

**Sunshine Baskets For 12/04/05**

Grace Sloan, Michelle Burris,  
Mindy Dennis, Diane Duke

**Happy Birthday to ...**

Hannah Young (27), Betty Smallwood (28),  
Diane Duke (29), Emily Iceman (12/3)

**Happy Anniversary to...**

Billy & Jerline Stafford (12/01/60)

**4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday Singing Here TODAY @ 2:00 pm!**

**Christmas Dinner:** December 11<sup>TH</sup>

At the Community Center after our morning service. Evening service will follow at 1:00 pm.

**Fruit Baskets for Those 65 and Better.**

December 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:00 pm. Distribute fruit baskets after am service on Sunday, the 18<sup>TH</sup>.

**In-Home Service: December 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>TH</sup>:**

We will not have our pm service on this day.

**Requested Our Prayers:**

Edith Mitchell, Annie B. Loftis, Patsy Scott

**Our Sympathy to the Family of Gilbert Fox**

**Area Hospitals & Rest Homes::**

**Vanderbilt:** Pam Crespo

**Missouri:** Bill Wisdom

**Mabry:** Ida Thomas, Mary Rush

**Life Care in Sparta:** Sharon Hall

**NHC:** Mary Lena Dudley, Alice Pippin,  
Dottie Chaffin

**Bethesda:** Ruby Dunn

**CRMC Rehab:** Troy Jones

**Privileged To Serve December 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Ushers ..... Earl Crabtree  
..... Mark Collins  
..... Earl Jones  
..... Jeff McDowell  
Announcements ..... Jerry Young  
Song Leader ..... Nathan Moss  
Scripture Reading ..... Alan Burris  
Speaker ..... John Mabery  
Opening Prayer ..... Randy Duke  
Closing Prayer..... Charles Mitchell  
Oversee Lord’s Supper . Chris Mabery  
Prepare Trays ..... Ben Young  
Scripture Reading ..... Charles Whitaker  
\*Serve\*\* ..... Jonathan Conner  
..... Roy Smallwood  
..... Jerry Young  
..... Dale Dennis  
..... Kevin Moss  
..... Tyler Meadows  
\*Alternate to Serve ..... Roy Flatt  
..... Sjon Gentry  
\*Dismiss Classes..... Rellon Burris  
\*Count Contribution ..... Tracy Jenkins  
..... Mike Netherton  
..... Thurel Flatt  
..... Daniel Groel  
\*Response Card ..... Roy Young

**Sunday Night (12/4)**

Speaker ..... John Anderson  
Scripture Reading ..... Robert Crabtree  
Song Leader ..... Bobby Haney  
Opening Prayer ..... Roy Young  
Closing Prayer..... Larry Howell

**Wednesday (12/7)**

Song Leader ..... Billy Scott  
Invitation..... Nathan Moss  
Opening Prayer ..... Mike Cantrell  
Closing Prayer..... Brian Trisdale

\*For the month..... Take to shut-ins  
If you can’t serve, please let Jerry Young know early so we can be organized and on time.

**Elders:**

Ted Ragland 268.9387  
John Mabery 268.0651  
Cell: 265.3835

**Ministers:**

John Mabery 268.0651  
John Anderson 268.2406

**Youth Minister:**

Nathan Moss 268.1871  
Cell: 267.2770

**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

**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)

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**Doubt - A Great Obstacle (Part 1 of 2)**

*By John Mabery*

Life beyond this world - no aging, tears, pain, death, etc., - *fact or fiction?* I wanted these things to be true; I thrilled at the prospect of eternal life with God and my family; but is it true? It seemed possible, surely there’s a greater *purpose* to life, but the experts say “No!”, and they *say* they can *prove* it (but they can’t!). I’m no expert, but I know that *hoping* a thing to be true *doesn’t make it true!* We may also wonder, “Can so many “experts” be *wrong?*” Does God exist? Are the historical records regarding Jesus’ life, death and resurrection true? Is the Bible really the inspired, inerrant word of the living God? Could I *know*, or was I condemned to a life of uncertainty? Another doubt also steals confidence; i.e. even if these things are true, can *I* go to heaven? I can see why the Creator loves some people, *but not me!* I preferred heaven, but it seemed to be just out of my reach. I needed help, but help can be hard to find! *If only I could know and be sure!*

Others seemed so sure, the way I *wanted* to feel! I assumed they had good reasons for their confidence, so I asked for their help. Either they wouldn’t, or more likely *couldn’t*, give me *reasons* for their confidence. I wondered, “Why could some people believe the Bible is inspired of God without verification, but I couldn’t?” Occasionally I felt worse after mentioning my doubts to some of my brethren; according to them, I had a heart problem; i.e. the inability to trust God. The problem was I *knew* I could *trust* God and the Bible *if I had just had sufficient evidence*, but I was led to believe that no such evidence exists; I must learn to trust even without a cause! I wanted to, I tried to, but I couldn’t make those nagging doubts go away. If you’ve never had doubts you might not understand, but they hold a person back and keep them from giving their whole being to the Lord. One thing I’m certain of; every person tormented by doubt wants to destroy it!

A lot of time has now gone by; I never stopped searching for answers. Why? I’ve asked myself the same question and came up with two reasons: (1) I doubted my doubts! Maybe there was hope for me yet! (2) I thought I could help my wife, children and others, so I continued on. *Continued...*

**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 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.  
Our A.M. Service is **Televised** on Monday  
on Cable Channel 9 @ 6:15 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

I don't enjoy exposing my weaknesses, and especially to people I may never see or know, but I suppose my own experience might help someone else deal with their doubts and fears. If so, a little embarrassment today is a small price to pay if it helps someone overcome their doubts and go on to salvation. Let me explain what I learned from my experience.

**First, there are good reasons to believe in God, the Bible and Jesus!** As a matter of fact, the faith that pleases our Creator is one that is built on reason or evidence (Psa.19; Rom.1:17; Heb.11:1). You may not know those reasons right now, but I can assure you that you are capable of understanding them once they're made known to you. Don't give up!

**Second, don't be intimidated by others!** I learned that some believers won't give you good reasons for their faith because they don't have any reasons to give. Some people have inherited faith from others, or believe because they want these things to be true. This might explain the indifference and disobedience often seen in the lives of believers. One isn't likely to turn their life over to Christ unless they first *know* that their sacrifice is not in vain. Don't become discouraged; we *grow* in faith, and proofs or evidences must be acquired before faith can reach maturity.

**Third, don't be afraid to seek help!** If one can't help, move to another. One of my greatest challenges was finding the *right person* to help

me. Don't be misled; there are many people who *can* give you a storehouse of solid reasons for their faith. When you find them, squeeze them like a grape, and soak up all the knowledge you can! Sadly, all churches aren't equal; i.e. some merely exist, whereas others are alive and growing in Christ. Unable to get the instruction they desperately desired, some have placed membership with another congregation, one seeking to go on to perfection. Eternity hangs in the balance; we can maintain the status quo, or we can go all the way with the Lord. Choose wisely.

**Fourth, be patient!** We must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil.2:12). A strong faith must be *built* and *time* is required to do it. The Son of God has promised to assist us on our heavenward journey, but we must also be willing to help ourselves. Time and effort are required to build faith, but what better way could you spend your time in the body? If I read the Bible correctly, this is the reason for our being here, is it not? (cf. Ecc.12:13-14)

**Fifth, help others!** You're not the first to struggle with doubt, you won't be the last. As you acquire faith-producing evidence, make sure you let others know your reasons (cf. 1 Pet.3:15). Like you and I, most people want to build a rock-solid faith so they can *know* that their sacrifice to Christ is not in vain.

*Continued next week... "Can I be saved???"*

**Sick At Home**

Earl Johnson		Erma S. Meadows
Jody Looper	Sandy Haney	Marie Shoemake
Dorothy Burris	Zella Charles	Robert Smith
Mattie Ransom	Ozelma Martin	Abby Goodnight
Catherine Mabery	Mildred Elkins	Jo Ann Ledbetter
Ray Flatt	Ray Flatt	Wanda Warren
Erlean Hamlet	Mary Bull	Glenda McBroom

**Sick At Home (continued)**

Marty Lawson, Myrtle Colson,  
Vickie Allen, Freida Maxwell,  
Nelson Jackson, Lillie Goolsby,  
Mary A. Daniel, Stacy Miotke

**-Teen Families-**

**EU: January 13-15**

The EU signup sheet is in the back of the auditorium. The deadline to sign-up and pay April is December 7<sup>th</sup>. The fee for EU is \$30. You can still decide to go after December 7<sup>th</sup>, but the fee changes to \$40. The deadline if you are paying late is January 8<sup>th</sup>. This year EU is targeting high schoolers for their evangelistic training. Nathan is checking to see if 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders can go with a parent. For more info, check out [www.evangelismuniversity.net](http://www.evangelismuniversity.net).

**Mpact: Nov 30**

We'll be visiting a shut-in this week for Mpact. Make sure you bring \$1 to eat at the building after our project.

**Winter Quarter: Dec 4**

Our winter quarter classes for Sunday morning are about the start for the teens. Carl and John A. will study the book "A Matter of Fact". Randy & Nathan will be leading a study on the prophets with the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. These classes will last through February (13 weeks).

**Upcoming Events**

**CG Family Retreat: April 21-23**

**Truth for Youth**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* (Ephesians 6:10-11)

In ancient times, soldiers wore heavy armor over every part of their bodies when they went into battle. They were completely covered with a strong protective coating which often saved their

lives. We are in a battle every day - maybe not a physical battle, but a spiritual battle. Satan will do all that he can to try to deceive us and draw us away from God. Ephesians 6:12 says this: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." It is important is that we realize that the devil is at work, and we are in need of protection. Next, we must put on the "armor" that God offers us, while we fix our eyes on Jesus, and stand firm in our faith. Ephesians 6:14-18 gives us more specific information about this armor that God desires to use for our protection: "Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,<sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.<sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;<sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,<sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints." Our protection is from Almighty God Himself and comes in the form of truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, salvation, God's Word, and prayer. Satan's best tricks are no match for the full armor of God.

Let me challenge you to write down the words to Ephesians 6:13-18. Read them every morning as you get dressed for the day, making sure to put on the "Armor of God" before you start your day. -Nathan