

**Privileged to Serve**

Speaker ... Andy Duncan (am); Tom Fair (pm)  
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives  
 Song Leader ..... Tom F.(am); Andy D. (pm)  
 Attendance.....

**Morning**

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

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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 8..... Angela Duncan; Lara King  
 August 15..... Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison

**Wednesday Evening - August 11, 2021**

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	29
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	13
Sunday Evening Worship	10
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	9

Wednesday Bible Study	9
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**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week	\$	*
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\* Figures Unavailable



*August 8, 2021*

*Meridian Messenger*

*Welcome Visitors!*

**HEAVEN**

**HOPE: THE TREE OF LIFE**

Life over the past year has been strange at best, giving birth to new fears and hopes. Daily we have heard about friends or acquaintances that have the virus, some even dying from it. Add to that the violence, rioting, and other dangers that seem to have no end. Our nation has changed its values for worse. How long can this trend go on? We hope for better times; we are so fearful for our country and our families. Indeed, Proverbs 13:12, tells the absolute truth of it all: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." We are sick; we feel hopeless in this situation.

On the other hand, hope is not hope unless it is deferred. Is it true that the proper definition of hope is "desire plus expectation?" According to the dictionary, "One with hope looks forward to something that has not yet come; yet, he continues to look for it. Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." We hope for heaven; it has not yet arrived. Some hope for new and better employment; the same old work continues. We hope our close family member will soon get well; the condition just keeps on. Christians hope another close family member will obey the gospel; the loved one does not take the needed step. One who follows God does not give up, but keeps praying and keeps hoping. We must continue setting new goals, making plans, and pursuing them.

As life drags on, the situation does make the heart sick. There is serious discouragement. The Word of God does recognize discouragement and prescribes remedies for it. "He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for [Jehovah] shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31). The key is to trust in God, daily walking in His way.

Remember the ultimate hope Peter gave us: "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:6-9). Real life for a Christian consists of a relationship with God. As we walk with Him day by day, through faith in Jesus Christ, our ultimate welfare, our final hope is assured.

*~continued inside~*