

### STRETCHING FORWARD

#### Elders

John Deffenbaugh  
Wayne Douthitt  
Glen Honeycutt  
Rick Hyder  
Bill Reiboldt

#### Deacons

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Tim Murray  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

#### Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs

#### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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“Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:12-14 ASV)

The great apostle Paul is focusing his energy on the great goal: “the prize of the upward call of God.” The likely image, particularly in terms characteristic of Paul’s usage, is that of a runner. (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 4:6-8)

There are two words Paul uses in these passages to describe the effort required to reach that goal. One is found in verse 13. In our English versions it is translated “stretching forth”(ASV), “reaching forth” (NASB), “straining forward” (ESV, NIV), The picture is that of a runner racing to the finish line, putting forth extreme effort to finish the course. The other is found in verses 12 and 14. It is translated “pursue” or “I pursue” in most of our versions. Thayer comments “to run swiftly in order to catch some person or thing.” Both of these verbs denote a continuous action, continuing to pursue and continuing to stretch.

In verse 12, Paul is saying Christ “laid hold on him.” At the time Paul was rushing on to persecute the infant church, Christ captured him. It was Christ that took the first step. Paul, realizing what he was doing at the time, came to see clearly that Jesus is Christ. When he was told to “arise and be baptized” he rose and was

baptized right then and there. Jesus laid hold on him, and of his own will, he took the steps to accept the Lord’s gracious offer in obedient faith.

The “stretching forward” in verse 13 and the “I press...” of verses 12, 14, suggest the intensity of Paul as he raced toward the goal after his conversion. Paul was consumed with “knowing” Christ and, ultimately gaining the prize. Envision the runner leaning and straining into the tape, hands clawing the air, every sinew and fiber of his being in full exertion. Picture Paul, as God’s athlete, throwing himself into the race of gaining the prize. Picture Paul as he throws himself across the finish line and you can begin to see the power of the imagery he uses to describe his desire for that goal.

We too, as Christian athletes, must be like the runner. “Stretching” and “pressing” toward that goal. Remember, if the runner mistakes what is the goal, or if he wastes his time in looking back on the course traveled, he will lose the race. He will come up short. The Christian must press forward with his face toward Christ, unrelenting, till the great race is won. Paul would say: “holding forth the word of life; that I may have whereof to glory in the day of the Christ, that I did not run in vain neither labor in vain. (Phil. 2:16 ASV) What is the intensity of your effort? Be like Paul!

*Wayne Douthitt*



# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Tim Hayes, Wilma Hill, Cheryl Neilans, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

**Every "One" Counts:** Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. Last week we helped a single mother who had some unexpected repairs. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



June 1 at 5:30 at the Seneca High School Commons, a live auction, silent auction, dinner and fireworks will be held as a fundraiser for the **Dodson** family, If you would like to donate items for the auction, contact Tammi and Cindy Waugh at (417) 456-9906.



**Green Valley Bible Camp** is June 9-15! Registration deadline is Sunday at 2:00 at [greenvalleybiblecamp.com](http://greenvalleybiblecamp.com). You can invite a friend to go for free through the generous donations of our Christian families. See Danny to get the application for "Friends Go Free."

If you have a child who needs a ride to **Day Camp** at Green Valley or if you are willing to drive the van, please sign up on the bulletin board.

**Ladies:** Would you like to communicate in **sign language**? There will be a group of ladies, young and old, meeting on Thursdays at 5:30. Cheryl Williamson will be teaching. The first meeting is this week in Room 7.



## This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *Jesus Is History*  
Danny Boggs

P.M: *Singing in the Park*

Congratulations to our **Graduates!** Sunday morning we will be honoring our graduates. Please stop by the welcome desk and sign the books/Bibles that will be presented to them.

- Kaden King - Neosho High School
- Caleb Boggs - Freed-Hardeman University
- Alec Fehring - Missouri State University
- Madelaine Geibler - University of Arkansas
- Whitney Thomlinson - University of Arkansas
- Erin Yost - Crowder College
- Jonas Yost - Pittsburg State University



**Singing in the Park** is this Sunday at 6:00 Please bring lawn chairs and meet at the north end of Morse Park. The hostess group of Andrea Wald and Heather Flint will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and all drinks. Please bring chips, sides, desserts, or homemade ice cream. Come for a wonderful time of singing and fellowship.

**David Lawrence** will be here on June 9. He will be meeting with all parents during Bible class time to talk about why and how to have an effective youth program.

Get your **VBS shirts** now! Whitney Thomlinson will assist you in the foyer. If you would like to help with the cost, \$5.00 is suggested. As you are wearing the shirt tell people what the "WOW" means and invite them to VBS July 21-24.



**Joe McLain** would like us to remember the Kinlichee church in Arizona (where he and Lauretta have family) during a difficult time.

Join us every Sunday and Wednesday for our adult Bible classes. Enjoy learning and sharing God's word together.

### Sundays

Auditorium: **Romans**

Bill Reiboldt, Pat Andrews

Room 7: **Angels: Ministers of Heaven**

John Deffenbaugh, Glen Honeycutt

Room 29: **Repent!**

Pete Babb, Danny Boggs

### Wednesdays

Auditorium: **II Peter**

Josh King, Rick Hyder

Room 21: **Beauties of the Brotherhood**

Bob Murray

Room 29: **Random Topics**

Casey Flint, Zane Berner, Tucker Anderson

### PRAYER LEADERS

#### Sunday, June 2

- AM Opening: Carl Thomlinson
- AM Closing: Pete Babb
- PM Opening: Joe McLain
- PM Closing: Kaden King

#### Wednesday, June 5

- Opening: David Fehring
- Closing: Elijah Boggs

### RECORDS

	05-26-19	05-27-18
Bible Study	139	110
AM Worship	195	168
PM Worship	119	90
Wednesday	na	122
Contribution	\$9,004.83	\$6,375.25
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58