

**Privileged to Serve**

Speaker ..Andy Duncan(am); Randy Rives(pm)  
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives  
 Song Leader.....Andy D.(am/pm)  
 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 December .....  
 Month of January.....

**Nursery Attendant; Backup**

December 27 ..... Angela Duncan; Lara King  
 January 3.....Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison

**Wednesday Evening – December 30, 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

**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	39
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	34
Sunday Evening Worship	14
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	23
Wednesday Bible Study	14

**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,245.00

\*Figures Unavailable



*December 27, 2020*    *Meridian Messenger*    *Welcome Visitors!*

**The Confidence of Prayer**

One of the great blessings of being a Christian is answered prayer. We can have confidence and assurance as we pray to God. Some Christians appear to lack the confidence they need. Often a person might say, “I hope God heard my prayer.” Others may state, “I think God heard my prayer.” John tells us in 1 John 5:14 that we have assurance and a confidence that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

First, John states whose prayers will be heard. The simple word “we” tells us. He is writing to Christians; but He may also be writing to faithful Christians. He is writing to those who are born of God (1 Jn. 5:1, 18). James reminds us that the “effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16 NKJV) If I am where I need to be with God, He will hear and answer my prayer according to His will.

Next, John states we should ask. Jesus had said on one occasion that the Father knows what we need before we ask (Mt.6:8). If that is so, why ask? God wants us to show our humility and our trust in him. We don’t ask just to be asking. We ask to show we know who can help us and that help is beyond ourselves. James tells us that sometimes we may not get what we need because we don’t ask. He writes, “Yet, you do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2 NKJV) So, we must ask God with confidence that He will answer our prayers.

Then, John tells us that prayer must be according to His will. The will of God is sometimes revealed to us in Scripture. It is the will of God that all men might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). Paul prayed that the Ephesian Christians would understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17). I can understand the Lord’s will regarding prayer as well. The Lord’s will is that I am righteous when I pray (James 5:16). It is His will that I should pray without doubting (James 1:6). It is His will that I pray without ceasing (1 Th. 5:16). It is His will that I put away sin, and worship Him so that He will hear me (John 9:31).

I don’t know how God will answer my prayers. John says He will. I also don’t know when. His answer may be yes. The answer may be no. The answer may be for us to wait a while. When Paul prayed for his thorn in the flesh to be removed, he got a different answer than what he expected. It was an answer, however, according to God’s will. The response from God was “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9 NKJV).

He hears us. This is important to us. God hearing us simply means He answers our prayers. Some have argued that God hears all prayers. In the way John uses it, that is not so. God hears or responds to those who ask according to His will; but man sometimes blocks...~continued inside~