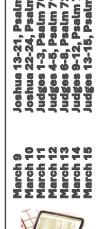
to The Highland Evangel, 3400 27th Street, Meridian, MS 39305.

















Building Relationships with Christ, One Another, and the World

Number 9 Volume 66 March 9, 2025

# Coming Up!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9** 



Deacon's Meeting Growth Groups (Sunday School) **Morning Worship** 

8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY NO Adult Exercise 3-10/3-14

MONDAY, MARCH 10 Youth Mission Emphasis at 8:00 AM

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

- Youth to Top Golf at 8:15 AM
- NO Brunch and Bible Study at 10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study at 6:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 Youth Envelope Wall Fundraiser begins 10:00 am-John 3:16 Day with Speaker, Tim Dowdy, NAMB Quarterly Business Session at 4:30 pm in the Tea Room Celebration Service at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary (food to follow)

#### FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION...

## Creating a Special Needs Ministry: Embracing Children with Autism

As a church committed to making disciples and spreading Christ's love, we recognize the importance of inclusivity in our community. One area where we can expand our outreach is through a Special Needs Ministry. It's our mission to create a welcoming space for every child, regardless of their abilities.

It is also of great importance that we realize that this is not a "children only" ministry, nor is it an "autism only" ministry. As our children grow and as God gifts us with those with additional needs (visible & invisible disabilities, learning disorders, development & intellectual delays, medically fragile individuals or families ...), so will our ministry grow and expand.

#### **Understanding Autism: A Spectrum of Abilities**

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) encompasses a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. Each child with autism is unique, displaying a spectrum of strengths and needs. As we consider establishing a ministry dedicated to supporting these children, it's essential to educate ourselves and our congregation on these aspects.

#### **Creating an Inclusive Environment**

Designing a Special Needs Ministry begins with fostering an inclusive environment. Here are some steps we can take:

- 1. **Training Volunteers**: It's crucial that our volunteers receive training to understand autism, its characteristics, and effective communication methods. This empathy and understanding will allow them to engage positively with children with autism and address their unique needs.
- 2. Adapting Activities: Children on the autism spectrum often benefit from structured activities with clear instructions. Incorporating visual aids, schedules, and sensory-friendly materials can help create a comfortable and engaging environment.
- 3. **Building Relationships**: Encouraging strong connections between volunteers, children, and families is vital. Hosting regular social events where families can meet and share experiences will build community and trust.
- 4. **Open Communication with Parents**: Establishing a line of communication where parents can share their child's specific needs and preferences is vital. This understanding will empower volunteers to provide tailored support and care.

#### A Biblical Foundation for Inclusion

The Bible teaches us about the inherent worth and value of every individual. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Paul speaks of the body of Christ and how each member is vital to its function. We believe that children with exceptional needs are special blessings to our church family. When we include them, we enrich our community as a whole.

#### **Invitation to Participate**

As we embark on this journey to create a Special Needs Ministry, we invite you to participate! Whether you're interested in volunteering, providing resources, or simply spreading the word, your involvement will be instrumental in making this ministry a success.

Let's work together to create an environment where every child experiences the love of Christ and feels valued by our church family. Through prayer, commitment, and collaboration, we can make a difference in the lives of children with autism and their families.

#### Conclusion: Join Us in Prayer

We ask that you join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance in developing this ministry. May we be vessels of His love, grace, and acceptance, ensuring that every child knows they are wonderfully made by their Creator.

# NAMB MISSIONARIES LEO AND MIOSHA ROBINSON, FLINT, MI PRAY FOR:

\*The development and discipleship of new leaders at Good Church

\*People in Flint who have experienced pain and trauma, that Good Church would be able to meet them with the hope of the gospel,

\*The large number of teenagers in the neighborhood who are hearing the gospel for the first time.

#### HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF CINDY ROSS:

IN MEMORY OF SALLY JOHNSON:

IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE VICK:

IN MEMORY OF MARY CARLISLE:

Designated to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by:

Tim and Greta Campbell

## CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:

...Donnie Mathis in the death of his sister-in-law.

#### THE VERY NEWEST

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Templeton (Hallie Dyess) on the birth of their son, Michael Parks Templeton, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dyess (Cindy) are the proud grandparents.

### **COMING UP!!**

SUNDAY, MARCH 9—Daylight Saving Time
MONDAY, MARCH 10—Youth Mission Emphasis
TUESDAY, MARCH 11—Youth to Top Golf
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12—No Scheduled Activities
SUNDAY, MARCH 16—Youth Envelope Wall Fundraiser begins
John 3:16 Day with Speaker, Tim Dowdy, NAMB at 10:00 AM
Quarterly Business Session at 4:30 pm in the Tea Room
Celebration Service at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Food and Fellowship to follow

If you submitted recipes for the Highland Cookbook, please make one or more of these recipes for our fellowship so that we can have a churchwide taste test. You will also be able to pay for and take home your Highland Cookbook called Feeding Your Flock. The price is \$20.00 per cookbook and proceeds from the cookbook will help kids/youth go to camp this summer. SUNDAY, MARCH 23—Kidz Ministry Breakfast Fundraiser at 8:00 AM Tea Shower for Camille Kennard/Alex Vaughn at 1:30 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 25—Highlanders Pot Luck Durchen.

ESDAY, MARCH 25—Highlanders Pot Luck Luncheon at noo WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26—Church Bible Drill SUNDAY, MARCH 30—Ordinance of the Lord's Supper Associational Bible Drill

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT MARCH 2, 2025

Giving to budget to date 159,673.72 SUNDAY SCHOOL 230
Giving to budget (2/24-3/2) 21,030.94 WORSHIP 291