

# HOPE & HARMONY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MARY ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

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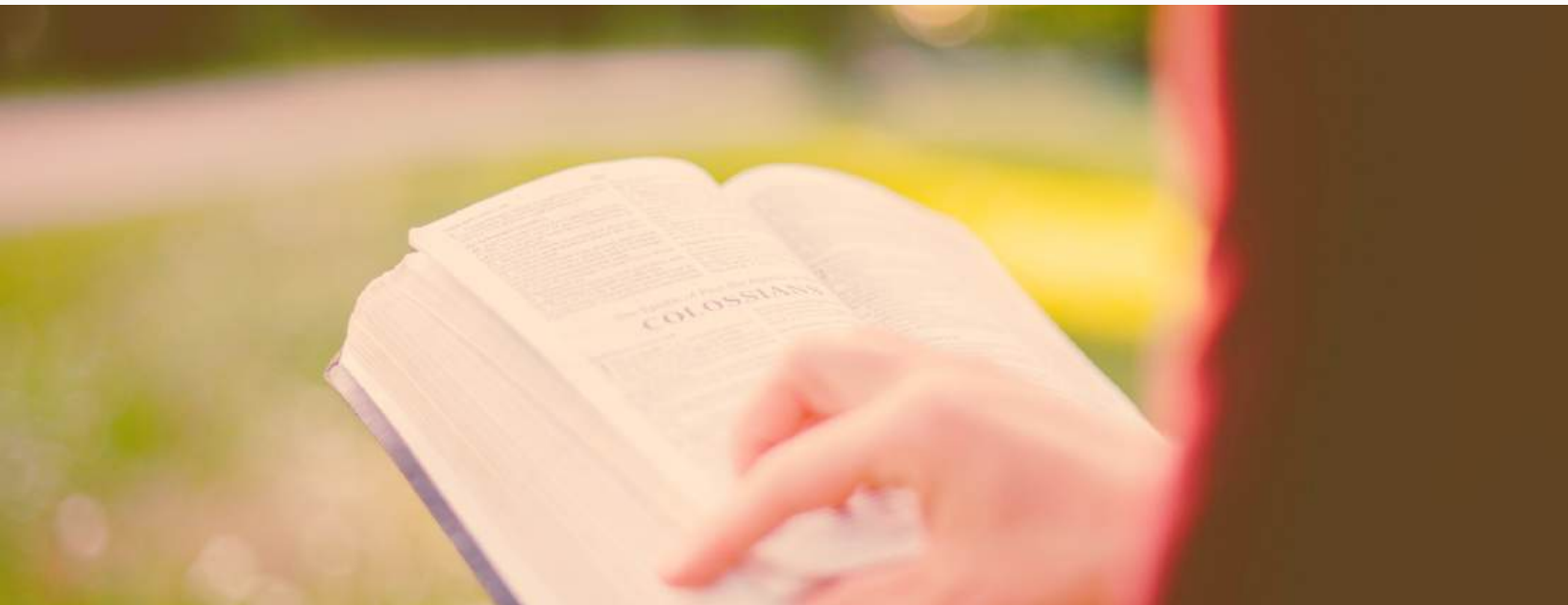
## WELCOME!

I have had the immense pleasure of experiencing Sunday School at MEBC as a child, an adult, and now as a teacher. I grew in my understanding of God's love for me, and the truth in His word in these small groups while building friendships with my classmates. I remember the love our teachers showed to us, and I can't thank one of my teachers enough for strongly encouraging us to memorize the books of the Bible, a gift I use frequently.

As a teacher, I revisit stories I remember from childhood and realize there is still so much for me to learn as I study these lessons. The children's love for Jesus and kindness for one another refresh my spirit. Hearing their laughs, seeing the smiles on their eager faces as they learn about God brings me joy.

I believe one of Mary Elizabeth's greatest areas of strength and potential is in our Sunday School program. Our workers are committed, our members are eager and loving, and the Holy Spirit is active. This month, we are pleased to bring you an issue devoted to this program.

I lovingly refer to this issue as "The Sunday School Edition." We have a piece written by our Sunday School director that highlights his personal experience discovering the power of Sunday School. We have brief introductions with our Sunday School workers and teachers. Members have provided some insight into what being part of these small groups means to them. Finally, we have a list of upcoming events including Easter dates and times.



## THE POWER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

I will never forget that walk. I can't tell you the exact day or even the year, but the place was West Monroe Baptist Church. The occasion was the Union Baptist Association sponsored Sunday School Revival. A man from Illinois that was referred to as the "Sunday School Man" was holding a week-long meeting to help our UBA churches in their Sunday school work. That man was Leon Kilbreth and he would become one of my heroes of faith and a long distance mentor.

I could not believe what I read about this "Sunday School Man". He wasn't a pastor, evangelist or missionary but a Sunday school director and later a minister of Education. He was a layman sold out to God. It was reported that in his home church he led the Sunday school to the rare "Standard Sunday School Award" for several years, an accomplishment achieved by less than 10 churches in the convention

Evidently, in the town of Energy, the location of his home church, his Sunday school had enrolled all but a dozen or fewer of the town's citizens. I found out that he had written a book on soul winning, which my children received copies signed by Leon years later.

As a new Sunday school director, I was awestruck. All week I had sat in that meeting and felt God opening my eyes and heart to the work He was calling me to join.

You see, I had just been elected by MEBC to serve as Sunday School Director. Someone who does not know our God would say it was by chance that I was there, but we know God was at work preparing me, and the church, for this meeting long before.

It all started with my attempt to resign from the teacher assistant role. I was nominated to assist Larry Knight with a children's Sunday class. I was beyond terrible! The kids were bored and restless when I taught. They obviously didn't want to learn from me, and I didn't want to teach.

So, I went by Preacher Mickey's office and told him I needed to resign. We talked for a few minutes; he was very encouraging. He asked me to give it time; I'm sure he realized I wasn't really putting in much effort. He was very kind, but what he put in my hands that day was providential.

The Sunday School director had been receiving a magazine from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board each month and there were several months of back copies in the Pastor's office. Preacher Mickey handed me that stack of "Sunday School Leader" magazines and said, "Read through these, and see if you can find some tips about teaching Children Sunday School."

I started that day thumbing through those magazines and was amazed at the God-sized scope of the Sunday school ministry. I had never realized that "Sunday School" was more than a Bible study.

## THE POWER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUED

I was learning that these “open” small groups are beneficial for the church to achieve the Lord’s commission.

The Southern Baptist, like no other denomination, had used the Sunday school ministry to grow to the largest denomination in America. Suddenly, I began to see the big picture and why we do what we do. I saw how we could use the strategies from these articles to do things better. I mentioned all this to the Preacher and asked him a ton of questions. He gave me a couple of books on Sunday school work and we had many more discussions.

That next September, I was surprised to be asked by the nominating committee to consider the Sunday school director position for the new church year. I found myself a newly elected Sunday School director, who about a year prior was a failed assistant children’s teacher ready to quit, sitting in a “Sunday School Revival” led by the best Sunday School man since Arthur Flake.

I’ll admit I didn’t really know what to expect. I had never even heard of a Sunday School Revival. After the first night, I knew that this was a special meeting. Leon taught us about how to use Sunday school to organize the church for growth in more than just numbers, and he taught us why numbers matter. He showed us that Sunday school is much more than a program to maintain, but a ministry and strategy to use for Kingdom work. Leon’s examples and statistics caused me and many others to shift our focus outward rather than inward. I

He challenged the church leaders to prioritize the Sunday school ministry then watch as all of the other ministries flourish as the church was strengthened. This was the beginning of my call to the Sunday school ministry. I have said, and with a sincere heart I will say it again, if I ever find another ministry more effective and blessed by God to equip, organize and employ all followers for Great commission work, I will embrace it as fully as I have Sunday school for these many years. I have not. I am certain in my soul that no one has. If you want to be a part of this ministry and really see what God can do through the Church organized and equipped, come be a part of this ministry.

It is so much more than those 45 minutes on Sunday morning!

Oh, and that walk?

On the last night of the Sunday school revival Leon the Sunday school man spoke directly to the Sunday school directors, “Will you walk down this aisle to join your Pastor?” the Pastors had come forward and committed to God in the SS ministry, “Take your Pastor by the hand and tell him however God leads in the Sunday School work, I will support you and will do all I can to fulfill my responsibilities as the SS director. By doing this you are committing yourself to God in this ministry”.

My life changed that night as I walked to take my Pastor’s hand and commit myself to this call on my life. Leon was right, **God is in this work!**

My prayer is that someone will find themselves walking that walk of dedication to the Sunday School ministry as I did those many years ago. “Lord, please call out a great Sunday school leader from our midst. Amen.”



# Welcome

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT MEBC

Whether you've been a member for years or you're just considering visiting, we welcome you to jump in and meet the wonderful people who serve in our Sunday School ministry. MEBC has a class for every age from the youngest to the..... "wisest."

For the younger classes, our teachers bring Bible stories to life and plant the seeds of the gospel and God's love. The children enjoy songs, crafts, and interactive lessons. The youth ages participate in learning with discussions about lessons from the Bible and their application in daily life. The adult classes spark conversations about walking the Christian walk.

Our Sunday School workers are devoted to age-appropriate learning in a small group setting to educate, equip, and encourage followers of Christ in their walk with the Lord. We strive to make our classes inviting, welcoming, and accepting. These classes are a wonderful opportunity for growth as a body of believers.

## Director

Kevin Carter

**The best part about MEBC Sunday School:** In Sunday school we study and pray together. We share and discuss. It is easier to invite people to a Sunday School class with lots of people. There's just something about being in a small group.

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** My Old testament favorite is Psalm 57. New Testament favorite is Colossians 3:1-4.



# Preschool



**Teachers:** Magan, Angie, Gloria, & Liz

**The best part about this class:** Making learning about the Bible fun and playful, and seeing such little children learning about the love God has for them

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

# Kindergarten

**Teachers:** Marla, Mandy, & Dillon

**The best part about this class:** Spending time with the kids and eating snacks!

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** Jesus fed the 5,000

“I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us.”  
Romans 8:18



# 1st & 2nd Grade

**Teachers:** Teresea & Beth

**The best part about this class:** I enjoy it when they interact because they are at the age now that they can share something they're thinking related to what we're teaching. I enjoy the crafts

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** The fruits of the spirit.



# 3rd & 4th Grade



**Teachers:** George B. Jr. & Lanette B.

**The best part about this class:** Sharing with the kids the importance of God's word and how much God loves them! And enjoying with them as they grow to understand this wonderful truth!

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

# Youth

**Teachers:** Monty & Karla

**The best part about this class:** Seeing their eyes light up when they make the connection and understand these truths about God. I enjoy seeing them growing and learning about God, because that is the most important thing.

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** Genesis chapters 1 & 2





# Faith, Family & Fun



**Teachers:** Johnathan Carter

**The best part about this class:** Although this class does not have a specific age, it is mostly couples with young children. I enjoy hearing these parents sharing their experiences, providing encouragement to one another, testifying to what God has done in their lives, and just simply enjoying being around others who are going through the same season of life.

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** Matthew 6:25-34 which teaches us not to be anxious but to trust and have faith that God will provide just as He has promised.

## Senior Co-Ed Adults

**Teachers:** Mike W. & Mike R.

**The best part about this class:** With so many seasoned believers in our class, my favorite part is the discussions we have relating to life's experiences in our own walk with the Lord

**Favorite Bible verse or Bible story:** It's hard to pick a favorite! I find my favorite changing with the adventure and season of life. Right now my favorite is "Rejoice in the Lord always! And again I say rejoice." Phillipians 4:4



# MARCH

## UPCOMING\*

- EASTER EGG HUNT
  - APRIL 6, 12:30 PM
- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
  - APRIL 18, 7:00 PM
- EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE  
APRIL 20, 7:00 AM
- EASTER BREAKFAST
  - APRIL 20, 7:30 AM,  
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- EASTER SUNDAY
  - SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM
  - SERVICE: 10:00 AM

\*CLICK THE EVENT FOR MORE INFO & SHARABLE FLYER

## MEBC HIGHLIGHTS

### ATTIC CLEANOUT

THANK YOU TO THE WISER WOMEN & SISTERS IN CHRIST GROUPS. THEY WORKED HARD TO CLEAN OUT OUR CHURCH ATTIC TO CREATE A MORE ORGANIZED AND CLEAN SPACE TO OPTIMIZE OUR ABILITY TO SERVE THE LORD.

### WORKDAY

THANK YOU TO THE BROTHERHOOD FOR IMPROVING OUR CHURCH GROUNDS INCLUDING BUILDING A FENCE AT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

## WISDOM CORNER

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11

## GOOD FOR THE SOUL

THIS MONTH WE ARE FEATURING ARTWORK FROM ONE OF OUR YOUNG MEMBERS. THANK YOU, SADIE!



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](mailto:MEBC3703@GMAIL.COM)