

Privileged to Serve

Preacher.....Bill Collins
 Announcements Dick Vinson
 Song Leader Paul Guy
 Attendance..... Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer Randy Rives
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

* Lamar King

Assisting

Byron Madison * * Ralph Hubbard

Gene Hurst * * Jared Agan

Closing Prayer.....Jack Mears

Evening

Opening PrayerByron Madison

Lord's Supper

Byron Madison * * Ralph Hubbard

Closing Prayer..... Rob Warren

Communion Preparation

Month of AprilAngela Duncan

Month of May..... Kitty Dooley

Nursery Attendant; Backup

April 22 Glenda Rives; Sabrina Collins

April 29Lara King; Katie Agan

Wednesday Evening - April 25, 2018

Prayer/Announcements..... Tom Fair

Song Leader..... Andy Duncan

Devotional.....Bill Collins

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

BYRON MADISON..... (601) 227-1374

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	*
Sunday Morning Worship	85
Sunday Evening Worship	24
Wednesday Bible Study	*

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week	\$ 2,455.08
Pine Vale Special 5 th Sunday	\$

Daily Bible Readers

April 15, 2018 18 = 21.18% of attending

*Figures Unavailable



April 22, 2018

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

Extending His Arm

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

As I try to imagine the scene at any crucifixion back in the Roman world, I would think that most criminals fought the process with all their strength. As the Roman soldiers tried to force the man onto the cross, most would have resisted. As they attempted to place the man's arm upon the cross-beam, there would have been a strong struggle as the man jerked his arm back and away until several soldiers held the arm tight against the wooden beam so the nail could be placed and struck. It would have been an unpleasant event as men yelled in pain and cursed their executors.

It is likely that the two thieves crucified that day at Golgotha, that they too, were uncooperative. They cursed the soldiers, and likely struggled throughout the process. I am sure it was something Roman soldiers had learned to deal with, and expect, on a regular basis.

So imagine the centurion's amazement as he saw Jesus of Nazareth willingly comply with the soldier's commands and efforts to end his life. Jesus' lack of resistance must have made an impression upon the centurion and his band of soldiers.

Isaiah spoke of Jesus' compliant nature in death when he wrote; *“Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth (Isaiah 53: 7).*

Imagine the soldier's amazement as Jesus willingly stretched out his arm and held it steady as the hammer blows drove the nail through his hand and deep into the wood. Yes, like a lamb, the **“Lamb of God.”**

Why would one be so compliant, why would anyone not fight for his life? Because, as Jesus stared into the face of these soldiers standing over him, he did not see the face of battle hardened executioners, but rather saw the face of you and me, and for us he willingly stretched forth his arm, and held his hand steady as the nail was pounded into the tree. No wonder the centurion remarked at the end of it all, **“Truly this was the son of God”** (Mark 15:39). As the scriptures said, *“For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross.”* What joy? *“Despising the shame?”* Why did he accept such a shameful death? His joy was that he was doing the Father's will, completing the plan to save all mankind. He endured the shame because He knew His death would destroy the sin that separated you and me from God.

“He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He himself bore the sin of many and interceded for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12).

When your faith is wavering, when you are struggling to resist some temptation, when you are thinking of not worshipping on some Sunday morning, just remember that arm which was willingly, and lovingly, stretched out for you upon that wooden beam.

(Dennis Doughty serves as preacher with/for Tunica, Mississippi Church of Christ; Email: dennis1848@bellsouth.net) – Magnolia Messenger, Spring 2018

A weekly publication of the Meridian church of Christ

2229 Highway 19 North ~ PO Box 3476 ~ Meridian, MS 39303-3476 ~ Phone: (601) 482-5318

www.meridianchurchofchrist.org ~ Email: churchofchristme@bellsouth.net