#### Volume 64, Number 31 August 9, 2020 Ushers: Sunday Morning Worship Un/Lock Building:.....|eff Flatt/Rickey Hurst Announcements.....TBD Lead Singing ......TBD Prebare Communion: .....TBD First Prayer .....TBD Assist Baptisms: .....Stephanie Maynard & Linda Reading ......TBD Hamilton Scripture.....TBD Pantry Item: ......Hamburger Helper Lord's Table (N)....\*TBD Video ......Tommy Turner (S)....\*TBD (N) .....TBA (N) .....TBA (N) .....TBA Record for the Week... (S).....TBA A.M. Worship.....TBD (S)......TBA Bible Study.....TBD (S).....TBA P.M. Worship......TBD Sermon......lason Adams Wednesday Bible Study ......TBD Dismiss.....TBD Contribution ......\$2,145 Sunday Evening Worship Announcements......TBD Lead Singing ......TBD First Prayer .....TBD Reading.....TBD Scripture.....TBD Lord's Table .....\*TBD .....\*TBD 37110-1008 Sermon ......lason Adams Dismiss......TBD Wednesday Bible Study Announcements......TBD Lead Singing ......TBD First Prayer ......TBD Reading ......TBD Invitation.....TBD Dismiss.....TBD **Welcome Committee** A.M....temporarily suspended P.M. ....temporarily suspended



## Radio Program

Each Wednesday at 12:45 on WBMC 960 AM and 97.7 FM.

| Shepherds       |                        | Deacons         |                 |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jamie Brock     | 668-3537               | Joe Collins     | Jeff Flatt      |
| Leonard Clemons | 473-4186               | Shannon Griffin | Rickey Hurst    |
| Stanley Graves  | 473-6418               | Kurt Maynard    | Gordon Mayfield |
| Don Griffith    | 668-9006               | David McColloch | Jeff McVey      |
| Allen Hughes    | 668-8936               | Bruce Pryor     | Herb Rowland    |
| email           | elders@bybeebranch.org | •               |                 |
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#### **Preachers**

Tony Lawrence (Pulpit) 668-9123 email preacher@bybeebranch.org

Jason Adams (Youth) 743-0495 Robert Garibaldi (Hispanic) 409-7328 email jason@bybeebranch.org email robert@bybeebranch.org

### Sick

#### At Home:

Gordon Mayfield Nelma Chilton Phyllis Brasher (Mary Flatt's mother) Vicky Woodlee

#### In The Hospital:

Doris Hughes (Allen's father) - Raintree Brent Pennington (Barbara Witty's son and Derrick's brother) - St.Thomas Rutherford

# **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathy to the family of Dickie Kesey. He was laid to rest on Sunday, August 2nd. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Bybee Branch Youth Group.

### **Communion Packets**

The disposable communion packets will be available for pickup at the building on Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You may also leave your contribution as well. If you prefer, you can mail your contribution to the building attn: Stanley Graves.

### **Elder Announcement**

Due to the rise of positive cases in the coronavirus, the elders have decided to suspend our services until Sunday, August 30th. We will resume our services on Sunday, August 30th.

# **Upcoming Events**

August 9 - Summer Series - East End Church of Christ @ 5pm. Topic: The True You: Finding Your Identity in Him; speaker: Justin Reed

# **Bible Quiz Question**

How long did the sons of Israel live in Egypt (mostly as slaves)?

What was the reason that Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons?

## **Youth News and Updates**

Please continue to be looking for updates and virtual activities via the Bybee Branch Youth Group Facebook page. We are making every effort to keep everyone engaged during these uncertain times.

# **Upcoming Activities**

#### **Home Devo**

Will take place on August 30th at the home of Caleb and Rachel Graves. The van will leave after services and return between 8:30 PM and 8:45 PM (give or take a few minutes).

# **Youth Lead Worship Service**

August 30th will be the 5th Sunday of the month. We need volunteers to lead songs, prayer, read Scripture and a few young men to present a SHORT devotional talk. Please tell Jason if you are interested in helping out.

## **Labor Day Youth Madness**

Due to the ongoing spread of the coronavirus and how it has affected our congregation, we have decided to cancel this years LDYM trip.

#### H.E.Y.

We will begin our H.E.Y. program in January. All congregations involved felt this would be an adequate amount of time to wait to begin this program safely.

"When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.

Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life." (Proverbs 4:12–13)

#### **Be Thankful for Our Elders**

Does anyone else remember when "all this" (as people keep saying in the South) was only supposed to last about 2-3 weeks so we could "flatten the curve?" That was in late March!

Frustration is building in so many places, and, in most cases, for good reason. From politics to jobs to sports to school and beyond, decisions have had to be made, changed, updated, and cancelled. It is frustrating to know what we are to do or not do, almost on a daily basis.

But in the midst of all this, leaders of churches—elders in the Lord's Church—have had to do things they never dreamed they would have to do, and it's time we made sure we were being grateful. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment. Do you think, just 5 or 6 months ago, that they ever dreamed they would...

- Have meetings about where to have hand sanitizer in the building?
- Be deciding not to have in-person worship or even "gently nudging" some members to stay away from worship?
- Spend time charting case numbers in their state and county?
- Wonder what they were going to do if a member hated wearing (or not wearing) a mask to worship?

And, as you know, the list goes on and on and on. Can you imagine for a moment? Can you just think of how these men—who love souls and want to shepherd souls—must be frustrated with all this? The seemingly endless decisions. The changing state and local policies. The explosion of social media back-and-forth (even among their own members). Today, I'm asking all of us to be grateful for our members.

The longer this goes, the easier it will be for frustration to build. Such is natural and to be expected. But, with more frustration, it becomes easier to lash out at those who do not deserve it. Your elders are doing the best they can to, as one of our elders recently put it, hit a constantly moving target. They are praying (all the time). They are communicating with each other. They are researching. They are... frustrated just like you are!

But they are leading, and they deserve a thank you. Please do not use this time to be negatively critical. You may disagree with something and that's fine, but, if you must express it, do so lovingly and not negatively. Realize that a mask (or no mask) policy or to have one or two or three services or how well-written an email to the congregation is is no reason to blow up. It's no reason to think they don't love you or are not doing their best. It's no reason to think you "have" to tell them what some other church is doing that you think is better. It's no reason to not attend—in person or online—or even to change your membership with no explanation whatsoever.

Six months ago, your elders were shepherds and you loved and trusted them. Today, they are still those same men, just with a level of responsibility added to their plate they never asked for and didn't deserve to have. Still love and trust them. Pray for them. Express your thanks—not your criticism—to them. To elders all over the world, thank you. You're doing great, even though your decisions are not uniform around the world (nor should they be).

Author: Adams Faughn