

Privileged to Serve

PreacherBill Collins
 Announcements.....Al St. Clair
 Song Leader Tom Fair
 Attendance Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer..... Terry Dyer
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

* Byron Madison

Assisting

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King
 Ralph Hubbard * * Gene Hurst

Closing Prayer Rob Warren

Evening

Opening Prayer.....Dwight Callens
 Lord's Supper

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King

Closing PrayerJack Mears

Communion Preparation

Month of DecemberBeth Dyer
 Month of January..... Sabrina Collins

Nursery Attendant; Backup

December 10Katie Agan; Angela Duncan
 December 17Angela Duncan; Lara King

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study6:00 p.m.

Elders

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

Deacons

LAMAR KING..... (601) 604-2656
 BUILDING/GROUNDS
BYRON MADISON..... (601) 934-1213
 YOUTH
RANDY RIVES..... (601) 513-4785
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP
ALBERT ST. CLAIR..... (601) 626-7815

Preacher

BILL COLLINS..... (337) 515-2385

Works Supported

Robert Martin
Stacey Ferguson
 South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children's Home
 Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	33
Sunday Morning Worship	74
Sunday Evening Worship	31
Wednesday Bible Study	31

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week	\$ 2,885.00
Pine Vale Special 5 th Sunday	\$

Daily Bible Readers

December 3, 2017 * = *% of attending
 *Figures Unavailable



December 10, 2017 ~ Meridian Messenger ~ Welcome Visitors!



Keeping Christ in Christmas

It's kind of weird, in an entertaining way, to watch the religious world battle over Christmas. There is the "Jesus is the reason for the season" crowd, who make sure that Christ is at the center of every mention of Christmas. There is the "historical" crowd, who are quick to point out that Jesus was not, in fact, born on December 25th and so the day has nothing to do with Him. And, there is the "peace keeping" crowd who remind everyone that it doesn't matter what you celebrate it as.

All three groups have good intentions, and all three are right in their own way. I appreciate the zeal for Christ shown by the first group, the historical accuracy of the second group, and the hearts of the third group to appeal to Romans 14 and maintain unity.

But should we really care whether December 25th holds importance to Christians today or if people are wrong to say that it does? Or should we see it as one, big opportunity?

The world doesn't have five minutes for Jesus all year long and yet in December, it's okay to mention His name and talk about His time on earth. It doesn't matter how accurate or inaccurate someone's beliefs about Bethlehem and the manger might be according to me, what matters is that the door is opened to discuss Him in a way that I might not get to the other 11 months of the year. While December is often about gifts and time with family, Christians need to start to view it in another light, and that's as the time of the greatest opportunities for evangelism that we're going to get all year.

I know as well as any that it's very difficult to turn a conversation to Jesus, but it's a lot easier this time of year. Ask people what Jesus' birth means to them, ask them if they observe it with a church, ask them their favorite account of Jesus' life... come up with something to open a door that's far more cracked than it's going to be the rest of the year.

~continued inside~