

Sunshine Baskets for 11/2/2008

Mary Nell Flatt, Nell Haney, Betty Smallwood,
Lorene Haney, Barbara Scott, Rita Gentry

Happy Birthday to...

Jackie Mathis (10/27), Madison Phillips (10/27),
Joann Young (10/29), Sjon Gentry (10/30),
Kayla Jenkins (10/31), Sandy Haney (11/1),
Ann Johnson (11/1)

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

October 26th: TONIGHT! Fright night, meal, & fellowship following evening worship services. We'll have a hayride, bonfire, & pumpkin seed spitting contest. Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Everyone who can please bring something so we can make sure we have enough for everyone! It will be greatly appreciated!

November 9th: Area-Wide Youth Night HERE!

Sean Flatt of the Double Springs congregation will be speaking. Snacks & finger foods to follow! Invite all those that you know out to worship God with us!

Website updates: Our last directory is online! The password has been changed & we have business cards for each family with the website address @ which the online directory can be found & the password in order to access it. If you would like one please see Kristina Hammock. The only people who can access it are those who get a card!

It's a Boy!: Sandy & Steven Collier now have a baby boy! Sandy brought baby Carson Joe into the world on October 21, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21½ inches long.

**There is a list of names in the back of age 65 or older please check to see if your name is on it. If you will be 65 years old this year, please make sure your name is on there.*

Challenge Youth Conference: February 27-March 1, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN @ the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Sign-up sheet in the back. More information to come by next Sunday about the cost per person! For more details visit <http://cyconline.com/>

Privileged To Serve November 2nd

Ushers.....	Tracy Jenkins
.....	Glen Haney
.....	Jeff McDowell
.....	Ben Young
Announcements.....	Farlin Flatt
Song Leader.....	Roy Young
Scripture Reading.....	Alan Burris
Speaker.....	John Mabery
Opening Prayer.....	Bill Coe
Closing Prayer.....	Jeremy Mathis
Oversee Lord's Supper .	Chris Mabery
Prepare Trays.....	Carl Call
Scripture Reading.....	Burton Young
Serve.....	*Charles Whitaker
.....	*Charles Mitchell
.....	*Neal Chaffin
.....	Titus Anderson
.....	Alton Mayberry
.....	Brian Dawson
Alternate to Serve.....	Dale Dennis
.....	Greg Scott
Dismiss Classes.....	Rellon Burris
Count Contribution.....	Corky Trisdale
.....	Earl Jones
.....	Blake Maberry
.....	Roy Flatt
Response Card.....	Burton Young
Power Point.....	Jonathan Conner

Sunday Night (11/2/2008)

Speaker.....	John Anderson
Scripture Reading.....	Robert Crabtree
Song Leader.....	Jerry Young
Opening Prayer.....	Kevin Moss
Closing Prayer.....	Carl Call
Power Point.....	Brian Trisdale

Wednesday (11/5/2008)

Song Leader.....	Bobby Haney
Devotional.....	Mike Martin
Opening Prayer.....	Royce Jenkins
Closing Prayer.....	Brian Trisdale

*Take to the sick & shut-in.
Let Jerry Young know if you can't serve.

Elders:

Ted Ragland	268.9387
John Mabery	268.0651
Cell:	265.3835

Deacons:

John Anderson	268.2406
Billy Scott	268.0569
Robert Crabtree	268.4417
Raymond Haney	268.2493
Rellon Burris	268.4738
Carl Call	268.2040
Sjon Gentry	268.3273
Bobby Haney	268.2754
Jerry Young	268.2215

Ministers:

John Mabery	268.0651
John Anderson	268.2406

To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...

Believe Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6)
Repent of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5)
Confess Christ (Rom.10:9-10)
Be immersed in water for remission of sins
(Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

Volume 7

October 26, 2008

Number 43

If I Were the Devil's Preacher ... (Part VI) - By John Mabery
(Taking Control of the Church of Christ – Part 1)

If I were the devil's preacher, I would try to seize power over the local church! If possible I'd expand my authority and bring as many congregations as possible under my domain! This wasn't the cause of all apostasies during the first few centuries, but was, perhaps, the devil's most effective assault against the church of Christ at that time. If believers would just follow the way of the Lord, power hungry preachers would be stopped dead in their tracks. But if they're not familiar with the will of God, or just lazy, an ambitious person's quest for power could be realized! The unlearned person doesn't know that a one-man ruler system is counterproductive and contrary to the will of God. The lazy person, who prefers the path of least resistance, doesn't care! The Lord structured the government of His church in such a way that the chances of any one person seizing power is highly unlikely; provided His ways are followed!

*A one-man rule in true churches of Christ cannot be achieved because the Lord didn't authorize a "central headquarters" on the earth. This fact is wholly unknown to the vast majority of people living today because most have grown accustomed to a "central headquarters" that regulates and governs their particular denomination. As a matter of fact, some sincere people can't see how a religious body can survive without some type of central leadership to monitor world events and make appropriate changes in the church when required. **The church Christ built, on the other hand, has no central headquarters on earth! The church in Jerusalem was not the "mother" church; she was just one congregation among many other congregations. This is because the headquarters of the Lord's church is in heaven where the Head of the body, or church, is!** (cf. Mt.28:18; Lk.11:2; Eph.6:9; Phil.3:20; Col.1:16-18; 4:1; 1 Jn.5:6-8) Therefore, because faithful believers will only hear and follow Christ Jesus (Jn.10:27), one will not find a one-man rule, or rule by human counsel or creed, over the Lord's churches. These seats of human power originated with men who coveted power; they are not of divine origin!*

Continued inside...

Center Grove Church Of Christ

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy.
Gainesboro, TN. 38562
931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.

Our A.M. Service is **Televised** on Monday on Cable Channel 16 @ 6:00 pm

Radio: "The Lord's Word" on WLIV 920 AM
10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday
(We broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Website: www.centergrovecoc.com

E-mail for the Website: centergrovecoc@gmail.com

Another hindrance to any one person having power over God's people is the body of men known as the *eldership*! The Lord wanted elders appointed in each church (Titus 1:5). The men who met the Divine *qualifications* were to be "overseers" of the **local** church of Christ **only**, and "rule over" her *in matters of expediency* (cf. 1 Tim.3:1-7; Titus 1:15-16; Acts 20:28; Heb.13:17). I emphasize their rule *in matters of expediency* because no one has the right to add to, subtract from, or modify the will of Christ in any way shape or form (Mat.28:18; 1 Cor.4:6; 2 Jn.9-10; Rev.22:18-19). Notwithstanding, there are optional decisions that must be made before the church can carry out the expressed will of God. Take, for example, the church's responsibility to take the whole gospel to the whole world (Mk.16:15-16). No individual congregation can cover the entire planet; therefore, each must decide which area of the world they'll evangelize. Decisions like this are to be made by the eldership. Once the elders decide where their resources are going to be used, the congregation is expected to support their decision. Much more could be said about this, but that's beyond the scope of this article. The point I want to stress is that the Lord ordained a *plurality* of elders over the local church, **not**

just one lone man! Remember, this is the will of God! Any *honest* seeker of truth will realize that the Lord doesn't want *one* man to rule over His church! If the will of God is carried out as it should be, the threat of one person control in the local church will be greatly minimized, if not omitted altogether. If one person attempts to have preeminence over the church, the other elders will stop him! If a preacher attempts to gain a following of his own, the elders will stop him before his following becomes too large and destructive. A *qualified* eldership secures the spirituality of the local church.

Faithful shepherds are always on guard watching for wolves in sheep's clothing that will not spare the flock of God! ***The devil's wiser preachers, therefore, will muster his forces and assault the eldership!*** In many cases victory is certain because most religious people don't even know what the eldership is. And even within the Lord's church, many are unaware of the responsibility and authority of the eldership. This being the case, the devil's preachers are enjoying great success in some places! Some even find it surprisingly easy to convince church members to side with them against their shepherds. **To be continued ...**

The Gospel According to Oprah

By Sellers S. Crain, Jr.

(Submitted by Bill Coe)

In addition to being one of the richest women in America, Oprah Winfrey is one of the most admired women in this nation & in the world. When you know of her humble origins, it is easy to admire her success.

She was from a divorced family, raised mostly in East Nashville by her father, Vernon, who was a barber. She said she was sexually abused by a male relative when she was a small girl. She was given her real start in Nashville when Christ Clark hired her as a reporter on Channel 5 news. From here she went to Chicago & had a local network afternoon talk show. The rest is history.

Oprah is one of the most powerful individuals in this country. She can make careers, such as that of Rachel Ray, Dr. Phil, & Dr. Oz. Her recommendation for a book can make it an instant best seller. She can accomplish a lot of good with that kind of power, but if it is improperly used she can do a lot of harm. Her programs have probably helped a lot of people with many personal issues. However, she is now venturing into the area spiritual instruction, & it is here that Oprah can do irreparable damage. She has been called "The most influential spiritual leader in America today."

On January 1, 2008 on her daily radio program, Oprah began a year long course on the New Age Christ for 365 days. It is used as a workbook called "A Course in Miracles." Oprah said this was one of her favorite books. She bought thousands of them to hand out to her studio audience. Listeners to her program will be encouraged to purchase the book & an audio version of CD by Richard "John Boy" Thomas will be available. Popular author, Wayne Dyer told her PBS audience that the "brilliant writing" of this book would produce more peace in the world. The book proudly states that "This is a course in mind training" & is dedicated to "thought reversal." It is allegedly a "new revelation" which began to be "channeled" in 1965 to a Columbia University Medical Professor, Helen Schueman, who claimed she received messaged from "an inner voice" from a person calling himself Jesus, & he asked her to write them down. The message from this "Jesus" bears no resemblance to Jesus Christ of Scripture.

Here are some of the dangerous doctrines that can be found in this book. "There is no sin..." A "slain Christ has no meaning." "Do not make the pathetic error of 'to the old rugged cross.'" "The journey to the cross should be the last 'useless' journey." "The name Jesus Christ is just a symbol...It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray." "The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation."

Oprah has made several statements similar to these on her programs. She said, "Who you are requires no belief." She said she took "God out of the box." "God is not something to believe in. God is a feeling experience not a believing experience." "My mind is part of God. My holiness is my salvation-it comes from me." She said "Christians are confused, & a big mistake many Christians make is to believe "there is only one path to God" & "There could not possibly be only one way to God."

Jesus still says, "I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me (John 14:6).
-via *The Eastside Edifier*: 2141 Kingston, Muskogee, OK 74403.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Psalmist said, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God..." (14:1) Why do people who do not believe in God, profess to believe in anything? Does it salve their conscience & give them a false hope?

Sandy Haney
Ruby Dunn
Zella Charles
Roberta Hix
Dorothy Burris
Don Chaffin
Charlie Ward
Ruby Ward
Delenn Strong
Zola Flatt

Sick at Home

Hugh Young
Opal Pippin
Joann Ledbetter
Bill Wisdom
Bessie Young
Anna Lou Flatt
Reba Mayberry
Sandy Collier
Carson Collier

Ozelma Martin
Sheldon Warren
Aline Whitaker
Marie Shoemake
Bobby Elkins
Mildred Elkins
Catherine Mabery
Connie Garret
Bobbie Jean Dennis
Linda Jenkins

Area Hospitals:

Cookeville: Ralph Ragland, Kenneth Goolsby

Vanderbilt: Chris Heady

Myrtle Beach: Billy Stafford

Michigan: Jo Burris, Mary Curnutte

Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson,
Mary L. Dudney

Mabry: Plytha Petty

Mabry Assisted Living: Edna Roberts,
Velvia Denson

Bethesda: Donald Hensley

Please remember to keep each of these individuals in your prayers each and every day! They appreciate it greatly!