

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements.....(668-8936) Allen Hughes
 Lead SingingPaul Hurst
 First PrayerBobby Ashford
 ReadingCaleb Graves
 ScriptureActs 13:12
 Lord's Table (N)*Rickey Hurst
 (S)*Ken Martin
 (N)David Roberts
 (N)Mitchell Ferrell
 (N)Steve Smith
 (S)Chris Snow
 (S)Justin Griffin
 (S)Josh Templeton
 Sermon "Persuading Proconsul" Tony Lawrence
 Dismiss.....David Chilton

Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements.....(668-8936) Allen Hughes
 Lead SingingPaul Hurst
 First PrayerWillie Newby
 Reading.....Kane Maynard
 ScripturePhilippians 4:1-3
 Lord's Table*Rodney Reynolds
*Kelly Thaxton
 Sermon.....*Book of Life* Tony Lawrence
 DismissEthan Duncan

Wednesday Bible Study

Announcements.....Tim Fisher
 Lead SingingJared Mullican
 First PrayerTim Gann
 ReadingDon Sullivan
 Invitation.....Joe Collins
 Dismiss.....Jeff McVey

Welcome Committee

A.M.....Brandon Fuston Family
 P.M.....Don & Susie Griffith

Transportation:.....Paul Hurst (668-7088)

If you cannot serve, please contact David Keele (273-5566)

Ushers: ..David McColloch, Eddie Palmer, Herb Rowland
 Attend Nursery:Aimee Bielling
 Un/Lock Building:....Gordon Mayfield/Shannon Griffin
 Prepare Communion:Keele & Sullivan
 Assist Baptisms: Cindy Fisher & Sherry Graves

Pantry Item:Green Beans

Elder Closing Remarks:Don Sullivan

Record For The Week...

A.M.Worship301
 Bible Study.....218
 P.M.Worship.....191
 Wednesday Bible Study177
 Contribution\$9,032

CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BYBEE BRANCH
 1165 Old Smithville Road
 McMinnville, Tennessee 37110-1008
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Services

<i>Sunday</i>		<i>Wednesday</i>	
A.M. Worship	9:00 AM	Bible Study	7:00 PM
Bible Study	10:15 AM	<i>Monday (2nd & 4th of each month)</i>	
P.M. Worship	6:00 PM	Monday Morning Bible Class	9:00 AM

Elders

Leonard Clemons	473-4186
Stanley Graves	473-6418
Don Griffith	668-9006
Allen Hughes	668-8936
Don Sullivan	668-2184
email	elders@bybeebranch.org

Deacons

Jamie Brock	Joe Collins
Jeff Flatt	Randall Gann
Shannon Griffin	Rickey Hurst
David Keele	Ken Martin
Kurt Maynard	Gordon Mayfield
David McColloch	Jeff McVey
Bruce Pryor	Herb Rowland

Ministers

Tony Lawrence	668-9123
email	preacher@bybeebranch.org
Aaron Ownbey	678-882-2455
email	aaron@bybeebranch.org

Missionary

Robert Garibaldi	409-7328
email	robert@bybeebranch.org
Iglesia de Cristo building	668-6808

Sick

At Home:

Osburn Huntley (husband of Ruby)
Louis Morgan (Helen's son)
Gary Campbell (Maggie Hurst's brother)
Randall Gann (following hip replacement surgery)
Lynder Holmes
Maggie Hurst

In The Hospital:

None known

Shut-ins

Raintree Manor

(415 Pace St., McMinnville, TN 37110)
Clayton Cook (Larry's brother) #200
Clara Roller #120
Gary Ward #206
Wilma Chisam #312

NHC

(P.O. Box 528, McMinnville, TN 37111)
Winfrey Hennessee #315
Willene Kell #311

(815 S Walnut Ave, Cookeville, TN 38501)
Kathy Bouldin (Glenda Hughes sister)

(34 Gracey St, Sparta, TN 38583)
Dennis Eller #228

Home:

Bill Ashford (Bobby's brother)
Dennis Gann
Joyce Griffith (Randy's mother)
Greg Grizzell
Joan Hillis
Daisy Maxwell
Kathy Neale (Chris's mother)
Maxine Pittman (Mary Ashford's sister)
Barbara Pryor (Bruce's mother)
Willus & Edith Roberts

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Paul Meacham, Jr. Brother Meacham has held several meetings in Warren County and his parents Paul and Nydia Meacham are members at Morrison.

Youth News

- January 6 - Bible Bowl @ Bybee Branch
- January 12 - Youth Service Project
- January 13 - Pew Packers
- January 27 - Home Devo @ Paul & Kara Hurst
- January 30 - Birthday Wednesday

Bible Bowl:

The next Bible bowl will be hosted by the Earleyville congregation here at Bybee Branch. They will be using our building as well as providing all the refreshments. Please make plans to attend January 6 and please continue to study Acts 15-19.

Service Project:

Each quarter it has been my goal to conduct a service project to help us learn how to be better servants. This last year focused on serving people in our community. This quarter we are going to serve a different group of people. I do not want to release a lot of information as I want to keep it somewhat of a surprise. My thoughts are to have the kids serve the meal, and parents help cook and decorate. If you would like to help please let me know.

Wednesday Before Services:

This Wednesday we will be wrapping the gifts for the kids that we are sponsoring this holiday season, along with the baskets for the nursing home. If you would like to help please be at the building at 5pm. We need wrap the gifts so the gifts can be delivered to school the following day. Thank you for all of those who donated to this cause, shopped, or will help wrap the gifts. I know it will make these people very happy.

Monday Morning Bible Class

Breakfast at 8 AM with class at 9 AM.

Evangelism Class

This Sunday evening December 9, at 5 pm

Annual Holiday Fellowship

Sunday evening December 16, following services we will have our annual holiday fellowship. Watch for what to bring in a future bulletin.

Why Church Membership Is Declining

There was a time in America's rich history when church buildings were bursting at the seams because of the vast number of devoted members in attendance. On any given Sunday, churches of all sorts would, without question, be filled with attendees. Now, statistically speaking, if a congregation has an average weekend attendance of 51-300, they are considered to be a "large church." Recent statistics further show that in a population of 110,000, only around 8,000 attend a "church" on a given Sunday; that is less than 10%. There has been major decline in church attendance in the past few decades. While there are many contributing factors in this epidemic, consider five major reasons why church attendance is declining:

FIRST, MANY CHRISTIANS ARE DISTRACTED. There are simply too many Christians who are preoccupied with the things of the world. God's children can attend ball-games, go fishing and hunting, but they cannot assemble with the saints. Most stores are open on Sundays, and many Christians will work or shop instead of worship God. There are also many city events, concerts, and other events held on Sundays and at other worship times. On top of all this, television programs air popular shows during many of the times God's people would gather for worship. Therefore, when it is time for the church to assemble together, many of God's people are too cumbered by the world, and their place in the pew is left vacant. However, Jesus clearly warned about the dangers of being consumed by the cares of this world (Mark 4:18-19).

SECOND, WE HAVE LOWERED THE STANDARD. In yesteryear, a person was considered an active church member if they attended three services a week. Now, an individual is measured to be an active member if they attend three services a month. God's people have lowered the standard somewhere along the line, and many have convinced themselves they can be faithful even though they give God very little. However, God has not lowered His standard. He still demands full devotion, and He still expects faithful attendance as a display of genuine commitment to Him (Hebrews 10:24-25).

THIRD, MANY CONGREGATIONS ARE INWARD FOCUSED. When a congregation becomes consumed with themselves, and they forget their overall purpose, the attendance will decline. The mission of the church is saving souls (Matthew 28:18-20), not satisfying the flesh. Thus, when a congregation becomes enamored with meeting everyone's physical needs, their attendance will decline. Attendance may momentarily spike, but people will eventually have their entertainment and social needs met elsewhere. When this happens, consumer-minded members, created by the inward focus congregation, will no longer need "church."

FOURTH, THERE IS NO VISION. A congregation cannot survive if they spend a decade remembering the past and have no vision for the future. However, this is the very state of many congregations. They have been reflecting upon their "glory days" for decades with no plans, goals, and objectives for the future. Over the years, death has slowly reduced their membership. The congregation is now older, and the pews are nearly totally occupied by grey heads. Now, their membership is much lower, involvement is far less, and their attendance is a mere fraction of what it used to be. If we want to combat the loss of membership and great decline in attendance, great men of vision need to fill our elderships. They need to know where they are going, decide what it takes to get there, and put forth the effort to reach their objectives. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

FOURTH, THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY. When unfaithfulness goes unchecked, people fall between the cracks, and there is no accountability for sin, attendance will continue to drop in the local congregation. Imagine the number of sermons which have been preached on the importance of attendance, the sin of forsaking the assembly, and the dangers of not gathering with God's people over the past few decades. However, we are witnessing a major decline in attendance all throughout our land. What good are sermons preached on this issue without accountability? How can elderships expect these sermons to be heeded by the flock when the flock is not held accountable? Far too many Christians come and go as they wish, and very little is done to correct the problem in the lives of these individuals. More times than not, these Christians "fall between the cracks" while elderships worry over planning the next potluck, heating and cooling the meetinghouse, and making sure the church lawn is mowed. If we want to change the decline in attendance, it will take elders who truly "shepherd the flock of God" (1 Peter 5:2). There has to be accountability between the shepherds and the sheep.

~ Branden Baggett~
