

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of September 1, 2024 -

Sunday School	26
Sunday Morning Service	44
Sunday Evening Service	25
Wednesday Eve., 09/04/24 Service	16

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of September 1, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,119.61
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/01/24: \$	2,269.61

- Week of August 25, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,330.14
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/25/24: \$	1,330.14

- Week of August 18, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,715.17
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/18/24: \$	1,865.17

- Week of August 11, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,396.42
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 30.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/11/24: \$	1,426.42

- Week of August 4, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,759.40
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/04/24: \$	1,759.40

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**DR. PHIL STRINGER
WILL BE WITH US
OCTOBER 27-30
PREACHING ON BIBLE
PROPHECY & END-TIME
EVENTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
Keith Shufelt	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, David Smith	Trustees

REMINDER



**ANCIENT SEAL
DISCOVERED IN
JERUSALEM SUPPORTS
BIBLICAL RECORD**

Last week, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced the discovery of an ancient black stone seal at the City of David National park archaeological site south of the Temple Mount. The seal features the image of a pagan Assyrian "genie" plus the name "LeYeho'ezer ben Hosh'ayahu" (Yeho'ezer son of Hosh'ayhu) inscribed in Hebrew. It has been dated to the 8th century BC, which is the very time that the Assyrians were on a rampage throughout Israel.

The genie, a winged man (sometimes with a bird's head) representing a supernatural creature, appeared frequently on Assyrian palace walls. Images of the mythological creature were used as protective amulets, and such superstitious practices appealed to a large portion of apostate Israel in that day, including those in high positions. In fact, some of Judah's kings were idolaters, and their courts would have been permeated with paganism. These included Ahaz (742-726), who sacrificed his sons to idols in the Hinnom Valley (II Chron. 28:2-4), and Manasseh (697-642), who worshipped Baal, sacrificed his son to pagan gods, communed with spirits through witchcraft, and set up idols in the temple itself (II Kings 21:3-9).

In 732, Tiglath-pileser destroyed large portions of northern Israel (II Kings 15:29) and entered Judah in about 728 (II Chronicles 28:20). In 721, Sargon II captured Samaria and deported the northern tribes (II Kings 17:1-6). In 701, Sennacherib attacked Judah, destroyed Lachish, and threatened Jerusalem.

Archaeology has filled museums with artifacts supporting the biblical record and providing excellent background information to assist in understanding the biblical text. Numerous books and tours highlight the biblical artifacts in the British Museum. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

NEW BJU PRESIDENT HOSTS ECUMENICAL PRAYER MEETING

Joshua Crockett, pastor of Morningside Baptist Church, Greenville, and the new president of Bob Jones University, hosted an ecumenical prayer meeting in May with the Southern Baptist Convention's Greenville association. Attendees included independent Baptists, Southern Baptists, and Presbyterians. Participating Southern Baptist pastors included Al Phillips, Matt Wireman, Will Broadus, Michael Bayne, and Matt Rogers.

Crockett's close association with the Southern Baptist Convention is a loud message. Almost without exception SBC congregations are worldly, rock & roll, "non-judgmental," multi-version churches where biblical modesty is not an issue. In fact, the Southern Baptist Convention is deeply compromised today at every level, including growing support for receiving non-repentant homosexuals as members, and many churches have left in recent decades by way of protest.

For example, when Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Tennessee, left the convention in July 2021, Pastor Jonathan Sims described SBC congregations as "weak, sick, and unhealthy" and said, "my conscience will no longer allow me to even be loosely affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention." Thus, Joshua Crockett is moving *toward* the Convention even when more discerning men are moving *away*. It is obvious that Pastor Crockett will continue the path trod by BJU's previous president, Steve Pettit, which is that of non-separatist evangelicalism, Reformed theology, and contemporary worship.

In October 2019, Pettit participated in the "Greenville Conference on Reformed Theology" at the Second Presbyterian Church. Under Pettit's leadership, BJU capitulated to the siren song of contemporary worship music. This was a rejection of the school's former position.

Speaking at a BJU chapel service on March 12, 2001, Dr. Frank Garlock of Majesty Music warned, "***If a church starts using CCM, it will eventually lose all other standards.***" Note that he said that if a church even STARTS to use CCM, it is on an inevitable slide away from its founding standards. At the time, that was still the prevailing view at BJU, but this has been replaced with the view that CCM *can* be used with discretion. This dramatic change in philosophy will produce an ever-increasing acceptance of CCM.

Twenty-nine Getty Townend Music (GTM) songs are featured in Hymns Modern and Ancient, published by Heart Publications, a Steve Pettit ministry, and compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University's Department of Church Music. At least 10 GTM contemporary hymns are included in Majesty Music's new *Rejoice* hymnal. Getty-Townend are out-and-out contemporary rockers with no boundaries either in musical styles or associations. Getty is new Reformed Calvinist, while Townend is a "gibberish tongues-speaking, prophesying is for today, apostles are among us, kingdom now" charismatic. The Getty partner with Roman Catholics such as Matt Maher, Margaret

Becker, and Máire Brennan. GTM is a bridge to the one world church as surely as Hillsong.

❑ **WHY ISRAEL HAS NO PEACE** - A large number of Jews returned to their land in the 20th century and established the state of Israel in 1948, but Israel has had no peace. She has been on a war footing at all times. Why can't Israel have peace? The answer is clearly stated in Deuteronomy 28, which addresses Israel directly and promises blessing for obedience to God (De. 28:1-14) and curse for disobedience (De. 28:15-68).

Israel has no peace because Israel is not right with God. Israel had peace during the early reign of Solomon (I Kings 4:20-21, 24-25), but the peace was taken away when Solomon sinned (I Kings 11:9-40). After that, Israel had peace for brief times when her kings honored God (II Chron. 14:5-6; 15:15; 20:30). Israel was removed from the land for her sin against God (Deuteronomy 28:63-67) and even on her returns (after the Babylonian Captivity and in the 20th century), she has not had peace, and she will not have peace until she is right with God. Israel was created by God and is owned by God and has no purpose other than serving God. "***For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth***" (Deuteronomy 14:2).

Israel's attempt to exist as a secular nation has led her into a quagmire of danger and confusion. No matter how powerful her military, how clever her scientists, and how successful her secret agents, Israel will not have peace until she repents of rejecting her own Messiah. That day is rapidly approaching, but it will be preceded by a time of unprecedented global trouble and the rise of the Antichrist.

❑ **"PASTOR" GREG LOCKE'S HOME TARGETED IN SHOOTING AMID HEIGHTENED POLITICAL CLIMATE** - In a disturbing act of violence, the home of controversial Tennessee pastor Greg Locke was riddled with bullets on the night of September 3, 2024. Approximately 30-40 rounds were fired into Locke's Mt. Juliet residence, which he shares with his family, including young children.

Thankfully, no one was injured, although one of his children was home during the attack. A bullet even pierced the headboard of his youngest daughter's bed, lodging in her pillow.

Locke, who pastors Global Vision Bible Church, has gained national attention for his outspoken conservative views, particularly his views on social issues such as abortion, LGBTQ rights, and Planned Parenthood.

His rhetoric, including accusations that some people are "witches" or "demon-possessed," has polarized audiences. Many see him as a firebrand champion of conservatism while others view him as unnecessarily inflammatory and as a false teacher who has abandoned the gospel and has a long history of personal immorality.

While no official motive has been confirmed by law enforcement, the incident occurred in a political climate where tensions over social issues are escalating. Given Locke's

high-profile and often confrontational political and theological positions, there is speculation that his conservative activism may have motivated this violent attack. The Wilson County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident but has yet to release any details regarding potential suspects.

The shooting at Locke's home raises serious concerns about the spiritual state of those willing to commit such a dangerous and reckless act. To place innocent children and families in harm's way over political disagreements reflects a level of spiritual deadness that is alarming.

Locke himself has often been the subject of threats due to his outspoken views, particularly in recent years. Despite the polarizing nature of his ministry, targeting his home and family in this way crosses a line that all should condemn.

As the investigation continues, many will be watching closely to see whether the attack was indeed politically motivated, and whether further acts of violence may occur in this charged social climate.

❑ **"CHRISTIAN" NBA SUPERSTAR, STEPHEN CURRY, ENDORSES KAMALA BECAUSE ABORTION IS ABOUT "DECENT PEOPLE"** - Stephen "Steph" Curry was once the golden boy of college basketball, captivating fans with his electric play at Davidson College and propelling the team into a Cinderella run during the NCAA tournament. As the son of former NBA Charlotte Hornets player Dell Curry, he was born into the sport, destined for greatness—or so it seemed.

He rode that legacy into the NBA, where his career with the Golden State Warriors took off, transforming him into a global sports icon. But somewhere along the way, something darker emerged behind that shimmering smile and that deadly three-point shot. The same player who used to point to the sky after every big shot—an outward sign of his supposed devotion to God—has now traded in his moral compass for political expediency.

While living in Charlotte, Curry attended Central Church of God, a conservative Pentecostal Church where, at least outwardly, he aligned himself with the values that church claimed to uphold...biblical truth, the sanctity of life, and reverence for God's commands.

But, in a recent interview following his appearance at the Democratic National Convention, Curry made it crystal clear where his priorities lie. He publicly endorsed Kamala Harris, a staunch advocate for abortion, and he didn't just stop there. He doubled down, putting abortion—or as he likes to call it, "women's rights"—at the top of his list of reasons for throwing his weight behind Harris.

"I just know from, especially women's rights and thinking about, you know, what's at stake with this election... we need to be in a position where women have the right to choose what's right for them, and that's at **the top of the list** for me.", Curry said.

❑ **NASHVILLE SHOOTER'S JOURNAL REVEALS DARK SIDE OF TRANSGENDER ORTHODOXY** - The *Tennessee Star* released the full journal of the Nashville, Tennessee, shooter

Tuesday, and its contents reveal how transgender orthodoxy can encourage suicidal tendencies—and worse—in a way that turns gender identity into a kind of religion.

Audrey Hale, the 28-year-old female who identified as male, opened fire at the Covenant School in Nashville on March 27, 2023. Before police shot and killed her, Hale killed three children and three adults. The Metro Nashville Police Department recovered 90 pages of Hale's writings in a collection the *Tennessee Star* refers to as "*The Covenant Killer's 2023 Journal.*" Police also recovered a spiral notebook with writings about locations, including a map of the school and how Hale planned to enter the school and kill people there. Authorities also recovered 20 additional journals Hale wrote between 2007 and 2022. The *Star* obtained only the 2023 journal.

Hale's journal reveals a great deal of anger against her father, immoral same-sex desires, and included frequent laments that she is female and so cannot be in a heterosexual relationship with the object of her affection.

The Daily Wire's Brent Scher previously released documents from Hale's journal in which the shooter condemns Christians, but the journal's overall tone suggests a belief in a warped version of Christianity centered on gender.

She wrote that the way people addressed her drove her to suicide, as if public acceptance of her claimed gender identity was a matter of life and death. "When I'm called a lady or ma'am—*#!* it, it makes me not want to exist," she wrote. Perhaps the most revealing passage involved a metaphor: Hale hoped that after she died, her "male" spirit would escape her female body as a butterfly leaves behind its cocoon.

Her emphasis on gender above all else appeared to lead her to question the goodness of God.

Her faith appears based on a form of Gnosticism—an ancient Christian heresy built on the notion that the physical world is evil and the spiritual world is good, so salvation involves a rejection of, and escape from, the physical world. Her notion of a spiritual reality in opposition to her physical body—a male identity in opposition to her female body—drove her to desire death as a release from the physical world.

The elevation of "gender identity" over physical reality need not drive those who identify as transgender to suicide or to angry tirades, but it appears to have done so for Hale.

