



FOCUS

MARCH 2024 - MMXXIV ISSUE III

735 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

Join Your Friends in Service to Our City by Diane Brower, Memphis Ministries Team

The overall crime rate in Memphis is 312.48% above the national average, according to the most recent data from the FBI. The child poverty rate is 32.7% (a decrease from two years prior), according to the University of Memphis. The TN Commission on Children and Youth stated that in the last year, 53% of high school girls and 30% of high school boys reported feeling sad or hopeless daily for two or more weeks, a 63% increase since 2011. Creation is indeed groaning, eagerly waiting for redemption.

Memphis needs Jesus. Not only Jesus the Savior; but Jesus the Creator, Sustainer, and Reconciler of all things. He gives the God-glorifying and life-fulfilling new self. His plan is to work through Christians who see the image of God in every individual and commit to spending sustained time praying, caring, and sharing the gospel with their neighbors in the greater-Memphis area. There are amazing ministries doing this work daily in our city. As First Evan's Memphis Ministries Team, our job is to help of our church come alongside them.

Our team's vision is for First Evaners to develop relationships, love our neighbors, and share the gospel throughout the city. It is important that we minister in a holistic manner, meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Here is just a glimpse of how our people are stepping in with our partners: Some take lunch to those who are gaining skills to become employed and financially stable. Others are loving a pre-K class in Binghampton through prayer and class parties. Some stand on a sidewalk to reach out to those in crisis pregnancies. Some meet with kids for weekly Bible Clubs. Others welcome international students in their homes. Some build tables for refugee families on Wednesdays at church. God is at work in our city through our people and our partners.

We also serve our city through your financial giving. A budget is allocated

to the Memphis Ministries Team through the Missions Fund. We are responsible for understanding our partners to appropriately support pressing needs and upcoming projects. For example, we recently heard from a woman who found healing and redemption in Christ from Life Choices' retreat for women who have abortions in their past. We were able to fully fund their next retreat!

You can start taking action. You can reach out to Steven Yeo at syeo@firstevan.org to discover volunteer opportunities. Check with your Sunday School to see if your class is championing a ministry and serve together as a class. Participate in Meet Memphis, our annual day of serving our ministries, on April 13 (more details coming soon).

Your generosity and service contribute to how narratives and statistics can change in our city. Until we see His kingdom come, let us pray, care, and share to see God glorified in all of Memphis.



Memphis Ministries Team photo. (From left to right: Daniel Newman, Diane Brower, Dawn Kaercher, Gerald Thompson, Jenna Fergus, Leslie Brock, Steven Yeo, and Ryan Strain. Not present: Bryan Miller, David Pritchard, and Jordan Bernardini)



The ladies of Sojourners Sunday school celebrates Valentines with Binghampton Christian Academy's pre-K class. (From left to right, Barbara Cook and Beverly Garrison)



First Evan men are putting together a table for World Relief refugee family. (From left to right: Grady Sanborn, Lynn Ballinger, David Frazier, and Jeff Miley)



Cindy Granger stands in front of Planned Parenthood to reach out to people in crisis.

CHURCH-WIDE

FAMILY

Welcome New Member



Patricia Newman

Security Reminder

You've probably seen on the news that churches are being targeted for car thefts and break-ins. No security measures are fool-proof, so please lock your car and do not leave any valuables in your car – especially in plain sight. That doesn't guarantee your car won't be broken into or stolen, but criminals are opportunists and any deterrent measures we take are helpful. We are evaluating and increasing our security efforts so please do what you can to help.

Calming Rooms

Chapel or D102 (Below Sanctuary)



If you need to step out of service with your child, you can participate in the Worship Service with a live stream available in both of the rooms.

Discover First Evan

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 28 4:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel

This class is offered to those interested in learning more about First Evan or desiring membership. Attending the class in no way obligates you to join, but it is the first step toward membership. For questions or additional information, please contact Jacki Stieferman at jstieferman@firstevan.org. Register at www.firstevan.org/dfe.

Spring Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 27
4:00-7:00 p.m., A124



By being a blood donor, individuals are truly giving the ultimate gift – LIFE! Giving this gift will provide patients the opportunity to create and share more precious moments to cherish with their caring loved ones! Sign up at www.vitalant.org. New donors, please contact Sam Hezlep at 901-486-6237.

Date Night

Friday, April 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Common Ground Room (E202)



Join us for BBQ, fun, and fellowship! Compete in trivia, enter to win door prizes, enjoy building relationships with other First Evan couples. Child-care provided. Please register by March 31 (space is limited) at www.firstevan.org/date-night.

WORSHIP

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;

AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED,
AND WAS BURIED.
HE DESCENDED INTO HELL.
THE THIRD DAY
HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD.
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND
OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE WILL COME AGAIN
TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

HOLY WEEK

AT FIRST EVAN

WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT,
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS,
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.

"The Apostles' Creed" Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 24, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Services, Sanctuary

A special program based on the Apostles' Creed, with soloists, choir, and members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. *Nursery for ages 3 and under.*

****REMINDER: No Sunday School.****

Good Friday Communion Service

Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

We'll remember Jesus' sacrifice for our sins with meditations on the cross, communion, and special music. *Nursery for ages 3 and under.*

Resurrection Sunday Service

Sunday, March 31, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Join us for a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection with a special message from Pastor Taylor Park. The cross will be on the front steps of the church for you to place flowers on in honor of our risen Lord. *Children's Church and nursery for birth-PreK. Note: We have a regular Sunday morning with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.*

GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE & KMC 2024

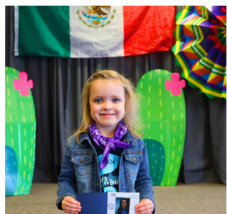
Global Missions Conference “Listening to the Lord of the Harvest”

Our Global Mission’s Conference was focused on praying to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out His laborers, listening to Him with surrendered hearts, and taking His mandate to “Go” to all nations as a non-negotiable charge to the Church. We also looked at the amazing opportunities we have to reach the nations right here in the US due to immigration, and we discussed what a Biblical response to immigration would be. We were blessed to hear from Dr. George Murray and Pastor Antonio Muñoz in addition to many of our missionaries and national partners. Now we pray that fruit would come out of this time and that we would all be graced with faith to pray, send, and go into all nations with the good news entrusted to us.



Kids' Missions Conference – Who Has Ears? EARS TO HEAR!

On the poster for this year’s missions conference, there is a picture of a dandelion being blown in the wind. This illustration actually goes hand-in-hand with this year’s KMC. The title “Ears to Hear,” comes from Mark 4 at the end of the parable of the sower in which Jesus compares the Gospel message to seeds. Just like seeds are sown on the ground, the gospel can come into our ears... but it won’t produce fruit until it takes root in our hearts. We are amazed by God’s wonderful and complex design of our ears, but even more amazing is the salvation that sets us free from sin. It is available to ALL people through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Passing the Torch

by Laura Love, Global Missions Team



For the month of February, the Global Missions Team (GMT) has had the privilege of helping to plan activities for the Student Ministry. The hope of the GMT has been to engage them in the strong missions emphasis of our church. We did that through interviews with some of our Missionaries and National Partners on Sunday mornings and various interactive activities on Wednesday evenings.

One Wednesday, Joel Scoggins had the students take a simple personality test and then he discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each personality when it comes to sharing the gospel. On another evening David Frazier gave the students all candles in a dark room and led them in a demonstration of the gospel spreading (or not spreading!) to the less-reached and unreached areas of the world. They also looked at the opportunities we have right here in the US to profess Christ because of immigration. There was also a chance to interact more extensively with the Bute Family visiting here from Ukraine, and hearing more from their peers about the Common Ground Summer Missions Trip to Romania.

Join us in praying for these activities to bear fruit in the lives of our youth, strengthening and resourcing them to join the global church in spreading the gospel.



Global Missions Conference Project

Preliminary totals at the close of the conference put us at **\$28,895**. Thank you First Evan for building on the legacy with Tlapaneco Indian Ministries!

World Prayer Focus

Sunday, March 3

6:00-7:00 p.m., Chapel



Join us in intercessory prayer for our world, country, county, city, and church. For more information, contact missions@firstevan.org.

GMT Recommendations

The Global Missions Team (GMT) is seeking recommendations for new members to serve a three-year term. They must be committed members of First Evan with a deep interest in missions and have sufficient time and concern for worldwide missions to make a meaningful commitment to the GMT. First Evan members may send recommendations to missions@firstevan.org or speak to any current GMT member.

STUDENTS

Spaghetti Dinner Auction

SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday, April 24

5:00-6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Student Ministries is headed to Student Life Camp this summer in Orange Beach, AL! To raise funds for camp, we are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner with Live Auction and Silent Auction to raise money for Student Life Camp.

Pro Life Training with Scott Klusendorf

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 27

9:00-1:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

[Scott Klusendorf](#) of the Life Training Institute will present and facilitate an interactive training primarily for teens and families who are seeking to have a better understanding and handle on how to have graceful and truth-filled conversations about the sanctity of life.



MEMPHIS MINISTRIES

Meet Memphis

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Various Locations | Sign up by Sunday, March 24 to guarantee a t-shirt!



LOVE TAKES ACTION

MEET MEMPHIS Opportunities

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

**ARISE2READ SERVE LUNCH TO FACULTY AT BALOMORAL RIDGEWAY
OR WHITEHAVEN**

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

ADVANCE MEMPHIS COMMUNITY FEAST

ARISE2READ PAINTING AT BALMORAL RIDGEWAY
NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTIAN CENTER FLOOR REPLACEMENT
BINGHAMPTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY COMMUNITY GARDEN
CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP BUILDING CLEANUP
MEMPHIS COALITION FOR LIFE PACK BLESSING BAGS
EIKON MINISTRIES BLOCK PARTY
LIFE CHOICES SETUP FOR LIFEWALK
REDZONE MINISTRIES PAINTING AT OPPORTUNITY ZONE
WORLD RELIEF COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Memphis is longing for healing. Join us by stepping into this great need. Come to serve and fellowship with Memphis ministries who are seeking the welfare of the city and spreading the gospel. You'll also get to consider opportunities to build authentic and Christ-centered relationships with nonbelievers. Find details and sign up at www.firstevan.org/meetmemphis.

RECREATION

Pickleball

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
8:00–11:30 a.m., Gym

Tuesdays, 8:00–11:30 a.m.

1:30–4:30 p.m., Gym

Thursdays, 8:00–11:30 a.m.

2:30–4:30 p.m., Gym

Women's Pickleball 101

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month
March 12 & 26, 1:30 p.m., Gym

All are welcome! We have three pickleball courts available to use!



YOUNG ADULTS

Break Midweek

Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Seth and Noelle Holler's Home



Using the book, "[*The Problem of Pain*](#)" by C.S. Lewis as a tool, Break will meet at the Holler's home this Spring to openly ask and discuss questions around pain and suffering. Contact Anies Kunda at akunda@firstevan.org with questions and address.

Break Sunday Night Dinners

Sundays, March 3, 10, 17, 6:30 p.m.
Location varies

Young Adults, on (most) Sunday nights we will have dinner and fellowship! Join us! Contact Kassie Sanborn at ksanborn@firstevan.org for the address and more details, or see our Instagram [@fec.youngadults](https://www.instagram.com/fec.youngadults).

Break Summer Trip

Saturday–Tuesday, May 25–28
Fall Creek Falls | Cost: \$90



Young adults, join us for hiking, relaxing, fellowship, and teaching from Seth Holler. Invite a friend! We'll give you more details as we get closer to the trip. If you have any questions, ask Kassie Sanborn at ksanborn@firstevan.org or 901-262-6510. Register by Wednesday, May 8 at www.firstevan.org/break-trip.



MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Key Passage:

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them saying, "to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13)

Big Picture Question:

*How is Jesus the perfect King?
Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.*

MAR 3 Review of Units 25 & 26
The Life & Ministry of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)

MAR 10 Unit 27, Session 1
Jesus Was Put On Trial (Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18)

MAR 17 Unit 27, Session 2
Jesus Was Crucified (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23-24, John 19-20)

MAR 24 Palm Sunday
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 & 10:45 a.m. Services

MAR 31 Easter Sunday!
Unit 27, Session 3
Jesus Was Raised! (Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, John 19-20)

Children's Choir

During Sunday School, Mrs. Rachael Boer is teaching FEC Kids the Apostles' Creed set to music by New City Catechism. They will sing with orchestra at the Palm Sunday Service on March 24.

[Click here](#) to listen, or find on iTunes or Spotify on *New City Catechism Vol. 2, track 14* (titled "Q31 What do we believe by true faith").

Songs from
The New City
Catechism



Summer Safari

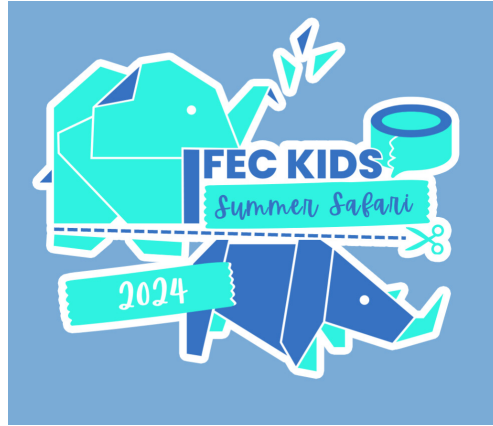
Mondays and Thursdays

June 13-July 25

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For Rising PreK 4- 6th Grade

Registration opens Monday, March 4!



Hi FEC Kids...It's almost time to register for Summer Safari 2024: "Maker Fun Factory"!

We have expanded our ages to include children ages PreK 4 through rising 6th grade, and we are excited about all the fun we will have this summer on Mondays and Thursdays here at First Evan!! Summer Safari is a drop-off program from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with two summer sessions. At "Maker Fun Factory," we will have songs, STEM activities, games, crafts, field trips, and more, and we will of course learn about Jesus Christ and HIS great love for the world He made!

It is the desire of our ministry to come alongside parents to help provide the structure, peer interaction, and fun kids need for a healthy, enjoyable summertime. **The cost is \$150/session, or \$250 for both sessions—so that's \$25/child per day—plus an activity fee of \$25/child per session.** Financial aid is available for members and regular attenders of First Evan. We are looking forward to having you!

Email Kate Taylor at ktaylor@firstevan.org for more details or sign up at www.firstevan.org/summer-safari.

Join Our Team!

Are you interested in serving our children? We have SO MUCH FUN with each other in FEC Kids, and we would love for you to be a part of it! Please contact ktaylor@firstevan.org.



"The Great Jungle Journey" VBS

Monday-Friday, June 3-7

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

For Rising K-5th Grade | FREE

Register April 3-May 15!



At this year's VBS, we will embark on a jungle cruise with curriculum from Answers in Genesis. On *The Great Jungle Journey*, we will travel from Genesis through Revelation learning all about God's plan through His Word. Be on the look out... we'll be boarding our cruise before you know it, and you won't want to miss the adventure! Details at www.firstevan.org/vbs.



WOMEN

Precept Upon Precept "1 Timothy" Bible Study

Tuesdays, March 5–April 30
6:00–8:00 p.m. via Zoom

1 Timothy: Paul's letter to young Pastor Timothy regarding false teachers, conduct, and guarding the truth in the church. Register by March 1 by contacting Sara Butler at 901-491-0101 or sarabutler6@gmail.com. Purchase workbooks from Precept, cost \$15.75.

Supper Club

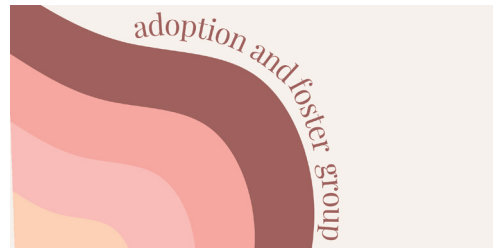
Thursday, March 7
6:00 p.m., Swanky's Taco Shop
6641 Poplar Ave., #109
Germantown, TN



Join us for a time of fellowship with other ladies. Women of all ages welcome! No reservations needed. For more information, email Christy Bicknell at cbicknell@firstevan.org.

Adoption and Foster Group

Wednesday, March 27
11:30 a.m., Snapdragon Floral
Tea Room, 734 Mt. Moriah Rd.
#4, Memphis



Grab lunch and join interested and current foster or adoptive moms for a time of fellowship and community. Birth moms are welcome. No reservation required. Contact Christy with questions, cbicknell@firstevan.org.

Coffee Club

Thursday, March 28
9:30 a.m.
Sunrise
Memphis East
5469 Poplar
Ave, Memphis



All women are invited for coffee and conversation. No reservation required. Contact Christy with questions, cbicknell@firstevan.org.

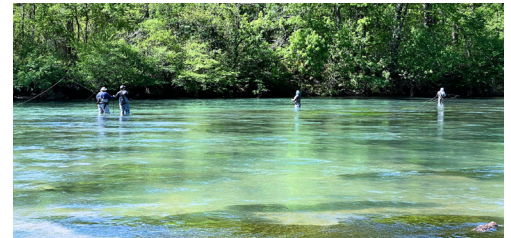
MEN

Men's Retreat

Friday–Sunday, April 19–21
Riverside Resort
Mammoth Spring, AR
Speaker: Josh Raspberry,
Pastor of Family Ministry



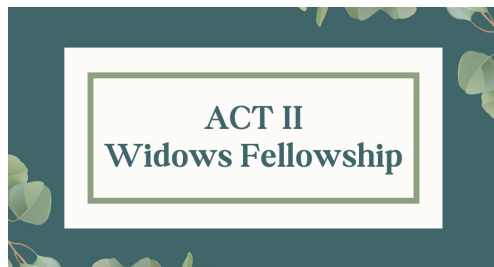
Men ages 18 and up are invited to join us for a fun weekend of Bible teaching, fish tales, fellowship, and good food. There will be trout fishing, horseshoes, canoeing, kayaking, and more. Bring a friend! Dads are welcome to bring sons age 16 years and older. Register in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or online Sunday, March 10–April 7 at www.firstevan.org/mens-retreat.



CARE

ACT II Widows Fellowship

Monday, March 4
10:00 a.m., Chapel



ACT II is a group for widows that meet monthly for prayer and fellowship in the Chapel, unless we have an outing or special program. This month we will hear from First Evaner **Andrew Beach who is the Director of Life Planning and Retirement Coaching at The Center - Memphis**. Please contact Cathy Graham at cathygraham@icloud.com, 901-685-1028, or 901-299-1426 (cell) with questions. www.firstevan.org/actii.

Caregivers Group

Thursday, March 21
11:45 a.m., Chapel



Caregivers is a ministry for those caring for loved ones. **This month**, we will enjoy lunch and hear from **Dr. Curt Bicknell, PharmD**, on managing medications and a Q&A.

Please contact Christy Bicknell at cbicknell@firstevan.org or Sue Sharpe, 901-828-2624 with questions. Registration requested at www.firstevan.org/caregivers.

PRIME TIME

Prime Time Readers

Meets Every 2nd
Tuesday of the Month
March 12, 1:00–2:30 p.m., E234

Join us for a great time to fellowship and engage in topics of interest. The first book is, *"The Joys of Successful Aging"* by George Sweeting.



Prime Time Walkers

Currently Meet
Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, & 25
9:00–10:00 a.m., Walking Track
This is a great way to fellowship with health and safety benefits.

If interested in joining either of these groups, please contact Paige Poloni at ppoloni@firstevan.org.

MARCH 2024

					FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	1	2
Communion 3 IRL Weekend: No Student Ministries (Sunday School) SS Leaders Mtg 4:30 p.m. Break Dinner 6:30 p.m. FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom	ACT II Widows Fellowship 4 10:00 a.m., Chapel Men's Monday Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	Heart to Heart 5 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall	Men's Bible Study 6 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek Fellowship Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall Midweek Activities 6:15-8:00 p.m.	7 Supper Club (Women) 6:00 p.m., Swankys Taco Shop, 6641 Poplar, #109, Germantown	8 IRL Weekend (Students) →	9
Daylight Saving Time Begins 10 Break Dinner 6:30 p.m. FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom	11 SPRING BREAK	No Heart to Heart Bible Study 12 Pickleball 101 (Women) 1:30-2:30 p.m., Gym Prime Time Readers 2:00-3:30 p.m., E234	Men's Bible Study 13 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom No Midweek Meal & Electives	14	15	16
Baptisms 17 Break Dinner 6:30 p.m. FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom	18 Council Meeting 6:15 p.m. Men's Monday Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	H2H Women's Bible Study 19 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (shifts) Outside Planned Parenthood	Men's Bible Study 20 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek Fellowship Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m., F-Hall Midweek Activities 6:15-8:00 p.m.	Caregivers Group 21 11:45 a.m., Chapel	22	Palm Sunday Rehearsal 23 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
No Sunday School 24 Palm Sunday 9:00/10:45 a.m. Services FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom	25 Men's Monday Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	H2H Women's Bible Study 26 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall Pickleball 101 (Women) 1:30-2:30 p.m., Gym	Men's Bible Study 27 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Adoption/Foster (Women) 11:30 a.m., Snapdragon Floral Blood Drive 4:00-7:00 p.m., A124 Midweek Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m., F-Hall Midweek Activities 6:15-8:00 p.m.	Coffee Club (Women) 28 9:30 a.m., Sunrise Memphis - East 5469 Poplar Ave.	Church Offices Closed for Good Friday 29 Good Friday Communion Service 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary	Church Offices Closed 30
31 Resurrection Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service						