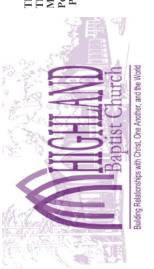
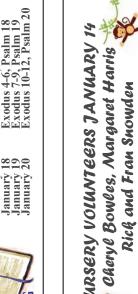
σνου is published weekly except for the week of the Fourth of July, the HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 3400 27th Street,—601.482.0191 www.highlandbaptist.net

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









Building Relationships with Christ, One Another, and the World

Volume 65 January 14, 2024 Number 2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Deacon's Meeting 8:00 AM Sunday School 9:00-9:45 AM Morning Worship 10:00-11:00 AM

Youth Parent Meeting following Morning Worship

START HERE LUNCH 11:30 AM Youth Bonfire 5:00 PM

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY Adult Exercise at 8:30 AM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Senior Adults Pancakes & Bingo at the Highland House at 5:30 PM Single Young Adult Community Group at 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- Precept Bible Study
- Family Night Supper at 5:00 PM

MENU: Chicken Divan, Rice, Corn, Salad, Dessert CHILDREN'S MENU: Chicken Nuggets or Hot Dogs

- Kidz WOW at 5:45 PM
- Youth Worship at 5:45 PM
- Prayer Meeting at 6:00 PM
- iMarriage at 6:00 PM
- Financial Peace Class at 6:00 PM
- Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

CDC Celebration Sunday and Lunch (Make reservations today!) Man Church 5:00-7:00 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26-SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 DNow

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 Highlander's Meeting at noon

FROM OUR CHIEF OF STAFF...

I made a New Year's resolution over 25 years ago that I would not make New Year's resolutions, and I have kept that promise. However, if I had made one this year it would have been "find out how to measure spiritual growth" (myself and HBC). Let me give you some more background.

Lord Kelvin, a nineteenth century mathematician, once said "If you can not measure it, you can not improve it". I have taken that quotation to heart and believe it to be true. I have already confessed to you in a previous article that I have some eclectic traits and have Excel spreadsheets as a hobby. I also use Excel in my work at the church measuring giving and attendance to measure progress (or lack thereof) for HBC for the years 2019 to the present date. From this database, I can tell you the following:

- We have made slow but steady progress in the number of people attending services on Sunday (Covid years excluded).
- We have made steady progress in giving (even through the Covid vear).
- The increased giving has been from increased attendance AND from increased giving per capita.
- Our giving to missions was phenomenal in 2023.

The metrics above are good, and I will continue to measure them, but they are not necessarily indicative of spiritual growth. There are churches with the same or better data that are growing numerically but not spiritually for any number of reasons. The pastor could be preaching a pseudo gospel or "what the people want to hear" or the people attending might be doing so for non-spiritual reasons. For the record, I do not believe that HBC is one of these churches, and that our growth is both spiritual as well as numerical. David's illustration standing inside the hula hoop to remind us that "revival starts with me" was very effective and started me on this idea of measuring spiritual growth. I am of the opinion that spiritual growth can be measured, but I do not know how. Think on this and give me your thoughts.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF ED AND SALLY JOHNSON BY: **Bob and Karen Rea**

"AND THE LORD ADDED UNTO HIS CHURCH..."

BY BAPTISM:

Anniston Moulds 728 Alamulcha Street, **Marion**, **MS** 39342 601,490,5927 Deacon: Duffee Williams

...Donnie Smith in the death of his brother-in-law.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:



STEWARDSHIP REPORT JANUARY 7, 2024

Giving To Budget Giving to budget to date \$19,080.33 SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP Giving to budget from 1-7, \$19,080.33