

### Privileged to Serve

Speaker ...Stacy Ferguson (am); Andy D.(pm)  
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives  
 Song Leader.....Andy D.(am); Tom F.(p.m.)  
 Attendance.....

#### Morning

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

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Closing Prayer.....

#### Evening

Opening Prayer .....  
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

#### Communion Preparation

Month of August.....  
 Month of September.....

#### Nursery Attendant; Backup

August 23.....Lara King; Katie Agan  
 August 30..... Katie Agan; Angela Duncan

#### Wednesday Evening - August 26, 2020

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  
 BYRON MADISON..... (601) 227-1374  
 YOUTH  
 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	25
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	36
Sunday Evening Worship	8
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	27
Wednesday Bible Study	*

### Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,840.00

\* Figures Unavailable



August 23, 2020 *Meridian Messenger* Welcome Visitors!

## Why Are You Sleeping?

If you've watched the movie, Finding Nemo, you can likely recall the time when Nemo found himself in Australia, in a fish tank inside a dentist's office. There is a pivotal scene in the movie where the dentist was planning to give Nemo to his niece as a present. Long story short, in order to get out of the predicament he found himself in, Nemo played dead. When the little girl saw that Nemo was upside down, she shook the bag he was in and yelled, "WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING?"

In the Gospels, Jesus asked a very similar question of his disciples. In Luke 22, we read of one of the darkest moments in Jesus' life. In verses 39-46, just before Jesus is arrested, we see him praying on the Mount of Olives, asking God for there to be a different ending to his story. Jesus says in verse 42, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." We know, based on the harmony of the Gospels, that Jesus prayed this prayer three times. After he finished praying, he found his disciples sleeping. In verse 46, he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Jesus gave his disciples a straightforward command: "Pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Verse 40). After he said this, Jesus went away from them, weeping in pure agony, asking the Father for a way of escape. The disciples, on the other hand, missed an opportunity. What kind of temptation was Jesus expecting his disciples to face? Could it be that Jesus knew the disciples were not ready to face oppression head on once Jesus was arrested and crucified? Mark tells us that just after Jesus' arrest, "they all left him and fled" (Mark 14:50).

The disciples had not been forced to face true hatred and oppression for their faith. Sure, there were some people that did not like them, but they had no idea what was coming. Jesus, knowing what was coming, urged them to pray that they not enter into temptation. They, however, missed out on their opportunity and were instead found sleeping. If we are not careful, we will be caught sleeping. It may not be a literal sleep, like the disciples, but it could be a number of other things. Our "sleeping" may be missing an opportunity to proclaim the name of Jesus because the busyness of life has become overwhelming. Our "sleeping" may be falling back into the sin that we worked so hard to overcome because we neglected spending adequate time growing in our relationship with our Lord. Jesus gave his disciples an opportunity to get ready for what was coming. Instead, he found them sleeping. Let's make sure that the same cannot be said of us in our walk with Jesus. God loves you, and so do I.

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](http://www.meridianchurchofchrist.org) ~ Email: [churchofchristme@bellsouth.net](mailto:churchofchristme@bellsouth.net)

Jared Green ♦ *The Encourager* – August 23, 2020  
 Calvert City Church of Christ, Calvert City, KY