

Privileged to Serve

Speaker ... Andy Duncan (am); Tom Fair (pm)
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives
 Song Leader Tom F. (am); Andy D. (pm)
 Attendance.....

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer TBA
 Lord's Supper Randy Rives

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Closing Prayer.....

Evening

Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

Communion Preparation

Month of January.....
 Month of February

Nursery Attendant; Backup

January 16.....
 January 23.....

Wednesday Evening - Wednesday 19, 2022

Prayer/Announcements.....
 Song Leader.....
 Devotional.....

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study..... 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study..... 6:00 p.m.

Elders

ANDY DUNCAN (662) 416-2222
TOM FAIR (601) 681-8293

Deacons

LAMAR KING (601) 604-2656
 BUILDING/GROUNDS

RANDY RIVES..... (601) 513-4785
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP

ALBERT ST. CLAIR (601) 626-7815

Works Supported

Robert Martin
Stacey Ferguson
 South Pacific Missions
Pine Vale Children's Home
 Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship	27
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	6
Sunday Evening Worship	10
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	14

Wednesday Bible Study 15

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,680.00

* Figures Unavailable



January 16, 2022

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

The Church is a Family!

4 Marks of a Healthy Church Family

What does a Fortune 500 company and a local church have in common? Well, from a Biblical viewpoint, the answer is nothing. The church is not a business; it's not a corporation to drive forward with businesslike achievements. God's kingdom blueprint isn't about numbers, strategies, budgets, and spreadsheets. He doesn't measure His church by corporate metrics such as profits and losses. A healthy church isn't about filling slots, plugging people into tactical positions, or managing clever marketing. God's church leaders are neither bosses nor CEO's; they are the spiritual shepherds of His flock. Preachers in the Lord's church are not entertainers or entrepreneurs; they are heralds of the truth and ministers of God and His people. The church is not a business, and we will never experience God's glorious design for His church as long as we model it as such.

Instead of approaching the church like a business, a far more Biblical approach is to view the church as a family. The pages of the New Testament are littered with phrases and concepts to help us understand the relational nature of Christianity. When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he recommended Phoebe as "our sister" (Romans 16:1 ESV). Peter commended Silvanus as "a faithful brother" (1 Peter 5:12 ESV). Add to these references the vast number of times Christians are collectively referred to as "brethren" (KJV) or "brothers" (i.e. brothers and sisters) (ESV). These were not special titles or meaningless phrases just tossed around by the apostles; the first century Christians were a family. We are the very "household of God" (1 Timothy 3:15 ESV). Jesus views those in His church as His very own family and is "not ashamed to call them brothers" (Hebrews 2:11 ESV).

When we think "church," we need to be thinking relationally. Rather than seeing the church as a building to decorate, an event to attend, an organization in which to participate, or just another business to run, we desperately need to recapture and rediscover the community nature of God's church. The church is a family!

But what makes a healthy church family? How can we make our local churches feel more like a family and less like a business? How can we show our communities that the body of Christ really is a place where you can belong to something special and become something more? In truth, some of the very traits needed for a physical family to be healthy are the characteristics needed for a healthy local church. If you are hungering for a more relational religion and wanting to help foster a more personal and loving church home, then keep reading and let's explore four marks of a healthy church family.

❖ **First**, a healthy church family is a place of togetherness. If your family life at home is anything like mine, then you and your family probably spend a lot of time together. You eat meals together, you do chores around the house together, you play games together, you worship together, and you likely do all sorts of other activities with one another. That's what healthy families do—they spend time together. ~continued inside~

A weekly publication of the Meridian church of Christ

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