER

Norman Smelcer



IN THE HOSPITAL

Billy Burchell, U.T.
Betty Woods, Ft. Sanders

SYMPATHY

To the family of Mary Ellen Cooper
in her passing.

Senior Adults September Bible Study

Tuesday, September 23, Cades Cove, leaving at 8:30am. Coffee & donuts provided for breakfast; lunch in Maryville. Call the office to sign up!

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30am—Deacons' Meeting

9:30am—Sunday School

10:50am—Morning Worship

12:00pm—Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

6:00pm—TeamKid

6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

6:15pm—The Upper Room (Students)

6:15pm—Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

6:00pm—Honduras Mission Trip Interest Mtg.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUGUST 22-23

5:00pm—Youth Lock-In



Senior Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, August 26

At 10:30 a.m.

The Evangel



Michael Martin, Pastor

Meridian Baptist Church
6513 Chapman Highway
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Fall Revival

September 14-17

10:50 am Sunday

7:00 pm Nightly

Speaker: Jeff Harvel

Music: Daniel Young

High Attendance Sunday

September 14

Goal: 150 in Sunday School

Invite someone to Sunday School

Contact Absentees & Prospects!



Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

"Exploring Our
Spiritual Gifts"

GOSPEL SINGING

Kenny Evans

Sunday, August 31, 6:00 p.m.

Agenda for Business Meeting, August 17

Minutes & Financial Report Provided

Recommendation from Committee on Committees

Committee list for 2025-2026

Recommendation from Nominating Committee

Listing of officers and teachers for 2025-2026 church year.

Recommendation from Budget & Finance Comm.

Vote on 2025-2026 Church Budget Proposal

Vote on 2025-2026 MDO Budget Proposal

Recommendation from Church Council

Send Pastor Michael Martin and Chris Milligan as messengers to TN Baptist Convention held Nov. 9-12, Jackson, TN.

Report from Van Committee

Report from Music Minister Search Committee

Search Committee for Music Minister

Randy Burgin, Cynthia Headrick,

Tommy Leavelle, Jon McCammon

Brenda Swinson

Weekly Prayer: Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the committee. Amos 3:3; Matt. 18:19-20; Ephesians 4:1-6

Women on Mission August Project

Collect the following for the U.T. Baptist Collegiate Ministry *Welcome Bags* to give new students on the U.T. Campus:

Water Bottles Water Flavor Packets

Capri Suns Fruit Gummies

Individual small bags of chips

Place items in box located near office!

THE UPPER ROOMS

Fueling the Mission:

The Call to Give and Pray for Missionaries

In the Great Commission, Jesus commands His followers to "Go... and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Yet, not every believer will cross oceans or move into new cultures. Some are called to go; all are called to send.

Author David Platt often reminds us that sending is not a lesser role in missions—it is essential. Missionaries cannot remain on the field without the faithful, sacrificial giving and prayer of their sending churches. The apostle Paul thanked the Philippians for their partnership in the gospel, saying, "No church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only" (Philippians 4:15). Financial partnership turns our resources into gospel opportunities in places we may never set foot.

Jeff Iorg emphasizes that prayer is not a token gesture—it is the spiritual lifeline of those on the front lines. When churches pray, God moves, doors open, and hearts are changed. Paul pleaded with believers, "Strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf" (Romans 15:30).

As Baptists, we believe every local church is responsible for sending and sustaining missionaries. That means giving generously, praying consistently, and caring personally. Our commitment ensures that the gospel continues to advance until "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14, ESV).

Let us be a church known not just for hearing about missions—but for fueling it. Join us as we continually pray for what God is calling Meridian to in the coming days, weeks, months, and years.

The Upper Rooms,
Christopher S. Milligan



Youth Back To School Lock-In
Friday-Saturday
August 22-23 at MBC
Time 5:00 p.m.
See Chris for details!

Attendance

August 10 - Sunday School

Preschool	7
Children	8
Youth	12
Adults	78
TOTAL	105
Visitors	3

Worship Service: 134

Contacts for the week of 8/4-8/10 Total: 85
4 & 5 Years—22 Adult 3—7 Adult 4—56

Giving

Giving For August 10

General Budget Fund	\$11,430.00
Non-Budget Designated	60.00
Grand Total	\$11,490.00
Online Giving	\$ 650.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,732.00
August Budget Giving	\$27,583.00

Online Giving Available

We will soon be launching our new website.
If you would like to donate online, please
visit our *temporary* giving page:
gift.idonate.com/meridian-baptist-church/Give

Memorials & Honorariums

A gift was given to the Homebound Ministry in honor of Betty Woods and in memory of Mary Ellen Cooper from the Winsome Class.

A gift was given by the Willing Circle Class in memory of their Assistant Teacher, Lu Jones.

This gift was given to Kayleigh King Burgin (who grew up at Meridian) as a first time teacher in the Blount County School System.

Honduras Mission Trip Interest Meeting Thursday, August 21 at 6:00 pm In the conference room

A light meal will be provided.

If you are interested in attending the trip, which is planned for January 2026, please attend the meeting.

Noteworthy News

YOU DESERVE A BREAK......have you noticed how the word "deserve" is used in advertising and politics these days? The definition of deserve is: *to merit, be qualified for, or have a claim to (reward, assistance, punishment, etc.) because of actions, qualities, or situation. To be worthy, fit, or suitable for some reward or requital.* If we believe everything we see in commercials and political speeches we "deserve a break today." We deserve to "have it your way." We should get the "insurance savings we deserve." We should have the credit card we deserve. Some would have you believe you deserve excellent medical care, and if you can't have that, you deserve excellent life insurance! This list goes on...

The Bible presents a different perspective on what we deserve. Paul, the Apostle, wrote, "ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God."—Rom. 3:23. He continues: "the wages of sin is death."—Rom. 6:23. "Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."—Exodus 34:7. "The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."—Numbers 14:18. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."—Galatians 6:7. The Bible is clear about what we deserve.

BUT...almost without exception, these verses are followed by a BUT. "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."—Rom. 6:23. "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."—Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."—Romans 5:8. We cannot do anything to earn or deserve God's love. We receive it as a gift. Jesus has made you righteous. Through his life, death and resurrection, you can live in a right relationship with God.

What great news! God replaces what I deserve with His great gift of grace and salvation. Think I'll have a donut—I deserve it.

Blessings! *Bro. Dennis*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Meridian family,

Do you ever lose heart when you pray? Jesus tells us not to lose heart, but continue to faithfully pray and do so persistently. To teach this biblical principle on prayer, Jesus told a parable in Luke 18:2-7. It says, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"

It has been said that a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The parable above tells of a persistent woman with a specific request to a ruler that cared not for her need. But because of her persistency (and the fact that he viewed this woman as a festering disturbance) he granted her request. Luke then writes what Jesus meant by the parable. In verses 7 and 8, Jesus explains his parable by asking questions to his audience. If the uncaring ruler granted her request, how much more will our heavenly Father answer the constant and persistent prayers of his people? God loves his children and desires to answer our fervent prayers.

Persistent prayer always demonstrates faith. Consider the words of Charles Swindoll; he states, "Prayer is not a one-hundred yard dash – one fast, flashy effort. Rather, Christ shows that it is a marathon of slow and steady petitions. In fact, he invites us to bother Him with our requests."

Is there something you are praying for, but feel discouraged because you do not see results? Remember, it is not about results but rather the will of God. God answers every prayer. His answer could be "yes." It could be "no." Or it could be "wait." But whatever the case, do not lose heart. Pray continually and persistently (1 Thess. 5:17)!

3 John 2,
Pastor Michael