## Volume 69, Number 29

**July 27, 2025** 

Sunday Morning Worship	
Announcements	
1 10: :	

.Willie Newby Lead Singing ......Barry Mayes First Prayer.....Ronnie Hoover Reading ......Ken Martin Lord's Table ......Tim Gann Sermon......Derrick Stiles Dismiss ......Bobby Ashford

## Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements......Willie Newby Lead Singing ......Barry Mayes First Prayer ......Mike Mullins Reading......Joseph Stiles Scripture.....Ecclesiastes 12:11-14 Lord's Table ......Ronnie Prince ......Cory Prince Sermon .....Zach Martin Dismiss ......Kelly Thaxton

## Wednesday Bible Study

Announcements ......leff Flatt Lead Singing.....Eddie Palmer First Prayer......Danny Duncan Reading......Dale Bennett Invitation ......Don Sullivan 

### Record for the Week...

Bible Study......126 P.M. Worship.......114 Wednesday Bible Study.....82 Contribution ......\$5722

## **Welcome Committee**

Temporarily suspended

If you can not serve, please contact Mike Mullins (931) 743-8093

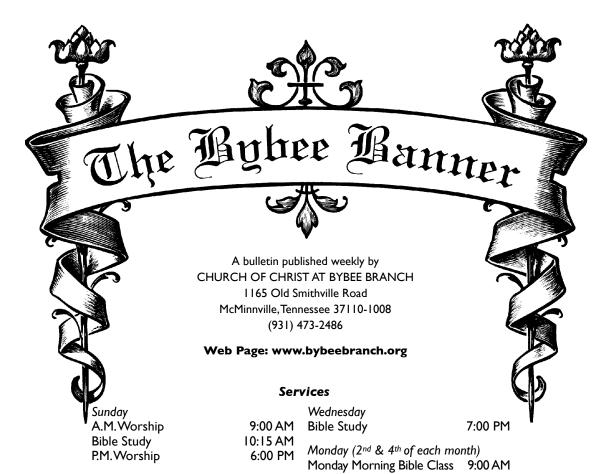
Ushers:Eddie	Palmer, David McColloch, Bruce Pryor
Un/Lock Building:	Stanley Graves, Chris Snow
Assist Baptisms:	Jane Flatt
Pantry Item:	Spaghetti Sauce
Check Pantry:	Stephanie McColloch
Check Kitchen:	Marsha Collins
Check Workroom:	Kara Fuston
Video	Caleb Graves
Flder Closing Remark	s Allen Hughes

#### **Van Driver**

Sunday AM & PM ......Jared Mullican Wednesday PM .....Stan Hillis

> [RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED] 37110-1008

> > STAMP PLACE HERE.



## Radio Program

Each Sunday at 1:00 PM on WBMC 960 AM and 97.7 FM.

### **TV Program**

Each Sunday at 11:00 AM on BLTV Channel 6

Shepherds		Deacons	
Leonard Clemons	473-4186	Joe Collins	Jeff Flatt
Stanley Graves	205-8139	Brandon Fuston	Tim Gann
Allen Hughes	668-8936	Caleb Graves	Paul Hurst
email	elders@bybeebranch.org	Rickey Hurst	Clent Kesey
	- ,	Barry Mayes	Kurt Maynard
		David McColloch	Jared Mullican
		Mike Mullins	Cory Prince
Preachers		Bruce Pryor	Herb Rowland
Derrick Stiles (Preach email	ing) 743-2951 derrick@bybeebranch.org	Josue Castorena (Hispanic)	580-2477

## Sick

#### At Home:

Daniel Schilinger Susan Pryor

### In Hospital:

Stan Clendenon - St Thomas Rutherford #753

### **Surgery:**

Mary Ashford - Knee surgery on July 24

# **Upcoming Area Events**

Highland church of Christ will host a Friends & Family Day July 27.

Jericho church of Christ will host a Gospel Meeting on July 27-30. Different guest Speaker each night.

Bethlehem church of Christ will host a VBS on July 27-31.

Browntown church of Christ will host a ladies day on August 9th. Guest Speaker Gina Alexander Greenlee.

Findlay church of Christ will host a Christian Conference on August 8-10. Derrick Stiles to speak at the 10am session on Saturday morning.

Unity church of Christ will host a Gospel Meeting on August 10-13. Guest Speaker Robby Eversole, Sr.

East End church of Christ will host a Summer Series each Sunday night from July 6th through August 17. Theme: 'Armor of God.'

# Family Devotional...

There will be a family devotional night on August 3rd. This will be after evening services at the ball-fields at the Milner Recreation Center. Everyone is invited for a period of devotion, games and great

food. Mark your calendars in preparation for this good work!

## **Elders-Deacons Meeting**

The quarterly Elders-Deacons Meeting will be this Sunday evening, July 27, at 5 PM.

## **General Business Meeting**

The quarterly men's General Business Meeting will be this Sunday, July 27, following services.

### Welcome...

New addition to our church family. We want to welcome Michael, Heather, Wilhem and Samuel Pack. Please encourage them as they begin a phase in their walk with God.

# **Birthday Wednesday!**

Wednesday night July 30 our youth group will celebrate birthday's for our youth from June - August! They will meet in the fellowship hall!

# **Bible Bowl Meeting**

Sunday August 10th the churches of Christ in Warren County will use the Bybee Branch auditorium to meet regarding the 2025-26 Bible Bowl. We will be discussing testing and format for this years session of Bible Bowl. This meeting will be at 2pm.

# **Congrats Seth & Haley Graves**

Congratulations to Seth & Haley Graves in the future arrival of Rylee Claire Graves. A gift table has been prepared in the Secretary's office in honor of the long anticipated arrival of this precious child. Please leave gift or card on the desk by July 30.

## **Summer Series: Zack Martin**

This Sunday evening is the last night of our Summer Series with the theme: "Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth." The last lesson will be presented by brother Zack Martin on 'Interpreting Wisdom Literature.' Brother Martin currently serves as Instructor of Historical Theology and Dean of Students at HCU

#### What lies before us? Part I

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." — *Philippians 3:13–14, NKJV* 

Every Christian has a past, but praise be to God—we are not prisoners of it. Whether it's a past full of mistakes, regrets, or even great successes, Scripture teaches us not to live backward but forward. As Paul so powerfully says in Philippians, we are to forget what is behind and press on toward Christ.

#### I. The Burden of the Past

The past has a way of lingering. Sometimes it's the memory of sin we've committed before we obeyed the gospel. Other times, it's mistakes we've made even after becoming Christians. There are also personal hurts, failures, and disappointments that weigh us down emotionally and spiritually.

Satan loves to weaponize our past. He wants to remind us of who we were so we forget who we are in Christ. He accuses, he shames, and he distracts us from our mission (Revelation 12:10). But when God forgives, He remembers our sins no more (Hebrews 8:12). If God has let it go, why should we hold on?

Holding on to guilt that has already been forgiven is not humility—it's unbelief. We must believe that the blood of Jesus is truly sufficient to cleanse us (I John I:7). We are not defined by what we've done but by what Jesus has done for us.

## 2. Biblical Examples of Moving Forward

Paul, who penned Philippians, is the perfect example. Before becoming an apostle, he persecuted Christians, dragging them from their homes and approving their deaths (Acts 8:1–3; Acts 9:1–2). He described himself as the "chief" of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Yet after encountering Christ, he did not let his shame paralyze him. He

accepted grace and spent the rest of his life pressing forward.

King David also made tragic mistakes—adultery, deceit, and even murder. But when he repented, God forgave him, and David continued to seek after God's heart (Psalm 51; Acts 13:22). Even Peter, who denied Jesus three times, found restoration and purpose (John 21:15–19). Their stories teach us that God is not finished with us when we fail. He redeems broken pasts and uses them for His glory.

### 3. Forgetting Does Not Mean Erasing

When Paul says "forgetting those things which are behind," he does not mean a literal erasure of memory. Paul often recalled his past (Galatians I:13) as a testimony to God's grace. Instead, he meant that the past no longer controlled or defined his present.

There is a difference between learning from the past and living in it. The past may explain us, but it does not excuse us—and it does not own us. God can use even the worst parts of our history as instruments of His mercy and power. Joseph told his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). That's what God can do with your past.

### **Conclusion: Press On**

What lies behind you may explain part of your story—but it does not define you. In Christ, you are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Forget what is behind. Reach forward to what is ahead. Keep your eyes on Jesus. The best is not behind you—it's ahead of you.

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

— Hebrews 12:1–2

Let's run with joy. Let's press on. Let's look forward to Christ.

**Derrick Stiles**