

**Sunshine Baskets For 12/18/2016:**

Debbie Martin, Lisa Dodson, Lorene Haney,  
Barbara Scott, & Rita Dodson

**Happy Birthday!**

Kaleb Young (12/11), Tenna Flatt (12/15),  
Russell Wilson (12/15), Vanessa Martin (12/16),  
Jocelyn Pippin (12/17)

**Happy Anniversary!**

Larry & Elizabeth Howell (12/12/1964) &  
Fred & Willene Heady (12/15/2007)

**Pantry Items Needed:** Cream Style Corn

We have devices for those who are hard of hearing to help you during our worship services. If you are in need of one, please see Jeremy Broome.

Enroll now in the free Bible Correspondence Course consisting of various course lessons. You will find it refreshing to delve into God’s Word & you will find out some things that surprise you. Give Bill Coe your name & address to get started!

**Announcements & Upcoming Events...**

**TODAY:** Christmas dinner following our morning worship service. This year's annual reports will be distributed as well. We won't be having an evening worship service at 5:00 p.m.

**December 18:** Secret Sisters’ Ornament Swap in our fellowship hall following our evening worship service. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend! Just bring a wrapped ornament, a finger food or dessert, & yourself. We always have a great time & would love for you to join us this year! For more information, see Terri Collins or Theresa Fox.

**Drinks & Snacks Needed:** We need to replenish our drinks & snacks for fellowship meals. All donations are appreciated!

**Privileged to Serve December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Ushers .....	Jonathan Conner
.....	Mike Martin
Announcements.....	Benjamin Gentry
Song Leader .....	Titus Anderson
Scripture Reading.....	Tim Mitchell
Speaker.....	John Mabery
Opening Prayer .....	Greg Scott
Closing Prayer.....	Roy Flatt
Oversee Lord’s Supper..	Roy Smallwood
Prepare Trays .....	Greg Scott
Scripture Reading.....	Dale Dennis
Serve .....	*Alan Burris
.....	*Burton Young
.....	*Jeremy Kirby
.....	Steve Hensley
.....	Blake Maberry
.....	Mark
Alternate to Serve.....	Jonathan Conner
.....	Fred Heady
Dismiss Classes.....	Chris Fox
Count Contribution .....	Charles Whitaker
.....	Earl Crabtree
.....	Harry Young
.....	Rellon Burris
Response Card .....	Keith Dodson
PowerPoint.....	Brian Trisdale
TV Program .....	Jacob Martin

**Sunday Evening (12/18/2016)**

Speaker.....	Ronald Strong
Scripture Reading.....	Chris Mabery
Song Leader .....	Jeremy Broome
Opening Prayer .....	Jerry Young
Closing Prayer.....	Nolan Young
PowerPoint.....	Bryce Conner

**Wednesday Evening (12/21/2016)**

Song Leader .....	Mike Birdwell
Devotional.....	Bill Coe
Opening Prayer .....	Keith Dodson
Closing Prayer.....	Sjon Gentry

\*Take to the sick & shut-in

Let Rellon Burris know if you can’t serve.  
Cell: (931) 319-5197  
Email: burris6@twlakes.net

**Elders:**

John Mabery	268.0651
Carl Call	268.2040
Sjon Gentry	268.3273

**Deacons:**

Robert Crabtree	268.4417
Raymond Haney	268.2493
Rellon Burris	319.5197
Jerry Young	268.2215
Ronald Strong	267.5480
Chris Mabery	260.5017

**Ministers:**

John Mabery	268.0651
Cell:	265.3835
Bill Coe	268.1777
Cell:	397.2159
Ronald Strong	267.5480

**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 15

December 11, 2016

Number 50

**“Much More Than an Empty Tomb”**

*by Brad Bromling of Apologetics Press*

As dawn broke on the third day after Christ’ crucifixion, several pious women made their way to the tomb that Joseph of Arimathea had donated for Jesus’ burial. When they arrived, they found it open and empty. Instead of seeing their Lord, they saw men (angels) dressed in dazzling clothes who announced that Jesus had been raised from the dead. The women returned to the community of Jesus’ followers and gave a full report. No one believed them. Peter and (apparently) John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. They found it as the women had said. The tomb was empty. But surprisingly, rather than spreading the exciting news that Jesus had been raised from the dead, Peter went away perplexed!

Later that day, two other disciples left Jerusalem and headed toward Emmaus, their hometown about seven miles away. As they walked, they shared their thoughts of disappointment over the death of Jesus. A stranger joined them and asked what they were talking about (they didn’t know the stranger was Jesus). They explained how that Jesus, the mighty prophet from Nazareth, had been crucified. They said, “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel,” indicating that their hopes had been dashed (Luke 24:21). They continued: “Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.” Apparently they expected Jesus to be raised; but even after hearing testimony from the women and the two men, the disciples from Emmaus were not convinced that a resurrection had taken place.

A few hours later they were back in Jerusalem enthusiastically telling others that Jesus was raised from the dead. What moved them from hopelessness to confident proclamation? The answer is plain: they had seen the Lord! By that time, so had Peter. In fact, from that

**Center Grove**

**church of Christ**

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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)

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point forward, Jesus appeared repeatedly to His followers for the next forty days before He finally ascended into heaven (Acts 1:3).

The central message of the Church is not simply that Jesus' tomb was empty—that fact alone was not enough for the original followers of the Nazarene, nor would it be enough two thousand years later. A skeptical mind can imagine many ways to explain how Jesus' body left the tomb (all of which have been sufficiently answered; see Geisler and Brooks, 1990, pp. 123-128; Bromling, 1993, pp. 33-38; et al.); but for a believer, only one way matters—resurrection. Faith in that is based upon the reliable testimony of people who, after having seen the risen Lord, devoted the rest of their lives to telling the Good News. Jesus left more than an empty tomb; He left credible flesh-and-blood witnesses who said of Jesus, “we have heard” Him, “we have seen [Him] with our eyes,” and “our hands have handled” Him (1 John 1:1).

Maybe an empty tomb should have been enough; after all, Jesus rebuked the disciples from Emmaus for being “foolish” and “slow of heart to believe the prophets” (Luke 24:25). But the fact is, we have much more than that. We have the Good News that Jesus appeared to: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Peter, Cleopas and his fellow disciple from Emmaus, the rest of the apostles, Stephen, James, Paul, and an additional five hundred unnamed people, many of whom Paul indicated would have testified if given a chance (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:9-20; Luke 24:1-50; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; et al.).

Christianity is not faith in an empty cave; it is faith in a Savior Who ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). It is faith in the One Who by His resurrection has the ability to promise: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

#### REFERENCES

Bromling, Brad T. (1993), “What Happened to the Body?,” *Reason & Revelation*, 13:33-38, May.  
Geisler, Norman L. and Ron Brooks (1990), *When Skeptics Ask* (Wheaton, IL: Victor).

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Dean Wilson	<b>Prayer List</b>	Sonya Warden Heady	
Ernest Fields		Grace Sloan	Sherry Scott Arms
Betty Martin		Eula Fox	Ann Johnson
Judy Heady		Lenora Dudney	Louise Richardson
Susan Bowman		Stella Flatt	Chester Hamlet
Sarah Kilgore		Harley Allen	Billy Edward Martin
Gene Spivey		Betty Flatt	John Sparkman
Nell Haney		A.V. Thomas	Micah Hart
Sandy Haney		Lewis Fox	Liddie Thomas
Dorothy Padgett		Curtis Loftis	Lovia Cowgill
Mark Hammock		Bobby Mitchell	Herbie Fox
Charles Haney		Jorja Cox	Brenda Spivey
Mary Jean Burke		Raymond Haney	Lori Davenport
Dennis Kernutte		Barbara Scott	Edna Pauline Mocerri
Marie Johnson		Jesse Wheeler	

**\*If you have updates to the prayer list, please contact Rellon Burris. His contact info is on the back!**

#### **Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:**

**Mabry:** Edna Roberts

**Masters:** Mary Pearl Judd

**Gallatin:** Octavine Conquest

**CRMC Rehab:** Betty Stafford

**Bethesda:** Charles Haney

**Signature:** Brenda Meredith

#### **Area Hospitals:**

**CRMC:** Debbie Gentry

**Vanderbilt:** Laycee Bryant

#### **Our Deepest Sympathy Goes out to**

**the Families of:** Virginia Johnson,  
Helen Flatt, Denise Barlow Fox, &  
Jessie Marie McCloud

**Requested Prayers:** Elizabeth Howell

## **“The Unbelievers’ Examination of Jesus’ Miracle in John 9”**

*by Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press*

Christians believe that Jesus worked miracles for two primary reasons: (1) a supernatural Creator exists (see Lyons & Butt, 2014), Who is capable of working supernatural miracles in accordance with His will, & (2) the Bible is the inspired Word of God (see Butt & Lyons, 2015), which testifies to the miracles of Christ. Of significance is the fact that the Bible does not record the miracles of Christ in a flippant, feel-good, hocus-pocus type of manner. On the contrary, the accounts of Jesus' miracles are consistently characterized with reason & restraint. At times, there was great investigation that took place—even by Jesus' enemies—in hopes of discrediting Him.

Consider, for example, the occasion on which Jesus gave sight to a man born blind (John 9:7). After receiving his sight, neighbors & others examined him, inquiring how he was now able to see. Later he was brought to the Pharisees, & they scrutinized him. They questioned him about the One who caused him to see, & then argued among themselves about the character of Jesus. They called for the parents of the man who was blind, & questioned them about their son's blindness. Then they called upon the man born blind again, & a second time questioned him about how Jesus opened his eyes. Finally, when they realized the man would not cave in to their intimidating interrogation & say some negative thing about Jesus, “they cast him out” (9:34). They rejected him, & the One Who made him well. Yet, they were unable to deny the miracle that Jesus performed. It was known by countless witnesses that this man was born blind, but, after coming in contact with Jesus, his eyes were opened.

The entire case of Jesus healing the blind man in John 9 was scrutinized thoroughly by Jesus' enemies, yet even they had to admit that Jesus caused the man to see (John 9:16,17,24,26). It was a fact, accepted, not by credulous youths, but by hardened, veteran enemies of Christ. Considering that positive testimony from hostile witnesses is the weightiest kind of testimony in a court of law, such reactions from Jesus' enemies are extremely noteworthy in any discussion on the miracles of Christ.

#### REFERENCES

Butt, Kyle and Eric Lyons (2015), “3 Good Reasons to Believe the Bible is from God,” Apologetics Press, <http://apologeticspress.org/apPubPage.aspx?pub=1&issue=1180>.

Lyons, Eric and Kyle Butt (2014), “7 Reasons to Believe in God,” Apologetics Press, <http://apologeticspress.org/apPubPage.aspx?pub=1&issue=1175&article=2452>.

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**January 20-22, 2017:** Apologetics lectureship with Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press. The theme for the lectureship is “Do Not Be Conformed”. Friday at 7:00 p.m., the lesson title will be “Confronting Cultural Confusion”. Saturday at 6:00 p.m., the lesson title will be “Are You a Person of Integrity (Part 1)?”. Saturday at 7:00 p.m., the lesson title will be “Are You a Person of Integrity (Part 2)?”. Sunday at 9:00 a.m., the lesson title will be “Retaining Reverence for God in Disrespectful Times”. Sunday at 10:00 a.m., the lesson title will be “Pressing Toward the Prize”.

**Prayer List (Continued):** Villary Campbell, Al Vanderlinden, Barbara Marrow, Bill Coe, & Shelia Glover

**Update Your Directory:** Farlin Flatt, 580 State Street, Cookeville, TN 38501, (931) 854-0322