

Privileged to Serve	
Speaker ...	Tom Fair (am); Andy Duncan (pm)
Announcements/Prayer.....	Randy Rives
Song Leader.....	Andy D. (am); Tom F. (pm)
Attendance.....	
<b>Morning</b>	
Scripture/Opening Prayer .....	
Lord's Supper	
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Closing Prayer.....	
<b>Evening</b>	
Opening Prayer .....	
Lord's Supper	
	*
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Closing Prayer.....	
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	
Month of April .....	
Month of May.....	
<b>Nursery Attendant; Backup</b>	
April 11 .....	Katie Agan; Angela Duncan
April 18 .....	Angela Duncan; Lara King
<b>Wednesday Evening - April 14, 2021</b>	
Prayer/Announcements.....	
Song Leader.....	
Devotional.....	

Service Times	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Bible Study.....	9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....	5:00 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Bible Study.....	6:00 p.m.

Elders	
<b>ANDY DUNCAN</b> .....	(662) 416-2222
<b>TOM FAIR</b> .....	(601) 681-8293
Deacons	
<b>LAMAR KING</b> .....	(601) 604-2656
BUILDING/GROUNDS	
<b>RANDY RIVES</b> .....	(601) 513-4785
EDUCATION & WORSHIP	
<b>ALBERT ST. CLAIR</b> .....	(601) 626-7815
Works Supported	
<b>Robert Martin</b>	
<b>Stacey Ferguson</b>	
South Pacific Missions	
<b>Pine Vale Children's Home</b>	
Corinth, Mississippi	

Attendance Last Week	
Sunday Bible Class	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship	42
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	15
Sunday Evening Worship	13
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	22
Wednesday Bible Study	11
Contributions & Other Income	
Contribution Last Week	\$ 2,410.00
*Figures Unavailable	



*April 11, 2021*      *Meridian Messenger*      *Welcome Visitors!*

## A Prayer for Boldness

In Acts 3 and 4, we read of Peter and John early in their post-Pentecost ministry. Peter, in chapter 2, had just preached the first ever gospel sermon, and Jesus' apostles were now dispersed, preaching Jesus to the world. In Acts 3, we read of Peter and John healing a lame man at the temple gate. After healing the man, Peter preached the gospel to those who were in the temple. Unsurprisingly, Peter and John's message was not well received by the Jewish leaders.

Acts 4:1-3 tells us, "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening." The next day, Peter and John were put on trial before the Sanhedrin Council—a group of the top Jewish leaders. As a matter of fact, this was the same council Jesus was placed before prior to being delivered to the Romans. What comes next in Acts 4 is both astonishing and inspiring.

*Peter and John boldly proclaimed the message of Jesus.* Standing before the most powerful men of the religious world, the men had a decision to make. Would they keep quiet in order to be set free, or would they stand up for Jesus? As you can imagine, Peter, filled with the Spirit, chose the latter. Verse 13 tells us, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated common men, they were astonished. And they recognized they had been with Jesus." In an uncomfortable, scary situation, Peter and John boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ.

*Peter, John, and their friends prayed for boldness.* After hearing Peter's defense, the council commanded that they no longer speak in the name of Jesus. After refusing, the council threatened them and let them go. After meeting back up with their friends, they prayed one of the most inspiring prayers imaginable. Faced with threats from some very powerful people, the group did not pray simply for protection. Instead, they prayed for boldness in proclaiming the message of Jesus. I encourage you to read this prayer in its entirety, but the words of Acts 4:29 are amazing: "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness..."

It is my hope and prayer that we, as Jesus' followers living in a world opposed to him, will have the boldness to proclaim the gospel, no matter the cost. Scripture is clear that it will not be easy, but I encourage you to take the inspiration found in Acts 4 to spur you to even more boldness in proclaiming the good news of Jesus to this world. God loves you, and so do I.