

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · OCT 2024

HOPE & HARMONY

Official Newsletter of Mary Elizabeth Baptist Church

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to our first issue of Mary Elizabeth Baptist Church's (MEBC) newsletter. We are excited about this opportunity to promote communication and involvement within our church family & community. Our goals for this newsletter are to bring awareness of our ministries and missions, create a feeling of community among members, and bring joy and connection to all of our readers. We hope this regular publication brings a breath of fresh air to your mailbox or inbox, as well as the content to keep you informed about our church and in touch with the Spirit. Newsletters will feature interviews, guest authors, event calendars, and "Food for the Soul," a section devoted to bringing inspiration and a smile.



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Are you up to the Challenge?

WITH DENNIS BURTON

Every successful organization needs a good understanding of where it is financially and motivationally. Our church has elected to take on the 20/20/20 challenge to focus on meeting budgetary needs and focusing on current and potential ministries we can offer. The basics are on the Sunday closest to the 20th of each month, each member is encouraged to give an additional 20 dollars to their typical giving. That week we are to spend an extra 20 minutes (either all at once or spread throughout the week) praying and listening to God about the ministries of MEBC, and praying for our leadership, vision, and mission.



Historically, MEBC has excelled in meeting budgetary needs for day-to-day operations while having funds for stewardship to its members and community. Since COVID, these funds have become tighter. While our church is still able to provide for those in need and does so often, it is important to consider the degree of impact we can have when more than sufficient funds are available. A few benefits highlighted by Pastor Dennis Burton in response to this challenge include bolstering the operating budget, providing more funds for mission projects in the community, providing more funds for current ministries (children's ministries, activities for families, ministry to home-bound), and provides a solid base from which these ministries can operate. With 20 minutes dedicated to prayer and thoughts focused on the needs of our church and its ministries, the hope is that we will become acutely aware of how we can each play our part in continuing the legacy of a caring, willing, and involved church.

20/20/20

20TH day of
the month

20 minutes of
prayer

20 dollars to
tithe





Cozy Community Celebration

WITH MAGAN LEWIS

The evenings are getting cooler, the days are getting shorter, and the leaves are changing. It's fall! What better way to celebrate a cozy season, than the annual Fall Festival with all the warmth and nostalgia it brings? This event is an opportunity to fellowship with our church family and to welcome our community as a whole to enjoy the season. Many of us have enjoyed this festival for years. Some remember attending as children and are now bringing their children; some brought their children and are now enjoying it with their grandchildren too. Some may be coming for the first time, and making plans to be back next year. The Fall Festival is a place for fun that embraces all the wonderful things the season holds. The cozy warmth of huddling together on a hayride, the excitement of playing games and hoping to win a prize, and the overall joy of seeing young and old sharing smiles and hugs. I look forward to the good old-fashioned cakewalk! There are few greater earthly joys than having your number called when the music stops and wandering over to select something from the table filled with sweet treats made by the talented bakers among us. I think my stomach is growling!



Our church treasures our children and families and these events highlight that appreciation, but also extends it to our community. Please invite friends, family, classmates, coworkers, or the family you pass by in the grocery store. This event is for everyone!

The Fall Festival will be held on October 26th from 4:30 - 8:30 PM primarily located in the fellowship hall. There will be a prize for the best-decorated pumpkin. Pumpkins can be carved or painted. Please bring your crafted pumpkin with you to the festival. They will be judged during the festival and the winner will be announced that night.

As mentioned, there will be a cakewalk. If you are planning to bring a dessert for the cake walk please bring it to Alicia Horne in the fellowship hall between 4 - 7 pm on Friday, October 25th.

Attractions

**GRILLED HAMBURGERS AND
HOTDOGS**

GAMES FOR ALL AGES

HAYRIDE

**DECORATED
PUMPKIN CONTEST**

COSTUMES WELCOME



Fundraising for Shoeboxes

WITH MAGAN LEWIS

On October 20th, the children's ministry will host a donation-based spaghetti supper. During this special event, the children help to prepare and serve spaghetti, refreshments, and dessert to raise funds for a mission project. The food is delicious, and the sweet service by little hands makes this evening a treat for all ages. To top it all off, all donations received will go toward filling and sending "shoe boxes" to those in need. Many items have been donated by our wonderful church members during the past several months, and monetary donations will go toward any additional items. Otherwise, donations will cover any cost of transporting the boxes. The children's ministry will send the shoeboxes to the children of western North Carolina in response to the impact of Hurricane Helene. They are calling it: Operation Carolina Christmas. "Our goal is that the children receiving these (shoeboxes) will know there is everlasting love through Jesus Christ, and there are children and people right here in the state that love them," says Magan Lewis, a leader in the children's ministry and organizer of this event. The leaders of the children's ministry also hope that the children of MEBC will learn that we can share God's love in many places, whether that's across the world or right here in North Carolina. With last year's event raising in the ballpark of \$1,000, it is anticipated that this mission will have a significant impact. "The kids really look forward to this every year," says Magan, and I think it's safe to say we all do. The event will begin at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall at MEBC; donations are appreciated. Items will continue to be collected for shoeboxes until the end of October. If you are unable to attend the event and would like to make a monetary donation, please see Magan Lewis.

Trunk or Treat

On October 31st MEBC is hosting a trunk or treat in the upper parking lot (outside the Sanctuary). Anyone who is planning to park their car to host out of their "trunk" will need to arrive and park around 6:00. Trick or treating will begin at 6:30 and the lot will be closed to cars beginning at 6:25. The lower lot will remain open to people attending the event.

Having a safe, not-so-spooky alternative for the children of our community is important to us. We encourage you to invite all children to attend. We saw some great costumes, neat games, and creative trunks last year; looking forward to seeing what will be out there this year. Having families in our community see what we have to offer and the love we have for them may create the bridge we need for them to consider attending our church. Remember, sharing God's love and His ministry is the real reason for anything we do.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

ADULTS

7:00 pm

Bible study, typically with focus topics. These sessions promote a personal relationship with Jesus and a thorough understanding of the Bible. The current series is focused on prophecies of Jesus' birth in the Old and New Testament. .



CHILDREN

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Girls (K-5th grade) GAs

Boys (K-5th grade) RAs

Preschool pals (2 years - 4 years old)

Each class provides a lesson to promote an understanding of God's love and Bible principles. Fellowship and play included!

YOUTH

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

6th - 12th grade co-ed. This study group encourages the development of a deep, personal relationship with Jesus. It helps teens learn how to use the Bible and prayer to navigate life. Fellowship and fun!



OCTOBER EVENTS

UPCOMING*

- LADIES SUPPER & DEVOTIONAL
OCTOBER 18, 6:00 PM
- BAPTISMAL SERVICE
OCTOBER 20, 11:00 AM
- DEAF CHURCH
OCTOBER 20, 9:45 & 10:45
- SPAGHETTI SUPPER
OCTOBER 20, 5:30 PM
- FALL FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 26, 4:30 PM
- MEN'S BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 27, 8:00 AM
- TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 31, 6:30



*CLICK THE EVENT FOR MORE INFO &
SHARABLE FLYER

MEBC HIGHLIGHTS

WORK DAY

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO HELP WITH OUR CHURCH WORKDAY! CARING FOR THE BEAUTY OF OUR CHURCH IS A REFLECTION OF THE CARE WE HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, AND OUR DRIVE TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY.

DEAF MINISTRY

DEAF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DEAF CHURCH WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 20TH. SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE HELD AT 9:45 AM AND SERVICE AT 10:45 WITH REV NATHAN CARTER. THESE WILL BE HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

WISDOM CORNER

FINALLY, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, REJOICE! STRIVE FOR FULL RESTORATION, ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, BE OF ONE MIND, LIVE IN PEACE. AND THE GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

A CREAMY, DELICIOUS DIP THAT INCLUDES ALL THE TASTES OF FALL.

PUMPKIN DIP RECIPE

16 OZ CREAM CHEESE (SOFTENED)
1 CAN PUMPKIN PUREE
1 LB POWDERED SUGAR
1 TSP CINNAMON
1/2 TSP NUTMEG

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS WITH MIXER UNTIL WELL COMBINED. PLACE IN REFRIGERATOR TO COOL.
SERVE WITH GINGER SNAPS (TO DIP).



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND INTEREST WITHIN OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY. PLEASE FORWARD OUR NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND! IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER OR HAVE CONTENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FEATURED PLEASE CONTACT US AT: MEBC3703@GMAIL.COM