

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements.....Willie Newby
Lead Singing.....Barry Mayes
First Prayer.....Chris Snow
Reading.....Jason Vandagriff
Scripture.....Ephesians 3:8
Lord's Table.....*Brandon Fuston
Sermon.....Tony Lawrence
Dismiss.....Bobby Ashford

Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements.....Willie Newby
Lead Singing.....Barry Mayes
First Prayer.....Allen Hughes
Reading.....Marty Boles
Scripture.....Jeremiah 18:1-2
Lord's Table.....*Jared Mullican
.....*Talan Mullican
Sermon.....Tony Lawrence
Dismiss..... Kelly Thaxton

Wednesday Bible Study

Announcements.....Eddie Palmer
Lead Singing.....Tim Gann
First Prayer.....Joe Collins
Reading.....Tucker Gann
Invitation.....Tony Lawrence
Dismiss.....Paul Hurst

Record for the Week...

A.M. Worship..... 170
Bible Study.....142
P.M. Worship.....108
Wednesday Bible Study.....84
Contribution.....\$21,735

Welcome Committee

Temporarily suspended

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

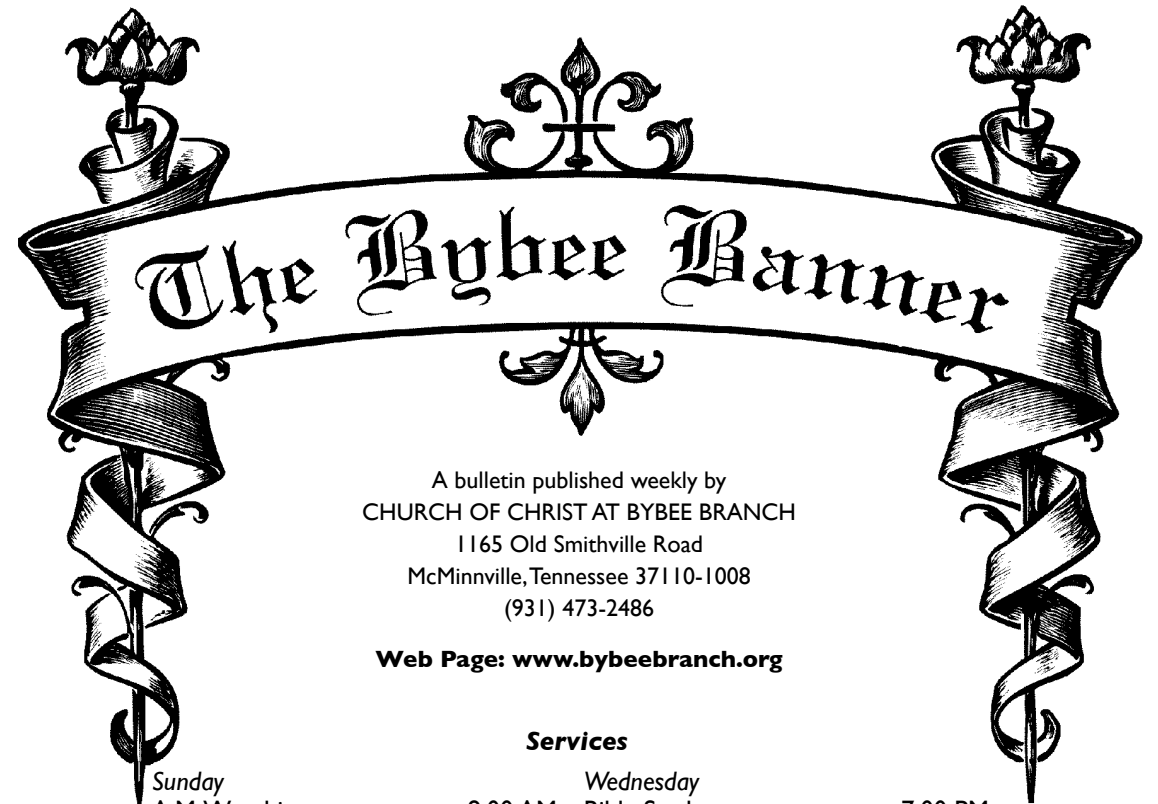
Ushers:.....Dale Bennett, Ronnie Hoover, Herb Rowland
Un/Lock Building:.....Rodney Maynard/Paul Hurst
Assist Baptisms:.....Mary Flatt
Pantry Item:.....Bisquick
Check Pantry:.....Cynthia Duncan
Check Kitchen:.....Thelma Rowland
Check Workroom:.....Judy Sullivan
Video.....Tommy Turner
Elder Closing Remarks.....Stanley Graves

Van Driver

Sunday AM & PM.....Rickey Hurst
Wednesday PM.....Eddie Palmer

CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BYBEE BRANCH
1165 Old Smithville Road
McMinnville, Tennessee 37110-1008
[RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED]

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A bulletin published weekly by
CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BYBEE BRANCH
1165 Old Smithville Road
McMinnville, Tennessee 37110-1008
(931) 473-2486

Web Page: www.bybeebranch.org

Services

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

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

Leonard Clemons 473-4186
Stanley Graves 205-8139
Allen Hughes 668-8936
email elders@bybeebranch.org

Deacons

Joe Collins Jeff Flatt
Brandon Fuston Tim Gann
Caleb Graves Paul Hurst
Rickey Hurst Clent Kesey
Barry Mayes Kurt Maynard
David McColloch Jared Mullican
Mike Mullins Cory Prince
Bruce Pryor Herb Rowland

Preachers

Tony Lawrence (Preaching) 212-6067
email preacher@bybeebranch.org

Josue Castorena (Hispanic) 580-2477

Sick

At Home:

Rodney Reynolds

Judy Nussbaum

Jewell Thomison

Eva Simons

Nancy Rogers (following back surgery)

Hospital

Philip Clemons - St. Thomas Midtown

Marty York - St. Thomas Rutherford

Irene Fuston (Brandon's mom) - St. Thomas Rutherford

Glenda Ferrell - Manchester Rehab

SYR - Fast approaching

SYR (Spring Youth Retreat) is a little over two weeks away. This will be the 25th anniversary of the Spring Youth Retreat. On Saturday evening at 6 PM there will be a dinner for all the alumni. The chef for the dinner will be Dale Bennett. Please keep looking for future announcements of what all will be coming for SYR 2025.

Upcoming Youth Events

March 16 - Sunday Night Eats

March 16 - H.E.Y. @ Rock Island

March 26 - Birthday Wednesday

March 28 - 30 - Spring Youth Retreat (SYR) @ Camp Hy-Lake

Senior Saints Outing

Another trip is planned for the "Senior Saints" it will be a trip to the Cumberland County Playhouse on Saturday, March 22. If you wish to go, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board and give your money to one of the elders (\$22). The van will leave about 10 AM to stop for lunch first.

Area Events

The *Bethany church of Christ* will host a Gospel Meeting on March 23-26 with David Sproule.

The *East End church of Christ* will host a Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Student Lectureship on March 30. Details are on the bulletin board.

The *Rockliff church of Christ* will host a Girls Training Day on April 12, from 9 AM to 12 PM. Speaking will be Amanda Key.

Freed-Hardeman University will host the 89th Annual Bible Lectureship on March 16-20.

Also don't forget our own Gospel Meeting will be April 20-23, with brother Don Blackwell conducting that meeting.

Four Gardens

Meaningful is a study of four prominent gardens of the Bible: Eden, Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, and Paradise. On Lord's day, May 30, 1971, in a room at the airport hotel in Tel Aviv, the worship service included a sermon on "The Four Gardens" capably delivered by Gene Priest to three listeners: Joe and Harold Bryant and this writer. The four had recently visited two of the four gardens.

Eden. Moses gave clear information that the garden of Eden God had placed in ancient Mesopotamia, present day Iraq (Genesis 2:10-14). Two of the four rivers irrigating Eden are still known to geographers: Tigris and Euphrates. Civilization thus had its beginning in the Mesopotamian valley.

The name "Eden" (eden, from `dn, to live luxuriously) means "pleasantness," and since everything the Lord had made was "very good" (Genesis 1:31), the garden of Eden must have been delightful: no thorns, brambles, thistles, diseases, death, or decay. Out "of the ground Yahweh God caused to grow every tree pleasant to see and good for food" (Genesis 2:9).

Two of the trees not only produced edible food but had miraculous power. One of them was "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and the other was "the tree of life" (Genesis 2:9). Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Adam and Eve were not to eat (Genesis 2:17).

Their sin caused them to be ejected from the garden, which also cut them off from the tree of life, of which they could have eaten and have lived "forever" (Genesis 3:22). The garden of Eden has long

since disappeared, and so the story of the first Bible garden ends in sadness. We look for a restoration in another garden, the fourth in this study.

Gethsemane. The garden of Gethsemane was on the west side of Mount Olive and east of the walls of Jerusalem "beyond the brook Kidron" where "Jesus often went" with "his disciples" (John 18:1-2). The name "Gethsemane" means an oil press, and the garden was located where multitudes of olive trees grew. Shown to tourists today are eight very thick and aged trees still producing olives. They may well be the growth from the roots of the trees which Jesus saw there.

When General Titus in 70 A.D. destroyed Jerusalem he "ordered that they should bring timber together, and raise banks against the city, ... So the trees were now cut down immediately, and the suburbs left naked" (Josephus, WARS OF THE JEWS, V-VI, 2). Hardly could trees so close by as Gethsemane's have been spared.

The garden containing the present day eight old trees is supervised by the Franciscans. A church building there is called "The Basilica of the Agony" (or, "The Church of All Nations," because sixteen nations made contributions). A tourist is told that the church houses the "rock" (?) where Jesus knelt and prayed.

Adjacent to the garden with the eight old trees is another garden of Gethsemane. It is supervised by Russian Orthodox nuns. In it the trees are much younger. Also a church is there called "The Church of St. Mary Magdalene." An escorting nun said that no one knows the exact site of the garden where Jesus prayed, but it is certain that it was somewhere in the area now marked off by the two gardens.

Oil pressing was done in the fall, and the garden would have been abandoned in the spring when Jesus went there. Jesus' perspiration, compared to "great drops of blood falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44), was not because of a hot night, because the night that Jesus was there (Thursday, April 6, A.D. 30) was "cold" (*psuchos*),

requiring, when people were outside, a warming "charcoal fire" (*anthrakia*, John 18:18, 25).

Jesus was outside, but he had no warming fire. His sweating was because of his mental anguish and agony, "even to death" (Matthew 26:38), hoping against hope that there might be some other way for him to save sinners without his death. As a human being he offered up "both petitions and pleas with loud crying and tears to the One who could save him from death" (Hebrews 5:7), yet always qualifying his begging, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39).

The Garden Tomb. A living, sweating, agonizing human was in the garden of Gethsemane around midnight, and the next afternoon before the sun went down, his corpse was taken into another garden. "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb" (John 19:41). This third garden could be called a garden of hope, for there, early on Sunday morning, a startled Mary Magdalene heard encouraging words: "Go to my brothers, and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and my God, and your God'" (John 20:17).

Paradise. The fourth garden is called "the Paradise of God," a figurative description of heaven (Revelation 2:7). The word "paradise" means a park, a place of pleasure. The word is found in the Septuagint Greek translation of Genesis 2:8 describing the garden of Eden: *paradeisos*. That the translators used the best possible word is borne out by the fact that Jesus used the same word in describing heaven: "To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

Thus heaven is pictured as a restored garden of Eden. The "tree of life," on "both sides of" a "river of the water of life (clear as crystal," is in the restored garden "bearing twelve fruits monthly" (Revelation 22:1-2). The curse placed on the original garden of Eden (Genesis 3:17-19) will be gone forever, for in "the Paradise of God" there "shall be no curse any more" (Genesis 3:17-19; Revelation 2:7; 22:3).