

Sunshine Baskets for 12/30/07

Amanda Jenkins, Theresa Fox, Barbara Mabery,
Emogene Mayberry, Donna Loftis-Young,
Reba Mayberry

Happy Birthday to...

Janie Fox (26), Cassidy Collins (26),
Lorene Haney (26), Reba Mayberry (27),
Megan Phillips (29)

Happy Anniversary to...

Raymond & Louise Haney (12/26/54)

Pantry Items We Need...

Canned Beef, Green Peas, Peach Halves

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

December 30, 2007: Deadline to sign-up & pay
\$20 for Challenge Youth Conference

December 30, 2007: All Male Members Meeting
@ 1:30 pm.

December 31, 2007: Youth NYE Party @ the
annex; more details to come!

December 31, 2007: Mary Nell Flatt's NYE
Party; begin eating finger foods @ 6pm. If you'd
like to play Chinese Christmas bring a \$10-\$12
gift.

January 11, 2008: Parents' Date Night 5-10 pm.
Flyers are on the back table with more details! ☺

February 16, 2007: Sweethearts' Café

February 22-24, 2007: Challenge Youth
Conference in Gatlinburg, TN

June 14, 2008: Golden Years' Banquet

Bulletin Articles: If you'd like to write an article
for the inside right page of the bulletin, please do
so & give it to Kristina Hammock whenever you
can.

Website: We're working on updating our
website, & we want YOUR opinion! Please
pick up a survey & return it to Chris Mabery or
Kristina Hammock as soon as you can!

Requested Our Prayers: John Anderson, Rellon
Burriss, & Jimmy Strong

Our Sympathy to the Families of: Kelly Hix

Privileged To Serve December 30th

- Ushers Billy Stafford
- Jeff McDowell
- Ben Young
- Mark Collins
- Announcements..... Carl Call
- Song Leader Roy Young
- Scripture Reading Larry Howell
- Speaker Bill Coe
- Opening Prayer..... Royce Jenkins
- Closing Prayer Bobby Haney
- Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
- Prepare Trays Carl Call
- Scripture Reading..... Jerry Young
- Serve..... *Steve Hensley
- *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 (12/30)

- Speaker Youth
- Scripture Reading..... Youth
- Song Leader Youth
- Opening Prayer..... Youth
- Closing Prayer..... Youth
- Power Point..... Youth

Wednesday (01/02)

- Song Leader Bobby Haney
- Invitation..... Ted Ragland
- Opening Prayer..... Billy Scott
- Closing Prayer..... Tyler Meadows

*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 Burriss 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 23, 2007

Number 47

The Holiday Season

By Hugo McCord (Deceased)

At year's end for centuries, even before the birth of Christ, people in Europe enjoyed a holiday season. An occasion of rejoicing was the fact that at year's end the northern hemisphere was at its farthest point away from the sun about to turn back closer to its light and warmth. Days would begin to lengthen. Gradually the long nights would be shorter. As a symbol of returning life, the ancient Teutonic tribes decorated their houses with evergreen and the fireplace burned brightly with the yuletide log. Good luck gifts were freely exchanged. It was a time of joy and good cheer.

Over three hundred years after Jesus was born, the year's end holiday season was appropriated to make a religious celebration. It was recognized that Jesus was not born in the wintertime, for shepherds do not have their flocks out in the open around Bethlehem in December. The continual weather forecast for December is "Hail. Snow on higher hills, and occasionally on lower levels." Nevertheless, the date of December 25 was selected by Liberius, bishop of Rome, in A.D. 354, to coincide with the established year's-end holidays. Since that time, the bishop's order has been followed by the Roman Catholic Church, and when the Protestant churches were established, they began following Rome's lead in making December 25 a sacred day.

God did not make any day of the week or of the year as a holy day for Christians. If anyone does so, it is his own private doing from "his own mind" (Romans 14:5). And if he does so, he must not push that day on others, for, said Paul, "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls" (Romans 14:14).

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

The Christians in Galatia were pushing holy days, and they received a blistering condemnation from Paul: "You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you" (Galatians 4:10-11, NIV).

The first day of the week to Christians is not more sacred than any other. Every day is a gift from the Lord, and so every day is the Lord's day, but Christians do remember the first day of the week as a day of precious memory that Jesus arose on that day (Mark 16:9), and in that sense the first day of the week is a day of memorial, and they call it the "Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). But they do not regard Sunday as a Sabbath, a more holy day than any other. On that day by apostolic teaching, they assemble to observe the Lord's Supper and to make financial offerings (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

After the Roman Catholic Church had fitted an erroneous birthday of Christ to coincide with the established holiday season, more and more additions became part of the celebration. "St. Nicholas" was a 4th century bishop, when was called "the patron saint of children, sailors and scholars," now called "Santa Claus." In the 11th century, someone invented the word "Christmas," meaning "Christ's Mass" (*Christes Masse*). In France the word was "Noel," meaning pertaining to a birthday.

The burning of candles and the use of bright lights during the December holidays are believed to have come from the Jewish custom in their celebration of the Feast of Dedication, the *Hanukkah*, the "Feast of Lights," December 23-30, mentioned in John 10:22.

The use of trees as decorations began in German mystery plays as symbolic of the Garden of Eden. The use of mistletoe came from the English belief of its magical powers; if one's

enemy stood under the mistletoe, he would disarm himself.

Manger displays started in Italy and mincemeat pies began to be baked in oblong shapes to represent the manger. The poinsettia was discovered in Mexico and came to be called the "Flower of the Holy Night." The sending of greeting cards originated in England. Today such a custom spreads good cheer the world around.

To thousands, Christmas does not mean a mass for Christ, just as Saturday does not mean a day to worship Saturn and as Thursday does not mean a day dedicated to the war god, Thor. To thousands, Christmas means only a time for families and good friends to get together, to exchange gifts and to relax.

All Christians rejoice that the great Father planned that Mary, sitting on a donkey's back, riding toward Bethlehem, had, in her womb, God in the flesh, being protected by a water bag. But when inns are full, they are full. Sleep where you can. So, in a stable, "God deep in the flesh became deep in the straw...waving little arms, hungrily sucking a fist, like any other newborn baby." This was the super-miracle, for lying in a feeding trough was the creator of the universe (John 1:3), one who would become a brother (Romans 8:29), a friend (John 15:14), the sin-bearer (2 Corinthians 5:21) and the redeemer (1 Peter 1:18-19).

On any day at any season of the year, it is edifying to sing songs about the birth of the Anointed One, the Christ-child. Songs about the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem continue to make millions happy and draw them closer to one another and to the One who came to live among humans and who wants to take

them to heaven. The earliest of such carols, from the 4th century, is "Jesus Light of All the Nations." Other famous ones are: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Away in the Manger," "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night."

G. K. Wallace (*Gospel Advocate*, 12-15-1966) asked "What shall we do this Christmas?" He gives 12 answers:

1. Seek out a forgotten friend and write a love letter.
2. Dismiss suspicion and learn to trust.
3. Share a treasure and give a soft answer.
4. Manifest loyalty in word, in deed, and encourage youth.
5. Find time to do what needs to be done and keep our promises.
6. Forgive an enemy and forego a grudge.
7. Listen, understand and apologize, if you are wrong.
8. Be gentle, be kind and so act as to deserve confidence.
9. Learn to laugh and take up arms against malice.
10. Do not become complacent. Express your gratitude.
11. Gladden the heart of a child, welcome a stranger and take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
12. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again, and our Holiday will be a happy day.

***Directory Changes:** We're putting together a new directory! The dates are as follows: March 7th, 8th, & 10th. If you'd like to have your email or cell phone added, please put it on the paper in the back of the auditorium. If you have any elderly family members who may be sick or shut-in check their info as well.

Ida Thomas	<u>Sick at Home</u>	Bud Coffman	
Sandy Haney		Richard Martin	
Zella Charles		Katherine Mabery	
Dorothy Burris		Bobby Elkins	
Delenn Strong		Mildred Elkins	
Ozelma Martin		Connie Rhodes	
Bessie Young		Vickie Wilson	
Bill Wisdom		Jo Ann Ledbetter	
Lillie Goolsby		Roberta Hix	
Opal Pippin		Stephanie Smith	
Ruby Dunn		Glenda Burchett	
Aline Whitaker		Shirley Fields	
			Farlin Flatt
			Zola Flatt

Area Hospitals:

Florida: Bob Radtke

Area Rest Homes:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson, Mary L. Dudley, Beatrice Byers

Mabry: Plytha Petty, Wilma Howell, Ethel Stewart

Bethesda: Ray Flatt

Mabry Assisted Living: Edna Roberts

"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)