

This month is our CDC graduation  
For 13 of our students! We are thankful  
for these children, their families, and  
the opportunity the Lord has given us  
during this short, but foundational season.

Please join us and praying that God  
would bless them as they continue on  
his path for their lives.

GRADUATION

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

6:45 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5

ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

*Celebrating*  
**55  
YEARS**

**THE CONNECTION (USPS579-240)**

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May 2025

**THE CONNECTION**



This month's foundation of the church is spiritual maturity. Many Christians stay too close to where they began their faith journey. Contrary to common assumptions, regular church attendance, participation in Bible studies, or holding leadership roles in church don't guarantee spiritual maturity. Some of the most immature Christians have never missed a Sunday morning church service. In fact, the second greatest problem in the church issue is spiritually immature individuals in leadership positions. The sad truth is there are millions of Christians who grow older, but they never grow up. God's goal is for you to mature and to become more like Jesus every day. When a Christian stops growing they start backsliding; you never stay the same. If you're the same Christian today that you were a year ago, you're not the Christian that you ought to be. So how you can attain spiritual maturity.

First you have to desire spiritual maturity. In 1 John 2:12-13 John identifies three levels of spiritual maturity. In verse 12 he speaks of "little children." In verse 13 he speaks of "fathers" and also of "young men." We can see the same thing when we look at the church. Physically we can identify the children, we can identify the young people, and we can identify the fathers, or the mature adults. But interestingly, you can't equate physical maturity with spiritual maturity. In other words, you can't determine the spiritual maturity of an individual by their physical maturity. You may be looking at a young person who, in their spiritual maturity, is an adult, and you may be looking at an adult who, in their spiritual maturity, is a child. We ought to be moving through each of those stages throughout our spiritual life. We ought to be moving from feeding on the milk of God's Word to feeding on the meat of God's Word, with the ultimate goal of becoming a spiritually mature adult. The ultimate mark of maturity is when you know God. Not just the will of God, or the work of God, or the ways of God, or even the Word of God; but when you know God. Because the more you know the Father, the more you are going to become like the Father. If you're going to attain spiritual maturity, you've got to want to grow. You've got to decide to grow, make an effort to grow, and you've got to continue to grow.

The second step is to develop spiritual maturity. If you're going to grow as a Christian you have to live with, in, and by the Word of God. Unless you get into the Word of God yourself on a consistent basis, you'll never ever grow to full spiritual maturity. It's just this simple. Those who want to grow read their Bible; those who don't won't. If spiritual maturity is going to be a priority in your life, Bible study has to become a priority in your life. If you don't take time every day to spend time in the Word of God, so that you can hear the voice of the God of the Word, then you'll stay a spiritual baby all of your life. Don't think that you can come to church once a week and get spoon fed 30 minutes worth of truth and that's all you need. Just like you eat food for your physical body every day, you have to eat the meat of the Word of God for your soul every day.

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The last step John tells us to spiritual maturity is that we have to demonstrate spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is demonstrated more by how you behave than it is by what you believe. If you believe what you say you believe, then it'll change the way you behave. We sometimes get the idea that if a person knows a lot about the Bible they must be spiritually mature. There are some who have a lot of head knowledge of the Bible, but they're not spiritually mature. Spiritual maturity isn't how much you know about Jesus in your head; it's how well you know Jesus in your heart, and how much you show Jesus in your life. That's why the real mark of maturity is obedience. James 1:22 says, "22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Every time something happens to us, good, bad, or ugly, it gives us an opportunity to respond in the way God would have us to, according to His Word, and when we do that then God builds character within us. God wants us to grow bigger every day on the inside than we are on the outside. You can believe something but if it doesn't change how you live then it's meaningless.

Grow in Spiritual Maturity!  
Pastor Jim Norman



**DRBA Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, May 10th from**  
**8AM-12PM**

**at the DRBA Office,**  
**Tullahoma HWY**

**This is not a fundraiser,**  
**just an opportunity for our**  
**pastors and churches and**  
**members to set up and**  
**have a larger group to sell**  
**with. If you are interested,**  
**please let us know. Space**  
**is limited. No cost, and you**  
**must provide all your own**  
**set up equipment, i.e.**

# May Mission Opportunities



- May 10 - DRBA Yard Sale 8am-12pm
- May 17 - DRBA Day of Missions
- May 11-June 15 - Life Choices Baby Bottle Campaign
- Every Friday Foodshare Ministry

- Deacon of the Week**
- May 3-9 Roger Williams
- May 10-16 Bradley Rogers
- May 17-23 Jason Robison
- May 24-30 Jimmy Gaddis
- May 31-June 6 Jonathan Sipe

## Greeters - May 2025

- May 4 – David/ Diane
- May 13 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
- May 20 – Linda/ Samantha
- May 27 – Jimmy/ Kristy

Deacons	Security Partners
Johnny McBride	Scarlett Carpenter
Steve Stone	Ben Howell
Tommy Griffin	Running Projectors
Jason Robison	Open
Paco Prince	Keith Bailey
Jonathan Sipe	Open
Mike Stringfield	Leading Music
Ben Murray	Ken Tatum
Jimmy Gaddis	David Inocencio
Bradley Rogers	Jason Farris
Roger Williams	Linda Miller

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S	JIM NORMAN	SENIOR PASTOR
T	MATT KOEHLER	MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
A	JIMMY GADDIS	FACILITIES MANAGER
A	KATHY HASTY	NURSERY DIRECTOR
F	AMY JACKSON	OFFICE MANAGER
A	ANN SMITH	DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
F	MIKE STRINGFIELD	VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Steve Stone
BR-DOU	Johnny McBride
DUN-F	Tommy Griffin
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Mike Stringfield
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Roger Williams

### Deacon Family Groups 2024-2025



HONORING THE PAST,  
EMBRACING THE FUTURE

**SAVE THE DATES!**

SUNDAY, MAY 4 AT 10:30 AM  
REV. DON DIXON  
& FISH FRY AT 4PM

SATURDAY, JULY 26 AT 6:00 PM  
SPECIAL CONCERT - PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHOIR

SUNDAY, JULY 27 AT 10:30 AM  
REV. WAYNE WESTER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 4:00-6:00 PM  
75TH ANNIVERSARY OUTDOOR PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 10:30 AM  
SPECIAL MUSIC & GUEST SPEAKER  
DINNER ON THE GROUNDS



# HAPPY Mother's Day

“As a mother, my job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible” Ruth Bell Graham

## May Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please call Kathy Hasty at 931-455-0977.

Sunday May 4:

Bible Study: Jennifer Sipe

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: No Evening Service (Fish Fry @ 4pm)

Sunday May 11: Happy Mother's Day

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: No Evening Service (Mother's Day)

Sunday May 18:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: David Inocencio, Kim Dodson, Rick Miller

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Sunday May 25

Bible Study: Liz and Lauren

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: No Evening Service (Memorial Day)

Our Cruise-In was a huge success! Thank you to all who came out to help set up, donate a baked good, and to Purdom's BBQ for donating their sales to our fundraiser.

Remember, May 31st at 5 pm, we will be hosting our VBS community kickoff event. We still have a few spots we could use some volunteers. Let me know if you just want to help decorate a hallway or room. If you would like to sign up for our prayer room for VBS, there will be a signup sheet by my bulletin board. As we share the Gospel with our community this summer through VBS, we want to make sure we are showering our volunteers and kids in prayer.



Be a VBS prayer warrior! We will have a room designated upstairs as a place teachers can come and be prayed over, prayed with, and pray for the kids. Perhaps you would like to write cards of encouragement to teachers and workers. There is a part for everyone to serve in VBS. Don't miss out!


Matt Koehler

Minister of Youth & Education

**Don't throw your old literature away.  
Send it to the mission field.**

**June 16-19th, the DRBA will host a  
Literature Drive.**

**Drop off hours are from 8AM—12 Noon.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Highlands Highlights
<b>Sound Volunteer Schedule – May 2025</b> 5/7/25 & 5/11/25 – Ben Murray 5/14/25 & 5/218/25 – Andrew Newton 5/21/25 & 5/25/25 – Ben Murray 5/28/25 & 6/1/25 – Ben Howell				1 <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	2  Ben Howell	3  Mike Williams	<b>Counters for May</b> Donna Jackson/ Kathy Hasty
4 <b>75th Annivesary Service</b>  <b>Fish Fry 4pm</b>	5  Judy Stockdale	6  Wendy Fruehauf Jere Ledsinger	7  Dwayne Thames	8	9	10  Al Pender Jennifer Williams Christopher Norman	<b>DRBA Day of</b>  <b>MINISTRY/ MISSIONS</b>  Saturday 17th
11 <b>Mother’s Day</b>  <b>No Evening Service</b> Julie Rogers	12	13 <b>Prime Timers 12pm</b>  Ryan Purdom	14 <b>CDC Graduation 8AM</b>  Isaac Raymond	15  Belle Ruyten	16	17  Josh Hice Titus Koehler	<b>CLASS OF</b> <b>2025</b> Milly Smith    Briana Miller    Noah Myers Let Pastor Matt know, before May 11th of any others who may be graduating from high school or college from our church
18 <b>Graduate Recognition</b>  <b>Deacon’s Meeting 4:00pm</b>	19  Carolyn Stone	20	21  Linda Miller	22  Daley Sergeant	23  Kelly Farris	24  Kim Whittemore	<b>May Children’s Church Volunteers</b> 4th – Matt/Karen/Rylie 11th – Jonathan/Ryan/Briana 20th – Coral/Julie 27th – Mark R./Ann/Mary James
25  Keith Hasty	<b>Memorial Day</b> 26  <b>Church Office Closed</b>  Keith Hasty	27	28	29  Ben Fults	30	31  <b>VBS Kick-off</b>  Ron Jackson	<b>Christopher &amp; Rachel are getting married June 7th</b> If you would like to support them as they begin their life together, visit their registry at <a href="https://www.zola.com/wedding/rachelandchristopherjune7">https://www.zola.com/wedding/rachelandchristopherjune7</a> Or scan their QR Code fro their website  <b>Bring Wedding Gifts Sunday, May 11</b>
<div><div><div>HAPPY Mother’s DAY</div></div><div>May 2025</div><div><div>HAPPY Mother’s DAY</div></div></div>							