



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MERIDIAN

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 5



**Did you know that the LBA Crisis Center gives out an average of 30 FOOD BAGS PER DAY?**

**February ... is our month**

**to supply the shelves of the LBA Crisis Center. Boxes are in the Welcome Center.**

### Students

Preschool	2 lb. rice
Grades 1 - 6	1 lb. spaghetti
Youth/College	28 oz. spaghetti sauce

### Adult I

Co-Ed 1, Mabry	5 lb. cornmeal
Foreman, Henry	5 lb. plain flour

### Adult II

Fellowship, Adkins	48 oz. oil
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### Adult III

Snowden, Davis/Williamson	Money for Meat
Leake, Seekers	5 lb. sugar

### Adult IV

Pilgrim Class	100 tea bags/24 family
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### Last Sunday's Record

Sunday School: 232 Offering: \$12,907.26

### January 1, 2023

Requirements: \$ 130,075.75

Receipts: \$ 151,929.90

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feb. 5 - Brad Henry

Feb. 12 - Jeremy Hill Feb. 19 - Brad Sykes

Feb. 26 - Joe Kieronski Mar. 5 - Larry Roberts

Mar. 12 - Joey Mabry Mar. 19 - Sam McCorkle

Mar. 26 - Jet Scarbrough

### Deacon's Breakfast - February 19

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

### Sermon for Sunday, February 5

"In His Hands" Jeremiah 18:1-6

### FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER - Feb. 8

Chicken and Dumplings, Green Beans, Apple Cheese Casserole, Cornbread, Salad Bar

**KIDS:** Pizza and Fruit Cup

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

**SERVERS:** Benny Harrison,

J.B. and Teresa Griffith, Bill Simcox

### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - February 5

PRAYER LINE Volunteer - Ben Webb

#### Preschool Ext. Session

Elliot and Betsy Brewer

#### Launch

Leslie and Jill Williams

#### Worship Welcome

Freddie Poitevent  
Tommy and Mary Emma  
Allen

#### Greeters

John and Gaile  
Culpepper  
Allan and Diane Tolleson

#### Security Team 3

Clifford Holloway, John  
Anderson, Alan Lamar,  
Jody Richardson,  
Brad Garrett

#### Counting Committee

Melissa Mabry, *chairman*  
John Anderson  
Melanie Carroll  
Leslie Dunn

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, February 5

9:15 - Sunday School  
10:30 - Morning Worship  
3:15 - Acteens  
4:30 - Youth Bible Drills  
5:30 - Bible Drills and Skills (Children)

### TUESDAY, February 7

7:00 - Youth Bible Study/Jack's  
9:30 - Abide Bible Study/C. Laird  
4:30 - Ladies' Bible Study/R. Scarbrough

### WEDNESDAY, February 8

4:00 - WMU Council Meeting (*Note Change*)  
5:00 - FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER  
- YOUTH BELLS  
5:30 - YOUTH CHOIR  
- Young Ringers  
6:00 - Preschool and Children's Choirs  
6:15 - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study  
6:30 - MISSIONS (G.A.s, R.A.s, and Mission Friends)  
- YOUTH WORSHIP  
7:15 - Sanctuary Choir

### THURSDAY, February 9

7:00 - Youth Bible Study/Piggly Wiggly  
9:30 - Day Trip to Laurel

### FRIDAY, February 10

6:00 - G.I.F.T.

### USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Tommy Cason, Leonard Cobb, Chris Dean, Van Goodman,  
J.B. Griffith, Alan Lamar, Jim Lauderdale, Ben Leake,  
Joey Mabry, Davis Miller, Greg Monsour,  
Freddie Poitevent, Larry Roberts, Brad Sykes,  
Gary Wilkinson, Jim Williamson



*Dr. Daniel P. Caldwell, Interim Pastor*  
*Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music*  
*Noah Greer, Youth Minister*  
*Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries*  
*Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus*  
*Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus*

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**"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."**



*Hebrews 13:16*



## GOD LOVES YOU

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

Why does John 3:16 always seem to be the first Bible verse a child memorizes? Why is it the verse most often quoted? I have a hunch that if a poll were taken as to the first Bible verse that comes to mind, the overwhelming majority of people would select this familiar one. I suppose there are a number of reasons why it is so well-known. First, it is the best summary of the Gospel ever stated in one sentence. How better can one sum up the story of the God of our Bible than in these few lines?

We are told that God loves us, that His love for us is great, so great that He would give His best for us. His best was none other than His only son. He gave His son to die for our sinful nature and set everything right for us. By simply accepting the gift of God's love for us through His son, we can have life that has no end, which means we do not have to experience the death that always results from sin.

Through the years we have made religion complicated, as only humans can do, but the Gospel is so simple. Even a child can understand the message of John 3:16. Don't worry about details that do not matter. Memorize the verse. Claim it. Accept it. Let it stay on your mind day and night. You will not find a better statement of what God feels for us, thinks about us, and has done for us.

DTB

## SPRING TOUR OF PRESIDENTS MARCH 11 - 17, 2023



From Little Rock to Dallas and College Station...we'll tour three Presidential Libraries and take in all the sites on our way. Itineraries are in the Welcome Center.

Call David to sign up.

A \$50 deposit will reserve your spot on the bus! (Itineraries are at the Welcome Center Desk.)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**VBS WEEK**  
**JUNE 19 - 23**

*Twists & Turns*  
 Following Jesus Changes the Game

## RA's and GA's ON Mission

*Our kids will be at the Jaycee Soccer Field*



**Saturday, February 11**

**9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

(meet at FBC at 8:30 a.m.)

*with a special gift from FBC...*

*HANDWARMERS and a warm invitation*

*to get to know their Jesus.*

**PRAY FOR THEM!**



**Hey, KIDS...**wear your t-shirt with our mission theme "Joyful in Hope" for our "ON MISSION" project at the AFC Soccer Tournament!



**And, FAMILIES...**we encourage you to let your child wear their t-shirt any time that you choose to be "ON MISSION" as a family. The Children's Ministry will be providing several ideas and opportunities for individual family projects as well.

## Memorials...

### Lottie Moon

In memory of: Sam Forbert

Coweela George (*Debra Porter's sister*)

Leonard Jones (*Pam Maloney's father*)

### Missions and Ministry

In memory of: Maureen Jackson

Carolyn May (*James May's mother*)

**MISSIONS LUNCHEON**  
**Monday, February 13**  
**12:00 noon**  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Sara Smith, Center for Pregnancy Choices**

## Ladies Bible Study

*Sundays at 4:00 p.m.*

**Beginning Sunday, February 12**

**Contact Erika Holloway to sign up.**



## LET'S GO TO LAUREL!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

**9:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

**SHOP, EAT, AND SEE THE**

**CHIHULY CHANDELIER THAT HAS JUST ARRIVED AT THE LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SIGN UP IN THE WELCOME CENTER TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE BUS.**

## G.I.F.T.

**Friday, February 10 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Birth through 6th Grade**

Make reservations by contacting Julie Holloway @ 601-934-0803 by **Sunday, February 5**