

Last Sunday's Record - February 21, 2021

Offering: \$10,321.00
Sunday School: 194

January 1, 2021

Requirements: \$211,846.16
Receipts: \$278,366.41

Deacon of the Week

2/28 - Davis Miller
3/7 - Charles Naylor 3/14 - Freddie Poitevent

Deacon's Breakfast

Sunday, February 28 (note change)
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Sermon for February 28

"Turning a Blind Eye"
John 9:35-41

Menu for Wednesday, March 3

(for Noon Lunch and Evening Take-out)

Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Buttered Corn, Biscuit and Banana Pudding
KIDS: Chicken Strips, French Fries and Dessert

Adults: \$5 KIDS (12 and under): \$3 Family Maximum \$20

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - February 28

Preschool Extended Session

Timothy and Candice Maloney

Launch

Leslie and Jill Williams

Greeters

Allan and Diane Tolleson
John and Gaile Culpepper

Worship Welcomers

Landry and Fay Adkins Neil and Amanda Henry

Security - Team 2

John Calhoun, Steve Gressett, Brad Henry,
and Ben Webb

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, February 28

9:15 - Sunday School
10:30 - Morning Worship
3:30 - Acteens
4:30 - Youth Bible Drills

TUESDAY, March 2

9:30 - Ladies' Bible Study/Laird

WEDNESDAY, March 3

12:00 - Senior Adult Prayer Meeting, Luncheon and
Bible Study - (Fellowship Hall)
5:45 - G.A.s (Adult 3 Gathering Space)
R.A.s (Seeker Classroom)
Missions Friends/Preschool Choir (Children's Hall)
Youth Worship (Youth Room)
BIBLE STUDY/VanHorn (Chapel)
SANCTUARY CHOIR/Bishop (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, March 4

12:00 - Lenten Service (FBC Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, March 6

9:00 - The Gospel Conversational Church
(FBC Fellowship Hall)

***Don't Forget...This is the last Sunday
to bring our items to supply the shelves
at the LBA Crisis Center. Collection
boxes are in the Welcome Center for
your convenience.***

Dr. Nathan VanHorn, Pastor
Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music
Zach DePriest, Minister of Youth Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries
Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus
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THE MESSENGER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MERIDIAN

FEBRUARY 28, 2021 VOLUME 93, NUMBER 9

***Downtown Lenten
Schedule for 2021
Thursday Services at 12:00 noon***



March 4 - First Baptist Church

March 11 - Central Methodist Church

March 18 - First Presbyterian Church

March 25 - First Christian Church

*Masks and social distancing
will allow us to gather,
but, regretfully, no lunch this year.*

Church Family,

There's an old saying: you can't get traction without friction. I was reminded of this truth last week during the Snowpocalypse of 2021. So many people experienced extended losses of power and even water in their homes. Personally, the greatest difficulty with which I was presented was driving in Tupelo during our weekend excursion. Whole parking lots were coated with inches of ice, leaving the pavement undetectable. Even more alarming was the lack of friction and traction beneath our wheels. I was steering a large vehicle, but I did not feel like I was in complete control of it.

During her words of welcome in Sunday worship, Dana Foreman highlighted how much the last year has reminded us that we are not in control. For the last year, many of us have felt the way I felt driving over the weekend. We feel like we are spinning our wheels a bit, unable to make forward progress at the rate we desire if at all. Maybe you feel that way spiritually. Much like your physician, the advice you get from your pastor is relatively consistent. While I don't believe in one-size-fits-all diagnoses or recommendations for the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and giftings in the body of Christ, there certainly are some common things we can remember in times like this:

- **Stay in the WORD.** James calls it the "implanted" word (James 1:21). Even (or especially) when we lack traction in our changing circumstances, we can be rooted in the unchanging truth of God's Word. Seek God through the prayerful study of His Word.
- **Stay on WITNESS.** We are not the first to run the race, and we are not the first to be presented with obstacles along the way. We are reminded in Scripture to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2). We cannot always



Sunday, March 7 - 10:30 a.m.

Brian Hood, guest speaker

Monday, March 8 - 10:00 a.m.

Week of Prayer Program - Chapel

control the duration of the journey (our pace) - especially in seasons when we feel like we are spinning our wheels—but we can always affect our direction by fixing our eyes on the destination. Keep your eyes on Christ, and use your life to turn the eyes of the world to Him.

- **Stay in WORSHIP.** A pastor friend recently said, "If you aren't dead then God isn't done." The Bible tells us, "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it/Him" (Psalm 118:24). I have found that it is impossible for me to worship God and worry about my lack of control simultaneously. When we feel out of control, the devil tempts us to withdraw from worship when it is precisely what we need. Worship daily. Talk with friends, family, and other believers about God. Asking questions is okay! But be sure to worship God in this season. It will change. He will not.

If you are spinning your wheels and have lost sight of the path beneath, remember that Jesus is the way and that God promises to finish what He started in you (Philippians 1:6).

**Blessings,
NATHAN**

Sympathies...

Jim and Carol Wink and family in the death of her brother, Tim Thesman.

Memorials...

Music Fund

In memory of: Gary Eldridge
Tim Thesman (*Carol Wink's brother*)
Lenelle Simmons
Louise Ellis (*John Ellis' mother*)
Leona McAlpin (*Kristen Hill's grandmother*)

Missions and Ministry

Ileen Carroll (*Randy Carroll's mother*)
Joe Mabry (*Joey Mabry's father*)

Benevolence

Dottie Trunzler (*Faith Vaughn's mother*)
Connie Thompson
(*Michael Thompson's mother*)

The Disciple's Study Calendar

Week 10 - (March 1-5) John 7

Sunday School Lesson for March 7

**Parents of
FBC
Children!** **your
input is
needed!**

We need your **completed** surveys regarding priorities for renovation in our FBC Children's Ministry area by:
SUNDAY, February 28.

This information will help guide decisions on potential renovations to our Children's Building. Surveys can still be submitted online. Copies of the survey are available at the Welcome Center Counter, as well.

Let us hear your thoughts!