



THE OLD IS NEW NEWS

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

...A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...

I asked brother Paul if he would like to share some thoughts with you after his recent visit to our church. He offered the following, knowing our current focus on becoming a church of disciples who are making disciples. His context is a bit different than ours, but it puts some perspective on ours.

Making Disciples in the Context of Persecution and Poverty

Dr. Paul Srinivas Chepa

Bethany Mission Society, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India

India, with more than 1.45 billion people, is one of the largest nations in the world and home to many major religions, with Hinduism as the dominant faith. Hindu nationalism often identifies Indian identity with Hinduism, causing Christians to be viewed as outsiders and threats to the nation. This has resulted in severe persecution of believers through violence, rejection, and social exclusion. Converts from Hinduism to Christianity often face rejection from family, loss of relationships, denial of basic rights, and economic hardship.

At the same time, poverty remains one of the greatest challenges in India. More than 800 million people are considered poor, and nearly 265 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day. Over 2 million people are homeless, while millions depend on daily labor for survival due to unemployment and lack of stable income. More than 200 million people do not have sufficient access to food and safe water, and nearly 40 percent of the population lacks safe drinking water.

Children and women suffer the most under extreme poverty. India is home to more than 444 million children. UNICEF estimates nearly 30 million orphaned and abandoned children across India. Around 33 million children are involved in labor, 65 million children between ages 6 and 14 do not attend school, and 1.4 million children die each year before their fifth birthday.

In this difficult context of persecution and poverty, disciple-making must go beyond preaching and focus on building a new and loving community. New believers need belonging, identity, care, and spiritual family after separation from their former community.

Our ministry emphasizes creating strong faith communities through Bethany Mission Churches, Oakland Schools, School of Christian Missions, Bethany Home for Children, Safe Water Wells Project, blanket distribution, Bible distribution, food distribution, caring for lepers and the sick, widows and the elderly, and the Hope Vocational Training Center for Women.

These ministries reflect the New Testament teaching of one another and strengthen the body of Christ. Small businesses, vocational training centers, schools, and water projects help provide dignity and stability for new converts.

The guiding principle of all discipleship is love—love for God and love for people, based on Luke 10:27. Jesus' model of discipleship was relational, intentional, and community-centered. Our mission is to create opportunities for people to hear, see, believe, and experience the love of Jesus, becoming disciples who make disciples.



...IN THE KNOW...

MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, May 4 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

The Men's Club BBQ will be May 9!

Tickets are \$40 and available from Men's Club. Pickup will be May 9 from 10 am—3 pm at the pavilion.

THREADS OF LOVE

Threads of Love Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Tuesdays at 10 am in the church parlor. This group knits and crochets prayer shawls to be given to those in need of special comfort and blessing. They invite you to join them!

CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions (CC) is an OGC support group tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC meets twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 10:30 am. In May, we will meet on the 8th and 22nd. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us for Breakfast on the second Sunday, May 10, compliments of Men's Club.

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 9:45 am in the FLC. Come enjoy a delicious meal and some great fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

BACCALAUREATE

OGC will honor our Graduates at a Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 10. Graduates and their families will be served breakfast in the FLC before the service. Also, our Graduates will be honored on Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm at the last Fellowship Meal until fall. We would also like to recognize our college graduates in the Baccalaureate Service, so please let the church office know if you have a college graduate this year.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, May 16. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, May 18 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. We are meeting a week early due to Memorial Day. Join us as we "craft" to get ready for VBS



On Monday, April 27, MES Circle welcomed Dr. Scott Hanberry, Executive Director of Homes of Hope, who spoke to the group about his journey to becoming the Executive Director and the vision he has for Homes of Hope. He said, "Homes of Hope brings Christ-centered hope and healing to at-risk children and families in Mississippi." He and others are making an

Intentional Investment in these children who live on their beautiful campus in Purvis. MES presented a check to Homes of Hope to continue the vision and ministry to these children.



Happy Mother's Day

Jesus loves the little children...

James Mack Standland

April 6, 2026
9 lbs 6 oz

Son of Tyler and Taylor Standland

Grandson of Jamie and Carol Standland

Look Who's

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
Lina Fortenberry's
100TH BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY, MAY 15
3:00 - 5:00 PM
COME AND GO
WESLEY MANOR DINING ROOM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 2026

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE GMC

BEHOLD

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 | MAY 28-29

CHRIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS

PRAY FOR PASTOR TED AND APRIL BREWER
AS THEY ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

Youth Ministry Annual

DESSERT

Auction

Sunday, June 7
11 am - 1 pm

Enjoy the *fun*
Enjoy the *food*

Our Youth will be having their annual Dessert Auction on Sunday, June 7 following worship. Enjoy a delicious burrito and taco bar for lunch and then bid on your favorite dessert. Adult meals are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5 with a \$25 max for a family. We need desserts for the auction, so thank you in advance! There will also be a children's table for our little ones to purchase a sweet treat. All proceeds will send our youth to camp this summer!

YOUTH MAY SCHEDULE

- 3 Youth 5:30 - 7:30 Senior Boards and wall signing
- 6 Dinner 5:30 Youth 6:30 - 7:30
- 10 Senior Sunday Breakfast at 8:45/No Youth
- 13 5:30 Senior Dinner and last Wednesday Night Celebration
- 17 Youth 5:30-7:30
- 24 4:00-7:00 Youth, Family, Leadership Team Picnic/BBQ
@ Lake Serene Pavilion

CLASS OF 2026

*Taylor Banes, Isaac Bess, Gabby Brewer, Ty Delaney,
Molly Entrekin, Aidan Kelly, Max Lyons, Lily Mattison,
Alex Pickett, Christian Smith, Harley Grace Sterling*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Register Today!

JUNE 14 - 18

The countdown is on! We are just six weeks away from VBS! Invite your friends and neighbors and join us at Emerald Crossing. Kids ages 4 through 6th grade will dive into engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and creative crafts as we take An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23. Register today by scanning the QR Code or go to www.ogchurch.life.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

MEAL 5:30 PM

ADULTS \$7 CHILDREN \$3 FAMILY PLAN \$20
CLASSES AND CHOIR 6:30 PM

May 6, 2026

Menu: Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad

Shoppers: Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen

Servers: Self Serve

Desserts: B.J. Mathias, Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen, Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn

May 13, 2026

Senior Recognition Night

\$10 Adults \$3 Children

Menu: Brisket, Hash Brown Casserole, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Rolls, Cake and Ice Cream

Children's Menu: Brisket/Chicken Nuggets and Tater Tots

Servers: Tish Edwards, Betty Entrekin, LaNita Fisher

Dessert: MES Circle

**May 13 is the last
Fellowship Meal until fall!**

...ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS...

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Chuck and Jenny Langley
- 9 Tyler and Taylor Standland
- 18 Raymond and Gloria Watkins
- 22 Bobby and Shannon Sterling
- 23 Brian and Jessie Holmes
- 25 John and LaNita Fisher
- 29 Taylor and Candice Entrekin

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Christi Busha | 12 Gloria Watkins |
| 2 Mike McQueen | 13 Molly Reynolds |
| 3 Fred Keeter | 14 William Wilkerson |
| 6 Sarah Wilkerson | 19 Beth Bankston |
| 7 Andrew Kelly | 20 Garrett Dickerson |
| 9 Sharon Jones | 20 Taylor Entrekin |
| 12 Lina Fortenberry | 22 Paige Smith |
| 12 Alison Post | 23 Jonathan Wilkerson |

YOUTH AT USM WESLEY CITY WIDE



...THANK YOU...

Dear Church Family,

We are so grateful for the love, prayers, and support you have shown our family during this difficult time of the loss of Hank. Your kindness has brought so much comfort and peace.

Thank you for the meals, the calls, your presence, and most of all for lifting us up in prayer.

We are so blessed to be a part of this church family and we appreciate you all.

With love,

The Cain and Hammond Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the donation to Asbury Hospice House in memory of my mother, Frances Long.

The generosity and caring hearts in our church is always amazing and a testimony to the love that the members have for others and Christ!

Our family also appreciated the prayers that were lifted up for my mother. She loved the Lord and lived a life that testified to that love.

Thank you for this special gift.

In His love,

Lisa Vickers

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your donation to the Mississippi Animal Rescue League in memory of mother, Jimmie Weems.

Love,

David and Beth Bankston

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,

Thank you for the cards, texts, calls, hugs, and other expressions of love during the loss of my sister, Madge Fields.

Also, thank you for the memorial donation to her church.

Thank you for being such a loving church family.

Gloria Bynum

Church Family,

There are no words sufficient to let you all know what an amazing church family you are. I have felt your love in your prayers and God's presence through the whole experience and even the beautiful flowers on the windowsill have been a blessing.

Thank you for always being there and for shining God's light so brightly in our family and out into our world.

We love you so very much,

B.J. Mathias

Oak Grove Church

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