



South Meridian Church of God

~CONNECTOR~

PASTORS

TIMOTHY M FOREMAN

Senior Pastor

DALE D LANDIS

*Associate Pastor
Music & Worship*

MICHAEL P SNYDER

*Associate Pastor
Student Ministries*

VALERIE PETRY

Children's Ministries

SUPPORT STAFF

RHONDA NEIDERT

Administrative Assistant

CINDY BENSON

Administrative Assistant

LOIS HALLETT

Administrative Assistant

BETH ANN BOLTON

Asst. Children's Ministries

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

**Worship Celebrations
8:30 and 11:00am**

**Southern
Hospitality @ 9:15am**

School of

~ PASTOR LANDIS SABBATICAL BEGINS SOON ~

The Staff Relations Team and the Church Council recently gave final approval to a request from Pastor Dale Landis for a sabbatical leave this summer for enrichment, continuing education and renewal. Pastor Dale will begin his sabbatical after preaching on May 20. He will return to the office on August 6. During his weeks away we are fortunate to have some very capable and willing servants who will share the worship leadership.

His time away will include some vacation time and some significant sabbatical time for both rest and renewal as well as a discipline of reading, seminars and other preparation for his ministry areas. Attention will be given to enhancing our worship ministries as well as some projected transitions to new ministries.

South Meridian church policy offers its ministers an opportunity to apply for a sabbatical after 7 years of continuous ministry. Pastor Dale's sabbatical eight years ago brought some good things for Dale and the church. It is our hope and prayer that this sabbatical will also serve him and us well.

~ CAPITAL FUND UPDATE ~

As most of you are aware our church's three-year Capital Fund Campaign through INJOY ministries ran from December 2003 to December 2006. *Total giving for capital funds in that campaign was \$640,445.* This was significantly below the pledges of around \$1.2 million, no doubt for several reasons. Not quite a year into the campaign our senior pastor, Dave Schulz, moved away rather unexpectedly. Even before that rising costs had put the relocation on hold. This was all followed by a long interim period without senior pastor leadership and more changes in the congregational life. Yet after noting all of this we believe that it is especially *important that we celebrate all that has been done – because of God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of so many of our church family!* Even with our focus blurred and few follow-up efforts many were faithful, even sacrificial. We salute all who kept the faith! *Even the reduced campaign was by far our best level ever for gifts to capital funds!* The funds are now invested – and we stand stronger for the future.

Several folks have continued giving regularly to the Capital Funds – and the staff and Church Council encourages others to get on board! Whether you are catching up, continuing your commitment, revising your commitment – or just now starting to give *we invite you to prayerfully give as the Lord impresses you.* While our relocation is still on indefinite hold – we know we have some strong needs for attention to our present ministry facility at South Meridian. *Subject to final approval it is our intent to use current gifts to Capital Funds (post-campaign) to address some of these pressing needs in a timely manner.* Any major plans will be brought to the church according to normal procedures.

Again we say thanks for your past support – and encourage your on-going support!



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

SUMMER classes.....Beginning JUNE 3RD

New classes for the School of Discipleship begin on June 3rd at 9:45am. The classes are listed below along with the title for the Summer class and the teacher.

Friendship Class— "Committed to Doing Right"—Debby Bookout teaching.

Fellowship Class— "Testimonies; Sermon on the Mount; Romans 12"—Hank Smith (June) and Joe Arena (July, August) teaching.

One Accord Class— "Faith Journeys"—Connie Gray and Dale Landis (& guest speakers) teaching.

Discovery Class— "The Being vs. Doing: Comparative study of James (Doing) and John (Being)"—Arlan Landey teaching.

New Life— "Peacemaking: Interpersonal to Global"—Melanie Musser teaching.

Impact Class— "Bible Lessons from Rob Bell"—Mark Harris, David Dominniani & Robin Spires teaching.

Married— "That the World May Know Video Series" - Scott Erny and Chad Wallace teaching.

INHALE Class— Living with God"—Bobby Dunn and Carl Willans teaching.





Right From The Pastor's Heart . . .



One of the recent yellow Connections cards said: *What a thrill it has been to go deeper into the rough stuff. Thank you, Pastor Tim.* I called the series *Tough Questions...Look for an Answer* but I suppose “rough stuff” says it just as well. As always I appreciate your affirmation that you are hearing and responding to God’s truth proclaimed. The last tough question is (at least for this round) – Is Jesus Really the Only Way to God? At first that one sounds a bit easier but in truth it is the biggest stumbling block in our day. The Christian claim – actually Jesus claim – makes him controversial and gets us accused of being arrogant! So how do we answer that?

Summer is just around the corner. Like most churches our ministry programming shifts down in some areas – and some folks lament that. But likely they don’t notice how ministries pick up in other areas like Vacation Bible School, camp meetings and youth camps. The truth is summer is unique – and I believe it is good to take a break in some things. We need to enjoy some of the unique opportunities of summer. And yet worship and fellowship are always vitally important for our health. I trust you will make it priority to be in worship every Sunday you are in town. Be faithful with your giving. Maybe visit another church when you travel. And by all means make it a great summer!

Our son Mark graduates from USC Med School soon and Tara graduates a bit later from Fuller Seminary. In the meantime Mark and I are going to drive a U-haul truck across country for their move to Cincinnati where he will be doing his residency. Linda and I are thrilled to celebrate these milestones with them – and are especially thankful now for vouchers and airline credit miles.

I want you to know that there are a lot of things on the table here at South Meridian. Your staff, church council and ministry leaders need your prayers and support as we seek to ask the right questions, know the best direction, set priorities and follow God’s timing. I am constantly challenged – and constantly aware of how much we must seek God together.

Please note the Capital Funds update in this Connector. All funds given during the last campaign are invested for the future. I believe current giving to the fund can certainly be available to do some of the many maintenance and improvements needed in our Meridian ministry center. For that reason I encourage all who can to add this to your giving.

By the way I hope you have noticed that *we are working hard to improve communication* here at South through a variety of means. I anticipate that the newsletter will be the mainstay in this effort. So please make it a priority to read the *Connector* every time you get it. And keep us posted about what’s happening – talk to us – communication is a two-way street.

I thank God for you – again and again!

New Pictorial Directory Coming Soon!

Photo sessions:

May 30th—June 2nd

June 6th—June 9th

(Wed.-Fri. 2:30pm-9:00pm)

(Sat. 9:30am-4:30pm)

Opportunities to sign-up will be available on Sundays and we are hoping to have a direct link on the web soon.



Vital Stats for April

Worship Celebrations 465
Sunday School 264

(YTD for 12 months)

Budget Income \$62,295
(Budget Needs \$62,721)
Capital Funds \$2,662
Dedicated Funds \$462
Faith Promise Income \$7,013
(Faith Promises \$6,022)

Brief Notes...



- **Grad Alert**—we will be honoring our South Meridian high school grads on Sunday, June 3. Please notify the church as soon as possible if you have grads in your family. We’d also like to have a picture for the slides that day and we will post any open house announcements, if you wish.
- **Club 45** kids went to Lowe’s on a recent Sunday and purchased a new front-load washing machine for the Christian Center. The kids also delivered a large load of laundry detergent with the machine. What a great experience!
- **Youth Flower Sale**—South Meridian youth sold 353 flats and 139 hanging plants. The profit of \$3,000 will be posted to the youth accounts for use for camps, conventions or later SMY retreats.
- **New Conference Room Chairs**—The facilities team has added 18 new swivel conference room chairs. What an improvement!
- **Dessert Auction**—Nearly 100 people gathered for the recent potluck dinner/Dessert Auction. Dennis Jackson served as auctioneer for about 40 cakes and pies. Over \$1800.00 was raised for camp scholarships for youth and children or for other kids ministries.
- **Roses to...**
...Dennis Jackson and company for a great job with the recent dessert auction.
...Cindy Dillingham and the Connections Team who sponsored the dessert auction and potluck dinner.
- A Recent Thank-You note from the Joe Gibson family is posted by the Welcome Center.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:

All rooms must be reserved with a form being filled out in the church office. Make sure to include the time for set-up and clean-up in the time that you reserve the room and indicate the time of the meeting, as well.

News Highlights . . .

- *South Meridian had 9 Grads at AU!*

Our church has the privilege of being the church home for several AU students. Some of these were a part of the youth ministry here and others came on board from places far and near.

This year's grads include Gina Shaner, Kelli Arington, Lesley Burlew, Carolyn Nelson, Scott Dietrick, Bobby Dunn, Reiland Wilson, Opie Smith and Nathan Maxfield. A picture page with info on their future plans is posted.

We congratulate the grads and wish them the best as they begin new ventures.

- *Sanctuary & Chancel updates are still to come.*

Consideration is now being given to more restructuring of the chancel stage, lighting and sound enhancements, carpet and other updates. The large stained glass window is now uncovered—but the VBS theme background will come in June. There are several issues with the window still to be addressed. A special task force will likely be appointed soon for these updates.

- *New Administrative Assistant on board.*

We are delighted to have Cindy Benson serving in the church office. She brings good skills, a professional manner and a heart to serve to this important role.

Upcoming Events...

~ North American Convention ~ June 22 to June 27 ~

- **General services** each day Mon.-Fri. at 7pm at the Kardatzke Wellness Cntr.
- **Family Day**, Saturday, June 23
- **Children's Ministry Fair**, Saturday, June 23 from 8am to 4:30pm. This is designed for Children's workers but registration is required. South Meridian will cover the cost for our workers. See Val for details and to sign-up.
- **Make A Difference Training Day** for youth and youth workers on June 23.
- **Upward Bound** for senior adults on Tuesday and Wednesday.

For the best and most up to date info, please check www.nac.chog.org.

~ New Beth Moore Opportunity ~

A New Beth Moore Bible Study... "David—A Heart Like His" has recently begun and meets every Friday from 9:00am-11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. You may email or call Robin Spire at jrspires@yahoo.com or 765-683-9352 to sign-up.

~ Changes of Seasons ~

As summer comes near some things wrap up:

- Last choir rehearsal on May 16th
- Last night of Wednesday Children's program on May 23rd
- Youth will continue to May 30th with a miracle mile activity on June 6th and T-Time most Wednesdays throughout the summer.

While some things end there are great new opportunities throughout summer—like the North American Convention, camp meeting and youth camps. And, of course, Sunday worship helps us stay connected every week!

~ God's People Can Bless The City ~

On Saturday, May 19th, from 8am to noon, the City is sponsoring a clean up effort and several churches will get on board. The Outreach Team encourages South Meridian folks to get on board—with trash pick-up, painting and clean up. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 765-643-6695.

Church Calendar...

May 18th—20th

Jr. High Break-out @ AU

Saturday, May 19th

8am-noon City Clean Up

Sunday, May 20th

8:30am & 11:00am Worship Services
(Pastor Dale Landis preaching)

Wednesday, May 23rd

6:00pm SMY Wednesday Eve

6:30pm Children's Wednesday Eve
(last night before summer break)

8:00pm Worship Team Practice

Thursday, May 24th

9:00am Rise & Shine

Sunday, May 27th - Memorial Day Weekend

8:30am & 11:00am Worship Services

Wednesday May 30th—Friday June 1st

2:30pm to 9:00pm Directory Photos
(Fellowship Hall)

Friday, June 1st

8:00am Stephen Ministries Retreat

8:00am Family Camp Weekend

7:00pm Benefit Concert/Ray Boltz

Saturday, June 2nd

9:30am to 4:30pm Directory Photos
(Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, June 3rd

8:30am & 11:00am Worship Service
Honor our High School Grads

Monday, June 4th

4:00pm INHALE Team Mtg.

Wednesday, June 6th

Miracle Mile Activity w/SMY

Thursday, June 7th

7:00pm to 8:30pm VBS Training

Wednesday June 6th—Friday June 8th

2:30pm to 9:00pm Directory Photos
(Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, June 9th

9:00am to 10:30am VBS Training
9:30am to 4:30pm Directory Photos
(Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm Hispanic Worship Service

Sunday, June 10th

8:00 & 11:30am Worship Services

Pastor Mike Snyder preaching

Monday, June 11th

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Begins

Friday, June 15th

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Ends

Sunday, June 17th—Father's Day

5:30pm VBS Celebration Program

Monday, June 18th

8:00am 3rd & 4th Grade Camp @

Camp Challenge

Friday, June 22nd—Wednesday, June 27th

North American Convention

Sundays

May 20th

Pastor Landis
preaching

May 27th

Memorial Day
Weekend

June 3rd

We honor our
High School Grads!

June 10th

Pastor Snyder
preaching

June 17th

Father's Day!!



South Meridian
CHURCH OF GOD

2402 Meridian Street
Anderson, IN 46016

Phone: 765-643-6695

Our mission is to inspire
ordinary people to become
passionate Christians.

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VBS 2007
Ages 4 through 5th grade!!
(CD's now available!)

June 11—15th
6:00-8:30pm



VBS Training Dates:

(If you volunteer please choose one below)
Thursday, June 7th 7:00pm—8:30pm
Saturday, June 9th 9:00am—10:30 am
(in the Fellowship Hall)

VBS Decorations Dates:

Friday, June 8th 6:00pm—10:00pm
Saturday, June 9th 10:00am—10:00pm
Sunday, June 10th 2:00pm—10:00pm

VBS Pre-Registration Dates:

Sunday, June 3rd—A.M. Worship
Sunday, June 10th—A.M. Worship

VBS Celebration Program:

Sunday, June 17th at 5:30pm



VBS Supply List

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crayola crayons | beach balls |
| Crayola markers | Blue metallic foil fringe |
| Glue sticks (Elmer's) | Hand wipes |
| Reusable adhesive (clear) | |
| Napkins | Finger paints (all colors) |
| Newspaper | Fiskar scissors (kids) |
| grocery bags | Paper |
| Construction paper (all colors) | Balloons |
| Paper plates (snack size) | |
| Plastic knives | Paper towels |
| Lrg. Blue Tarps X30 | Plastic spoons |
| Safety pins | Wax paper |
| Push pins | Water fins (6 sets) |
| tape | Masking |
| Lrg black perm. markers | Foam noodles |
| color fine-pt perm. markers | |
| Inflatable turtles & fish | Goggles |
| Mammoth beach ball | Hula hoops X10 |
| Plastic fishbowls | Large sponges |
| 2 5-gallon buckets | Spray bottles X2 |
| Gallon plastic milk jugs | Beach chairs |
| Inner tubes | Beach towels |

*50 people have already volunteered with
30+ additional volunteers needed! Contact
Val Petry to sign-up!

It's not too early to start inviting friends and family to VBS!