

The Methodist Protestant Faith  
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# WINTER ISSUE 2025



## The Methodist Protestant Faith

The Official Publication of the  
Methodist Protestant Church



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*We Believe....That God created the Heavens and the Earth.... That the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant "Word of God" ....That Jesus Christ is the Virgin-born Son of God....In the divine nature of Jesus Christ....In the atoning blood of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins....Sanctification as a second definite work of grace....That believers may know the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit....In the bodily Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ....In the soon return of Jesus Christ in power and great glory....In an actual Heaven, the reward for the saints, and an actual Hell, a place of eternal punishment for the wicked....In the sanctity of life....In holy matrimony between one man and one woman.*

## ATTENTION

Articles and photos shall be sent by the 15<sup>TH</sup> of the month for publishing—just prior to first month of each quarterly season of the year — according to the following schedule:

Fall: September, Oct. & Nov.

Winter: Dec. , Jan. & Feb.

Spring: March, Apr. & May

Summer: June, July & Aug.

The Methodist Protestant Church, instituted in 1828 and organized under its present title in 1830, traces its origin through the Methodist Episcopal Church, back to the Evangelical Reformation begun in England by John and Charles Wesley, of Oxford University and Presbyters of the Church of England.

For over 197 years the Methodist Protestant Church has proclaimed the Gospel according to the Bible, the inspired, infallible Word of God and has upheld and defended the "Faith of Our Fathers."

**Our Motto.....**

**"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3**

## DRAWN TO BEAUTY

We humans seem naturally drawn to beauty. Women can spend a lot of money trying to improve or maintain their outward looks. The old saying I heard growing up was "Pretty is as pretty does." Let's face it; inward beauty that is implemented in our lives in outward acts of kindness, industry, love, caring, etc. is much more important than physical beauty. Of course, God can use a person's good looks if He so chooses (like Queen Esther). My late husband, with his usual wit, quipped about a wife's looks or lack thereof: "Good looks are not the main thing—but it sure doesn't hurt!" Rev. Bobby Bateman said one time about women using makeup (*paraphrasing*) "Sometimes old barns could do with a little paint."

I was in only one beauty contest in my life, and it was in college. Contestants were nominated by friends. Oh, I got some new clothes, had my hair done in a special way and went through the process, but it definitely was not my cup of tea. The worst part was drawing an unknown question at random and having to answer it with some composure and confidence in front of an auditorium full of people. My answer was not my best moment! My older brother let me know how stupid my answer was in his estimation! Of course, in that case he was right.

Esther in the Old Testament was in a beauty contest of the grandest scale. She and hundreds more of the most beautiful women of Persia were selected to possibly be the next queen of the Empire. (The previous one had been deposed for not submitting to an outrageous order of the King.) With all those candidates just brimming with good looks—there must have been something of Esther's inner beauty and spiritual character shining through. Of course, let's not forget God was working in His providential authority and power. He had a purpose and a plan for that young Jewish woman. It is interesting that God's name was not mentioned in the account of Esther, but He was definitely present.

She could have refused to get involved in saving the Jews in Persia from death. She was hesitant at first, but she then came through with courage after much fasting and prayer to the God of Heaven. She could have been killed by entering the court of the King without being summoned. We need to be women of inner beauty with a courageous and a willing heart to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. Just like the Mother of Jesus, Esther could have said "No!", but if she had -what a blessing she would have missed- doing God's will and being immortalized in the annals of Biblical and world history as a faithful woman of God. **"Favour (charm) is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."** Proverbs 31:30~ *By Dianne Reid*

## *Blessed Confidence* by Ramona Richards



– *Secrets of Confidence*

*“And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.”*

What if Mary had said no? God didn't make her accept His will for her life; He let her choose. As overwhelming as the appearance of an angel in her room must have been, Mary's choice should not have been an easy one. Her life was simple and stable: She was young, engaged to a good man, and ready to start her own home. Accepting God's will for her meant risking all of that and much more.

Mary's mind, however, was on the Lord, not human society. She stood in awe of such an honor, and asked only how God planned to achieve this miracle. Her love of God and understanding of scriptures gave her complete confidence in her unhesitant, “Yes, Lord!”

Mary was indeed blessed, but being Jesus' mother came with tremendous anxiety and heartache. She saw the glory of His miracles, but also felt the pain of His death.

Mary could have said no, the same as any of us who feel God's tug on our lives. As Mary discovered, following God can lead us down a path filled with pain as well as joy. Yet, if we love Him and understand His love for us, then we will discover the confidence to say “Yes!”. –*From Blessings for a Woman's Heart Devotional Journal, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.*



## FEBRUARY BLESSING BOX TIME FOR MISSIONS

Traditionally, Methodist Protestant Women participate in the February Blessing Program for missions when we open our boxes and pool our offerings. This helps the Branches to pay their mission assessments. Get your whole church involved!!

As we stop to contemplate God's blessings throughout the year and express our thanks, we drop in our coins (or dollars) and count our blessings sincerely. Some Auxiliaries also have Thanksgiving programs & November offering.

## BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Providing Bible - based, Christ- centered,  
Holiness Material

PLEASE SEND ALL ARTICLES (Typed please)  
AND PHOTOS FOR MPF TO EMAIL ADDRESS:

**[mpfathed@gmail.com](mailto:mpfathed@gmail.com)**

THANKS TO INDIVIDUALS & CHURCHES WHO CONTINUE TO  
SEND IN ARTICLES AND MONETARY DONATIONS.

## *“At a Glance”* *Denominational Upcoming Events*

- PASTOR'S LUNCHEON JAN. 3, 2026 @ COLLINS & 2/20-2/21; 4/24/-4/26 MINISTERIAL & MEAR COM.
- HOLINESS SUMMIT JANURARY 15-17. 2026 @ COLLINS
- WMS ANNUAL CONVENTION SESSION WORK IN MARCH 2026 TO BE ANNOUNCED
- ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE BOARD MEETINGS MARCH 27-28, 2026
- CAMPGROUND WORK DAYS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- YOUTH RETREAT APRIL 9– APRIL 10, 2026

# GENERAL CONFERENCE DENOMINATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rev. Marc Williams, President



## Mission Report: Ministry Trip to Uganda and Kenya

We are grateful to share a summary of our recent ministry trip to Uganda and Kenya, where we had the opportunity to preach, teach, and strengthen local churches in Kampala, Jinja, and Kisii. The congregations showed such unity, spiritual hunger, and meaningful fellowship.

**Uganda:** Our ministry began in Kampala, Uganda's capital city. The church we visited welcomed us with warmth and gratitude. We conducted preaching sessions focused on encouragement, spiritual growth with an emphasis on sanctification. Worship was vibrant and heartfelt, and we witnessed a genuine desire among the people for deeper understanding of God's Word. We also spent time praying with individuals and church leaders. The name of the church is New Life Church, the pastor is Twagirayezu Damascene. From Kampala, we traveled to Jinja, a city known for being the "Source of the Nile". Lake Victoria and the River make this a very beautiful place. The church was geared mainly to the youth, many parents died during COVID. The church and the pastors have reached out to them by giving them a home. Many children are part of the worship team and they "dance" very well. The Name of the church is Elim Church Budumbuli, the pastors are Dorothy Wansuzi and Lupawo Godfrey.

**Kenya:** Our final destination was Kisii, located in western Kenya.

The churches in this region showed remarkable warmth and hospitality. Ministry here included preaching, intercessory prayer, and opportunities to speak into the lives of church members and leaders. We were particularly encouraged by the spiritual enthusiasm of the congregations and their commitment to pursuing continued growth in faith and service. We journeyed to Canaan church in Kuria for two days of ministry. We were received with great enthusiasm and services were well attended. Next we visited Nyakoe Church and once again the spirit of the Lord was there. Our last day of ministry was at Nyamage Church and it was another tremendous day in the Lord.

There are too many pastors to name them all, but, pastor Haron Ngare and his wife Jackline are the leaders of the Kenyan churches. Throughout Uganda and Kenya, we witnessed strong devotion and a clear hunger for God's Word. The relationships built, prayers shared, and messages delivered contributed to mutual strengthening—both for the churches we visited and for our own team.

We are thankful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the support of those who prayed for this mission. Pray that seeds planted during this trip will continue to bear fruit in the lives of many. So thankful to my wife, Joy and my sister in law Babs Williams for going with me on this trip. I couldn't have made it without them,

God Bless, Bro. Marc

WMS

## PRAYER CALENDAR

**DECEMBER: Secretaries of Benevolence; Aged and orphans; Christian Stewardship: Tithes, Time, Possessions; Superannuates; "Operation Christmas Child"- Matthew 25:40**

**JANUARY: Secretaries of Life, Memorial and Perpetual Membership; Missionary Deputation Work; Bus Ministries; Community for Christ—Mark 16:15**

**FEBRUARY: Home Missions and Missionaries; Belize Mission Field; National Workers and Teachers; Blessing Box Program— Acts 20:35**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DECEMBER: Secretary of Benevolence: Special programs on Christian Stewardship. Promote generosity; such as: baskets or gifts to shut-ins. Explain and promote Christian Stewardship.**

**JANUARY: Secretary of Life, Memorial and Perpetual Membership: Explain purpose of program. Secretary of Missionary Education: Promote the Ella Smith Memorial Fund.**

**FEBRUARY: Secretary of Literature: Promote Methodist Protestant Faith; Secretary of Thank Offering: Open Blessing Boxes, etc.**

## WMS /MISSION RELATED REMINDERS:

- ◆ **FEBRUARY BLESSING BOXES OPENED**
- ◆ **PROMOTE LIFE, MEMORIAL, AND PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIPS, AND ENROLL NEW NAMES IN JANUARY, SENDING IN NAMES TO THE BRANCH SECRETARY OF THAT DEPT. AND MONEY TO THE BRANCH TREASURER.**
- ◆ **CLOSE OUT LOCAL BOOKS BY END OF FEBRUARY AND MAIL TO THE BRANCH TEASURER USING PROPER FORMS.**

# MISSIONARY RECORD

Woman Executive Secretary, Dianne Reid



**THE LADIES FALL PRAYER  
RETREAT WAS HELD  
OCTOBER 10—11, 2025  
@ COLLINS**

**Theme: “All About Time”**

**SPECIAL SPEAKER:  
Rev. Kelsey Lambert (Left photo)**



**Thanks to Jane Boyd, WMS Convention President, for her time and effort in planning and leading us. (fourth from the left)  
We missed all our ladies from AL this year.**

## ELLA SMITH MEMORIAL DAY

The third Sunday in January of each year has been named Ella Smith Memorial Day in our Church. An offering may be taken and sent to the Branch Treasurer for the Ella Smith Fund. The interest earned helps with missions.

The late Mrs. Smith is known in the annals of the WMS in the M. P. Church as keeping the torch burning during the rough times of separation from the main body in 1939. She was a diminutive lady with spiritual wisdom, who was determined to carry on the work of the WMS and not let it die. I remember her from the early 1970's. So many times we just want to “thrown in the towel “- but she did not!

## ANNUAL HOLINESS SUMMIT JANUARY 15-17, 2026 COLLINS, MS



**DR. MARLIN HOTLE, SPECIAL SPEAKER**  
Dr. Holte is President of the Florida Holiness Camp Grounds, Inc. in Lakeland, FL and General Evangelist.

### *Online Registration*

#### SCHEDULE:

**Thursday – Session: 7 pm with  
“Afterglow” Fellowship**

**Friday – Sessions: 10 am  
(Noon meal served);  
2 pm; 7 pm  
(Banquet at 5 pm - “Afterglow”  
ice cream social)**

**Saturday – Session: 10 am  
(Followed by noon meal)**

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THE GENERAL  
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THE METHODIST  
PROTESTANT  
CHURCH**

**Suggested  
minimum  
donation of \$40 per person  
or \$60 per couple.**

# The Festival of Lights



(Pages 6, 7 & 8 & 9)  
 Written by the late  
**Rev. Billy F. Gerald**  
 in Dec. 2013—so the  
 first paragraph of the  
 article was based on  
 the 2013 calendar

evidently- but is very enlightening on the Jewish connection and relevant, concerning the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the beautiful Star of Bethlehem.

Scripture: John 1:1-5

Did you realize that the Jewish festival of Hanukkah began at sundown on November 27 on the eve of our celebration of Thanksgiving? And will end eight days later on December 4? Hanukkah normally falls in December around our celebration of Christmas. Because the Jewish calendar is different from ours, it is very unusual for Hanukkah to come at Thanksgiving. The last time this occurred was in 1888, and I am told it will not occur again for 77,000 years. I really don't expect to live that long. Hanukkah is also called the Feast of Lights, or the Feast of Dedication. This is not one of the feast days in the Law of Moses. How it began is an interesting story of faith and valor, unparalleled in the history of Israel.

The Temple was destroyed completely by Nebuchadnezzar when he conquered Jerusalem and

carried the people captive to Babylon. It lay in ruins for many years, but was rebuilt by the captives who returned from Babylon under the leadership of Zerubbabel. Peace was short-lived. Israel was overrun again and again. Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria in the early 200's B.C, ruled over Israel at this time. One of the things he did to belittle the worship of God and the Temple was to sacrifice a pig on the altar and set up Zeus, the Greek god, in the Temple itself. The Maccabees under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus, though outnumbered, fought valiantly and prevailed in their war against the Syrians in 167 B.C. The Temple was cleansed and rededicated. From the days of Moses, when the Tabernacle was set up, the flame from the golden candlestick had burned day and night. As preparations were being made for the Tabernacle, God told Moses, *"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the lamp, to cause the lamp to burn always."* (Ex. 27:20 KJV) After the temple was cleansed, they wanted the lamp to burn again in the Holy Place, but they had only enough oil to keep the lamp burning for one day. The lamp burned for eight days without going out or being replenished with oil. Judas Maccabeus instituted the Festival of Lights to celebrate the miracle of the eight days in which the light burned continuously with only enough oil for one day. The Festival of Lights is a traditional Jewish feast which continues even until this day. Jesus went to Jerusalem

## SCHAMBERVILLE (Continued)



**Brandon Lake Concert**  
 was in Southaven MS  
 November 7th



**Tim Hawkins Christian comedian concert** was in Laurel on October 12th  
 Tim Hawkins Christian comedian concert was in Laurel on October 12th

**Schamberville hosted a Lock-in November 21st** What an amazing night! It was full of fun, worship & devotionals! God Blessed us with fellowship from all over the state including Vicksburg, Clear Creek, Bear Creek, Golden Grove, Forest Grove, Crossroads, Laurel & Chamberville.



**LOCK-IN**  
 (5 bottom photos)



## SCHAMBERVILLE (MS) By Kasey Hunt Wilson



**Schamberville  
Christian School  
started its 3rd year  
September 8th,  
2025**



**FALL YOUTH  
RETREAT  
@ COLLINS  
Oct. 31– Nov. 1  
(bottom 3 photos)**



for most of the feast days during his public ministry. John, in passing, mentions that Jesus was in Jerusalem, *And it was at Jerusalem the feast of dedication, (lights) and it was winter.*” (John 10:22) Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is being celebrated as we worship today.

You may be thinking, “This is interesting, but what does it have to do with us?” Today we celebrate the fact that Jesus is the “light of the world.” In the very beginning of time, God said, *“Let there be light: and there was light.”* (Gen. 1:3) John tells us that, *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* (1 John 1:5) Light is essential to life. Have you noticed that plants placed near a window will gradually turn toward the light in the window? In the introduction to the Gospel of John, he says, *“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”* (John 1:4) Speaking of himself, Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* (John 8:12) Again He said, *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”* (John 9:5) Jesus is the “light of the world.” *“The people that have walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”* (Isaiah 9:2) Isaiah also prophesies of Christ: *“Arise, shine; for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. . . . And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”* (Is. 60:1,3) When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated, the elderly

Simeon took the baby in his arms and said, *“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”* (Luke 2:29-32) Jesus is the “light of the world.” On his first missionary journey, Paul presented the Gospel first to the Jews; but when the Jews rejected his preaching, he turned to the Gentiles. He said to them, *“For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee (Jesus) to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 13:47) Red or yellow, black or white, rich or poor, Pharisee or publican, Jesus will never turn away anyone who comes to Him in true repentance and faith. His arms are open to all. *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”* (Isaiah 45:22)

What is the purpose of light? It is given to us to guide our footsteps and keep us from falling. *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”* (Ps. 119:105) Light shows us the right way to go. Our salvation and sanctification are contingent upon our walking in the light: *“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7) Light also reveals sin. Sometimes people think that they can get by with hidden sin in their lives. For example, a person may be considered a

loyal employee while at the same time they have been stealing from the company. It may have gone on for years, but eventually they will get caught. “Be sure your sin will find you out.” Jesus said, “*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*” (John 3:19, 20) Paul writes, “*But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.*” (Eph. 5:13) If there is sin in your life, the Holy Spirit will shine the searchlight of heaven upon it. You will need to repent and plead with God for forgiveness.

Light is also used in a different way. Do you remember the cartoon where the light bulb comes on on top of the head of the person? How many times have you been trying to explain something and suddenly that person says, “O, now I see!” That means simply that now they understand the concept. Psalm 119:130 says, “*The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*” Jesus said to the crowds following Him, “*Yet a little while is the light with you. . . . While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.*” (John 12:35, 36) Jesus is speaking of Himself as the light, the revelation of God’s plan of redemption. Turn the light on in your heart. Understand who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. The message is simple and clear, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus*

*Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*” (Acts 16:31) Do you see it? Have you believed, and are you saved? Paul writes, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them: for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*” (Rom. 1:18-20) We can’t use the excuse that we did not know about sin and the need for salvation. The light has shined on us. We know, and God holds us accountable. Paul does not leave us without hope. He also says, “*As it is written, the just shall live by faith.*”

As we have already seen, Jesus is the “light of the world.” But, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “*Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*” (Matt. 5:14, 16) Does this contradict what Jesus said about himself? Have you ever played with a mirror and used it to focus light from the sun on something else? Jesus is the source of light, but He intends that we should reflect that light to a world lost in darkness and sin. In other words, it is His light shining through us to reach a lost world. Paul says, “*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God,*



### Harvest Day- October 19

Dogwood Cross brought special music.  
Bro. Jason Cameron from Schamberville MP brought the message.



Fifth Sunday Singing at Divide 8/31/25 60 yrs. and over.

**Benefit Car Show** held Sept. 20 raised \$600 for Operation Christmas Child. Concessions benefitted youth and additional donations taken for the Heidi Jo Hearn family. All the Car Show winners (below)



**DIVIDE (MS) by Kelsey Lambert (Continued on next page)**



**Community Thanksgiving Service held at Divide 11/9/25**  
Divide, Forest Grove, Monticello MP, Tilton MC, Topeka BC, Jayess BC, and other churches gathered.  
**OneWay Quartet** brought worship through music.



**Pumpkin Patch Party Youth Fundraiser- 11/8/25**



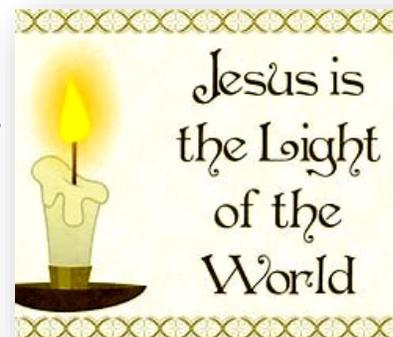
**Trunk or Treat- 10/29/25**



*who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor. 4:5-6) As an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul felt that it was his responsibility to let the “glorious light of the gospel of Christ” shine through him to a world lost in sin and darkness. Paul says, “But ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” (Eph. 5:8) I think this is what it means when Jesus said, “Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . .” (Acts 1:8) I love the little gospel song, “Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All His wonderful passion and purity, May His Spirit divine all my being refine, Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.” (George L. Johnson)*

From a practical standpoint, what does it mean when Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world”? Let’s look again at the phrase, “that they may see your good works.” Where does that start? “*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*” (Matt. 22:39) “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*” (Eph. 4:32)  
The light of Jesus shines

through you when you give the cup of cold water, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and act as a Good Samaritan. Your life is a testament to your faith. What you give of yourself and your resources (tithes) reflects what is really important to you. It was not the size of the widow’s mite, but the fact that she gave all she had that impressed Jesus. What does our giving say about us? Does the light of Christ shine in our hearts today? The miracle of the Festival of Lights (Hanukkah) is that the lamp in the Temple did not go out for eight days, burning constantly until the supply of oil could be replenished. Keep the light of Jesus shining in your heart. Never let the oil run out!





Congratulations to Kentucky Mountain Bible College in celebrating a historic milestone: the highest for-credit enrollment in the college's nearly 100-year history! More than ever before, students are answering God's call to study His Word and prepare for a lifetime of ministry. Our own Rev. Marc Williams, General Conference President, is currently serving of the Board of Trustees of KMBC.



### WORDS OF WISDOM

~ Andrew Murray

#### “The Temple of the Holy Spirit”

When Andrew Murray was led to write of the “Temple of the Holy Spirit, he said with reverential awe: ***“I will meditate and be still, until something of the overwhelming glory of the truth fall upon me, and faith begin to realize it: I am His temple, and in the secret place He sits upon the throne.”*** Then, when he had written, this prayer rises like incense: ***“I do now tremblingly accept the blessed truth: God the Spirit, the Holy Spirit who is God Almighty, dwells in me, “O, my Father, reveal within me what it means, lest I sin against Thee by saying it and not living it.”*** ~ Excerpted from the book: *“The Way to Pentecost”* by Samuel Chadwick

### WIMBERLY (Continued)



Wimberly made our monthly visit to the Nursing Home in Butler on Monday, Nov. 17th. Bro. Frank Gibson led the service. We sang several of the older hymns and some of the residents joined us. They really enjoyed this time together, and we did, too.

**Celebrating with World Gospel Missions  
For their 115 years of spreading  
the Gospel !!**



## WIMBERLY (AL) *By Ginger Lucas*



### We held our Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23rd.

Bro. Dwight and Lori went around the church with the anointing oil and prayed for everyone that had sickness, health problems or other issues, believing that God is still in the healing business! We enjoyed a delicious lunch and went home with grateful and thankful hearts!



**Wimberly Youth were able to prepare and send 20 Shoeboxes to Samaritan Purse for their Operation Christmas Child program.** Church members donated funds for this worthy project: Operation Christmas Child program



## BELIZE NEWS



SandHill held Harvest Thanksgiving Service on November 30th. It was a beautiful reminder of God's goodness. We are deeply thankful for every hand and heart who contributed. Our Church shines brightest when we serve together. Rev. Jaunita Sampson (*upper left*) brought the message.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
SAN LAZARO M. P. CHURCH NOVEMBER 12TH

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:  
MS BIBLE CAMP PLEDGES  
SHOULD BE PAID TO  
TREASURER, RICHIE LITTLE  
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Write Check to C. O. R. E. please  
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2025 Pledge  
(Online payment available.)**

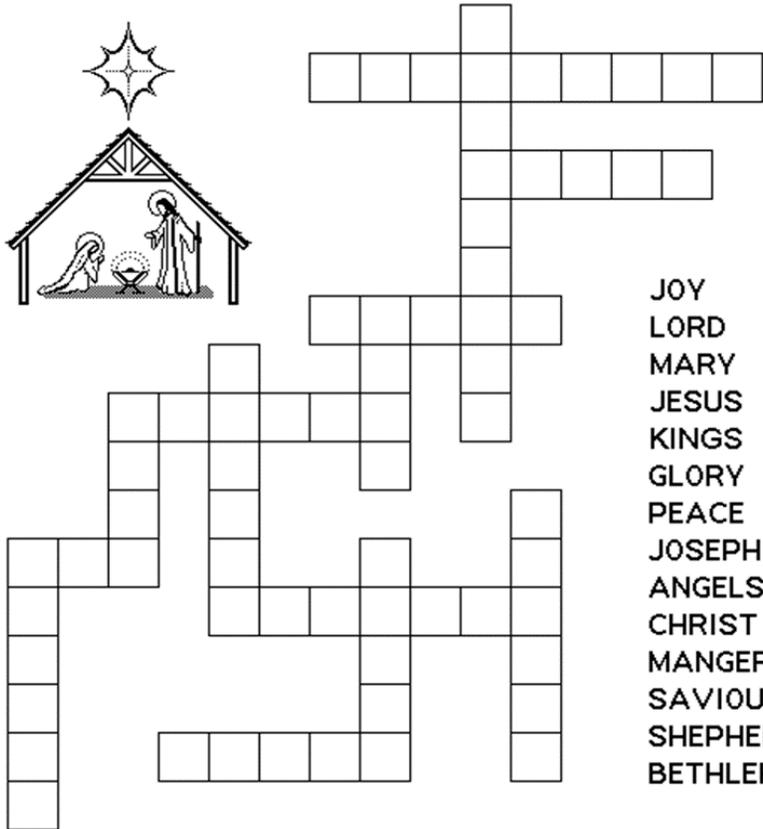


# YOUTH HANGOUT

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SECTION

### Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM

FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH; FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS; FROM THE CROSS TO THE TOMB; FROM THE TOMB TO RESURRECTION; FROM THE RESURRECTION TO HEAVEN; FROM HEAVEN TO COMING AGAIN!!!

## MONTICELLO (MS) (Continued)

### ANNUAL HOMECOMING 2025 ON OCTOBER 5TH



We had a wonderful time on Homecoming Day. General Conference President, Rev. Marc Williams, special speaker, is pictured at left with Pastor, Jason Koehn. Great preaching, fine Southern cuisine, family, friends and the present Church congregation made for a memorable day. The Church was established in 1947 by the Rev. F. E. Sellers. Music was under the direction of Donna Sue Ballard, and her son, Tad Ballard (*left*) sang special music; he now resides in Starkville. Bibles were presented for babies born since last Homecoming (*bottom left*) and WMS certificates as well. Teagan Williamson was made a Life Member. Lois Howell was named Lady of the Year (24-25). (*3rd photo from top*)



**MONTICELLO (MS) By Dianne Reid**



**WE REMEMBER**

The babies born sleeping, those we carried but never held, those we held but could not take home, those who came home but could not stay. In loving memory of all our sweet babies.:

Paulina Louise Williamson, Wells Warren McLendon, Shepard Thomas McLendon, Kathryn Lynn Mayhugh, and John Hendrix Mayhugh.

Sanctuary Arrangement by Teresa Williamson



Rob Alford receiving a Bible to assist him in working with youth from Pastor Koehn.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX DROP-OFF AT OUR CHURCH.**

The local church sponsored 50 boxes with support of the church family, sponsored by the WMS. Thanks especially to Denise Weeks, Teresa Williamson, Glen Weeks and our Youth. 607 boxes were processed at our Christian Life Center from the surrounding area. Youth working on notes to go in Shoeboxes. (left below)



The youth shared thoughts and prayers for the Lawrence County Nursing Center Residents which were displayed at Homecoming (Left) Glen Weeks' FAITH LESSON (Above) during Fall Fellowship at Tony and Jan Russell's home.



**The Key to Joy**

By Rev. Kelsey Lambert



You quite possibly learned this song in nursery or grade school:

**Jesus and others and you**

**What a wonderful way to spell joy**

**Jesus and others and you**

**In the life of each girl and each boy.**

**“J” is for Jesus for He has first place,**

**“O” is for others you meet face to face,**

**“Y” is for you, in whatever you do,**

Put yourself third and spell JOY.

If you get the order wrong, you no longer spell joy! (You get OJY or YOJ!)

Jesus first- Exodus 20:3, Matthew 22:37, 1 Chronicles 21:1-17, when David did not put God first or consult Him before doing what he wanted to do. He brought destruction among the people.

Others next- Mathew 22:38-29, Matthew 20:28, Jesus is the example for us in serving others. Serving brings blessings.

Old Testament example- 1Kings 17:7-24, Widow gave all she had to someone else, immediate blessing of provision of food, later blessing of son raised to life.

You last- 2 Timothy 2:15, James 1:5- last but not least. Your spiritual condition is important. You must cultivate it to be effective to others. Old Testament Example-

Solomon asks for wisdom and God provides- 1 Kings 3:5-15

The reward of getting this in order is true joy- defined a source or cause of delight.

Of course, we know this source is God alone and walking in His ways. Do you want amore joyful life? Implement this method today, and watch God's blessings unfold!



**He rules the world with Truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, and wonders of His love!**

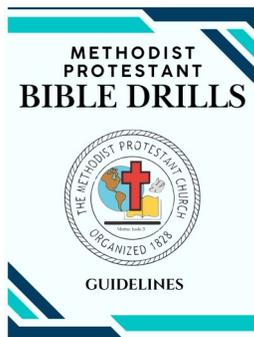
## Announcing Bible Quizzing Program

Hello everyone! We are getting a new ministry started for the youth to help keep them involved with one another throughout the year. We are going to start having organized Bible Drill competitions! There will be three levels for each year: a home church level, a regional/zone level, and then everyone all together a Bible Camp.

There are criteria that have to be met to advance to the next level, as well as certain verses and passages from the Bible to memorize. Our youth (Schamberville MP Church) participated in a similar organization's Bible Drill competition, and they had a blast competing. My main hope is that our young people become more encouraged to stay in the Word and keep it close to their hearts.

If you are interested in getting your Youth Groups involved, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions. I can't wait to see where the Lord takes this, and how He will use it to grow our young people closer to God.

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## THE BRANCH

*By the late, Rev. John Neihof*

**Scripture passages:** Isaiah 4:2, 11:1-2; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15

I fondly remember a boyhood traipse through the woods with my brother, James, and my father on Granny Nichols' place. Our goal was to cut a Christmas tree that would grace our family living room. I remember our selecting a nicely shaped Eastern Red Cedar, common on the hillsides of my Appalachian homeland. We cut the tree and hauled it from the woods in an old International Scout. The cedar tree's pungent fragrance adorned our family Christmas that year.

As Christmas approaches, I have been pondering another tree—our family tree! One of my favorite Messianic promises describes Jesus in the language of a forester: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:1-2 NKJV). Isaiah prophesies the Branch, a Son of David, upon whom the Spirit of God rests. We know this Branch as God made flesh, Jesus, the Son of God.

As I thought about this promise, I was awestruck afresh at the hope of the ages, our Lord Jesus, the Son of God. I am ever humbled by His Incarnation, that the God of the

universe would lay aside the splendor of heaven and embrace the limitations of human flesh. The miracle of the virgin birth staggers my imagination. I am amazed by the intention of the Father for His own Son to become the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Christmas is about Christ!

This Christmas, celebrate the Branch of Jesse, our Lord Jesus Christ! Celebrate the far-reaching impact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has grafted you into the family tree. Then take the Branch to the world.

*Edited by Dianne Reid*

