

**Sunshine Baskets for 12/9/07**

Melinda Dawson, Elizabeth Howell,  
Jennifer Phillips, Melissa Robinson, Diane Duke,  
Grace Sloan

**Happy Birthday to...**

Casey Henry (4), Rellon Burris (5),  
Jeremy Mathis (6), Danielle Jenkins (6)

**Happy Anniversary to...**

Cory & Jessica Dill (12/6/03)

**Pantry Items We Need...**

Chicken & Dumplings, Cream Style Corn,  
Peach Halves

**Announcements & Upcoming Events...**

**Directory Changes:** We are putting together a new directory! The dates are as follows: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these in mind. If you would like to have your email address or cell phone number added with your other information, please put it on the newest typed paper in the back of the auditorium. Make sure if you have any elderly family members who may be sick and/or shut-in that you check their information as well.

**December 2, 2007: TODAY!** Nursing Home Service @ 2:00 pm.

**December 2, 2007: TONIGHT!** Wrap gifts for the nursing home after evening worship.

**December 9, 2007:** Christmas Dinner @ Center Grove Community Center following morning worship. 1:00 pm service to follow.

**December 16, 2007:** Hand out fruit baskets for the 65 & older after morning services.

**Bulletin Articles:** If you are a male & you'd like to write an article for the inside right page of the bulletin, there's a sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Just choose the date you would like to have your article featured & list your email so the template can be sent to you so you'll know how much to type! ☺

**Privileged To Serve December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Ushers ..... Billy Stafford
- ..... Jeff McDowell
- ..... Ben Young
- ..... Mark Collins
- Announcements..... Chris Mabery
- Song Leader ..... Roy Young
- Scripture Reading ..... Dale Dennis
- Speaker ..... John Mabery
- Opening Prayer..... Farlin Flatt
- Closing Prayer ..... Neal Chaffin
- Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
- Prepare Trays ..... Carl Call
- Scripture Reading..... Alan Burris
- Serve..... \*Bobby Haney
- ..... \*Randy Duke
- ..... \*Sjon Gentry
- ..... Jeremy Kirby
- ..... David Wilson
- ..... Russell Wilson
- Alternate to Serve..... Roy Smallwood
- ..... Jimmy Strong
- Dismiss Classes ..... Roy Young
- Count Contribution ..... Earl Jones
- ..... Thurel Flatt
- ..... Roger Robinson
- ..... Jeremy Mathis
- Response Card..... Tyler Meadows
- Power Point..... Jonathan Conner

**Sunday Night (12/9)**

- Speaker ..... Bill Coe
- Scripture Reading..... Steve Hensley
- Song Leader ..... Billy Scott
- Opening Prayer..... Roy Smallwood
- Closing Prayer..... Burton Young
- Power Point..... Tyler Trisdale

**Wednesday (12/12)**

- Song Leader ..... Charles Whitaker
- Invitation..... Burton Young
- Opening Prayer..... Roy Young
- Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Strong

\*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 6

December 2, 2007

Number 44

**“What In the World Is ‘Phariseeism’?”**

*By John Mabery*

The Pharisees were a sect of Judaism that seems to have originated during what's called the "silent years" (the 400 year period between Malachi and Matthew). History reveals the origin of three groups among the Jews at that time; (1) the Hellenists (sympathetic toward Greek ways); (2) the Hasidim (conservatives set for the defense of the Law of Moses); (3) the Maccabeans (leaders of the Jewish revolts). The Hasidim insisted on clinging to the Law of Moses. They became the largest and most influential sect among the Jews; we know them as Pharisees. Their motives seem to have been honorable in the beginning, but that changed with the passing of time.

Jesus confronted this sect on many occasions; those encounters were mostly unpleasant. In one chapter (Mat.23), Jesus said the Pharisees were *men-pleasers* (v.5), *hypocrites* (vv.13,14,15,23,25, 28,29), *sons of hell* (v.15), *blind guides* (v.16), *fools* (vv.17,19), *white washed tombs* (v.27), *lawless* (v.28), *serpents* (v.33), and a *brood of vipers* (v.33). (Who said Jesus never criticized or judged anyone?) He said the Pharisees made a practice of *saying, but not doing* (v.3), and warned His disciples to beware of their teaching (Mat.16:6, 12); they perverted the will of God!

**Phariseeism** is being of the *same spirit* as the Pharisees; being *called* a Pharisee is an insult. Some call *us* Pharisees because we believe God and take Him at His word without addition, subtraction or modification. Ironically, those who call *us* Pharisees are very closely aligned with the Pharisees *themselves*; it's kind of like a fat man calling a skinny man a fat man – it just doesn't make sense! Those who throw the term "Pharisee" around do not understand the shortcomings of this denominational body or why Jesus called them hypocrites and sinners! Let me explain.

Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus did **not** condemn the Pharisees because they *kept* the Law of Moses and insisted that others do so as well. Common sense should see the folly of that charge: who kept the Law more strictly than Jesus? Was He a Pharisee; would He condemn *them* for doing what He did Himself? The Pharisees sinned because they did **not** keep the Law!

*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 9 @ 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

Jesus criticized the Pharisees because of “... **their works; for they say, and do not do.**” (Mat.23:3) They said they loved God; if true, they would have obeyed Him in all things like Jesus did (cf. John 4:34). The Pharisees hypocritically *claimed* to be God’s people but had no intention of doing His will (they obeyed what they wanted to and dismissed the rest). Like modern-day “liberals”, the Pharisees said some of God’s commands weren’t commands. Like modern-day “anti’s”, the Pharisees made up rules and laws that suited them. Like both of these modern-day groups, the Pharisees had little regard for the whole counsel of God. Consider the following:

First, like modern-day liberals, if the Pharisees didn’t like, or agree with, a law of God, they simply dismissed it as non-essential. On one occasion these hypocrites criticized Jesus and the twelve for being law-breakers. They *did* violate a law, but it was a law created by the Pharisees; Jesus *never* violated God’s law, not even one time! The Lord’s accusers, on the other hand, did *willfully* violate God’s law in order to reverse laws of their own devising. The Lord said,

**God commanded**, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’<sup>5</sup> **But you say**, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”--<sup>6</sup> then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus **you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.** Matt 15:3-6 (Bold, jm)

The Pharisees knew God’s laws, they were “written”; they just arbitrarily changed divine law at will! Modern Pharisees do the same – take baptism: “**God commanded**” baptism *for* the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)! But like the Pharisees, **modern-day liberals say**, “One is saved the moment they believe; you don’t have to be baptized for remission of sins!” Thus, they, too, “... **have made the commandment of God of no effect by [their] tradition**”!

Second, the text above also demonstrates that the Pharisees were like modern day “anti’s”. They accused the Lord and His disciples of wrong-doing because the disciples ate without first washing their hands (cf. Mat.15:1-2). Did God have such a law? No! Apparently the Pharisees thought the law was needed, so they imposed one on the people, even though God chose not to.

The spirit of the Pharisees *does* live on; but it lives in “liberalism” and “anti-ism”! Love and respect for the will of God is *not* Phariseeism; in the Bible it’s simply called faith! (Rom.10:17)

Ida Thomas	<b><u>Sick at Home</u></b>	Bud Coffman
Sandy Haney	Marie Shoemake	Richard Martin
Zella Charles	Bobby Elkins	Katherine Mabery
Dorothy Burris	Mildred Elkins	Beatrice Spurlock
Delenn Strong	Connie Rhodes	Jan Allen
Ozelma Martin	Vickie Wilson	David Wilson
Bessie Young	Jo Ann Ledbetter	Mary Mabery
Bill Wisdom	Roberta Hix	Ralph Flatt
Lillie Goolsby	Stephanie Smith	Doretha Crossman
Opal Pippin	Glenda Burchett	Mary Lock
Ruby Dunn	Harlen Haney	Kathy Hargis
Aline Whitaker	Kalob Robinson	Carlene Flatt
Hugh Young	Jeff Anderson	Judy Long

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,” (Phil.4:6)

**Area Hospitals:**

**Cookeville:** Mattie Ransom, Ethel Stewart, Ray Flatt, Kenneth Fox, Beatrice Byers

**St. Thomas:** Kay Ramsey

**Area Rest Homes:**

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

**Mabry:** Plytha Petty, Wilma Howell

**Give a Defense...to Everyone!**

**Written by: Kyle Butt**

(Taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/1604>)

The word apologetics derives from the Greek *apologia*, which means to defend or give a defense. Christian apologetics, then, is the defense of the Christian belief system.

The passage in 1 Peter 3:15 often is hailed as “the apologetic verse” because of its command to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense [*apologian*] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

The inspired apostle instructed believers to be ready to give a defense. Offering a defense for the hope that lies within the heart of faithful Christians often is an easy thing to do. Whenever a person is surrounded by others of “like precious faith,” it proves an easy task to boldly defend New Testament Christianity. Perhaps it is for that very reason that Peter carries the thought a step farther by saying that Christians should stand ready to offer a defense “to everyone who asks you.”

Imagine Peter penning these words as his mind drifted back to the hour of Jesus’ arrest and trial. Shortly before the events of that night unfolded, Peter boldly and bravely had declared that he would die with Christ. Yet once the murderous mob confiscated His Lord, Peter was reduced to lurking in the shadows and following at a distance. His weakness & ignominy would only multiply as he was ushered into the courtyard of the High Priest. Waiting for him outside the trial was an enemy he was unable to fight—one so fierce & heinous that his mouth seemingly could not utter a defense of either his faith or his Lord. That enemy was...a servant girl!

“You also were with Jesus of Galilee” she accused. & Peter, who had been the first among the disciples to declare that Christ was the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16), & who had been the one among the disciples to

voice his affirmation that Christ alone had the words of life (John 6:68), stood dumbfounded as he cowardly muttered, “I do not know what you are saying” (Matthew 26:70).

Peter had faced a primordial challenge to his faith—& had failed that challenge miserably. He thus knew from firsthand experience exactly how it felt to have his faith collapse under the weight of pressure from the enemy. Yet only a few weeks after his shameful denial, the Lord granted him the privilege of preaching the sermon that opened wide the doors of the Kingdom on the Day of Pentecost.

Peter’s admonition to those who were to follow after him, therefore, becomes somewhat like the warning of a loving mother who has burned her hand on the stove many times and wants to save her child from making the same mistake and enduring the same pain. Peter’s life-changing experience, no doubt, was why the apostle urged every Christian to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” He understood all too well the alternative—denying the Lord in the face of the enemy—& knew far better than most that it was too horrible to contemplate.

**Placing Membership with us:**

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(931) 268-1439

Liddie Thomas:  
160 Center Lane  
Gainesboro, TN 38562  
(931) 268-2071

**Our Sympathy Goes Out to the Families of ...**

Velma Flatt, Wanda Warren, & Donald Burris