



Christmas Fruit Baskets

We will be delivering fruit baskets this Saturday, **December 17**. Everyone be here at **8:30am** to get your list and load up. The bags will already be assembled. What a joy it is to help spread blessings. See **Andy Milton** if you have any questions.

This Week's Lessons:

Sunday Morning:

A Syrian Surprise — 2 Kings 7.3-16

Sunday Evening:

Just As I Am — Romans 16.17

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

On Sunday morning, **Bobby Lane** announced an exciting plan for helping the Gatlinburg Church of Christ and the families who lost their homes in the fire. He told the congregation that the elders would like to give our entire Sunday morning contribution on December 18 to help with fire relief. Every dollar and every penny given on December 18 will help someone in Gatlinburg who was affected by the wildfire. What an amazing opportunity!

In 2 Corinthians 8, we read about the generosity of the Macedonian churches. Paul spent the majority of his time during his third missionary journey collecting money to share with the church in Jerusalem. Many people in the Jerusalem church were having a hard time. So Paul challenged the churches he had planted to share what they have with those who were struggling in Jerusalem. And that is exactly what the Macedonian churches did. Paul says, *"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints"* (2 Corinthians 8.3-4).

This is now our test. Will we excel in the grace of giving? (2 Corinthians 8.7). Will we help our brothers and sisters who are in need? Will we give as much as we are able, and even beyond our ability? Many of you have already given generous donations to our mission works in response to our Missions Sunday and to Short Mountain Bible Camp at the fundraising dinner last week. We want to thank you for your generosity. But here is another exciting opportunity to give to those in need.

We are so blessed. Surely we can make some sacrifice and share with those who are hurting. I would encourage you to double your weekly contribution on December 18 (if you are able). Some of you may even be able to give 5 or 10 times your normal contribution. Let's remember God's challenge to the people in Malachi's day: *"Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the flood-gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it"* (Malachi 3.10).

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Sam Brown told me earlier this week that **Mitchel and Rachel Routh** will be in worship with us on Sunday. Mitchel and Rachel plan to go to Peru in 2017 and work in the mission field. They will be sharing their plans with one or two of our Bible classes on Sunday morning. I thank God for Christian men and women like Mitchel and Rachel who want to share the gospel in foreign lands. We look forward to meeting them and helping them on their way!

Buddy Johnson

Collins' Corner

Independence. We all want it and often times can't get enough of it. We want to be able to do our own thing when we want and how we want. We don't want to have to answer to anyone for anything because, after all, we are doing our own thing!

Many times, we are not so different from the younger son in the parable that Jesus tells in Luke 15. Rules, expectations, and punishments are all things that we would like to avoid if we have the chance. The younger son here gets that, and so he leaves. He takes his inheritance and independence and runs with it. He's off to do his own thing. An inheritance typically comes after the parent dies, so we can assume that this son would rather his father be dead than alive! He was ready to get out! We know how that story finishes is though—he comes back. He attempts to apologize to his father because he knows he's done the wrong thing, he made a mistake. Have you ever noticed that so many, when they get full "independence", realize that its not exactly what they were expecting? Why is that? I think many times, we have a misunderstanding of what true independence really is.

Independence, especially for the Christian, is not the ability to be removed from all law, rule, authority, and punishment that exist. If this is the independence that we seek, we will come back lacking every single time. That may be a form of independence that we think we want, for a time. But it's not what we need. True, Christ-like independence is the ability to operate freely and lovingly within the responsibilities that the Lord places on us. The beautiful thing about a life spent pursuing Jesus is that we all have freedom and independence. We have the ability to make choices and decisions constantly that will impact us and those around us. We are free to love and serve in different areas of life.

Teens, what are some ways that you can take the independence that you have to love and serve your family and friends around you? How can you leverage the influence that you currently have in your life to bring others closer to Jesus?

Parents, what are some ways that you can help guide your teens closer to the Lord by allowing them to have different opportunities and responsibilities? How can you lovingly lead them towards Jesus while also training them to use their ability to discern in different situations?

Matt

Adult Bible Class

December 2016

Sunday A.M. Classes

Comparative Religions—Don Viar—College (215)

I John—Don Foy—20s&30s (214)

I Kings—Brian Carver—30s&40s (213)

II Corinthians—Bobby Lane—Library

Luke—John Rhodes—Fellowship Hall

I & II Timothy—John Mayher—Small Auditorium

Esther—John Mason—Room 114

James, I, II & III John—Laura Jackson—Ladies (115)

Wednesday Afternoon Class

Matthew: The Life of Christ—Bill Flatt—(115)

Wednesday P.M. Classes

Proverbs—Buddy Johnson—Main Auditorium

The Role of the Church—Joe Hill—Room 114

Qualifications of Elders and Deacons—

David Vaughn—Fellowship Hall

How Do You See the Church?—Bobby Lane—College 215

The Christian Woman's Walk—Delores Wheatley and
Wanda Jared—Library (Ladies)

News & Announcements



Joe Darrah, father of **Caroline and Susan Darrah**, is in Cookeville Regional, Room #456.

Borden Nettles, brother-in-law of **Morris Mabry**, is very ill and in his last days. Morris requests prayer for the family. They live in Franklin.

Morris & Ginny Mabry requests prayer for their daughter-in-law **Dana Mabry**, who will be having surgery Tuesday in Atlanta, to donate a kidney to her cousin.

Betty Medley has been readmitted at Cookeville Regional, in Room #431.

Neta Ford remains in Cookeville Rehab, Room #12, for therapy from a fractured hip.

Marilyn Scott remains in St. Thomas following surgery.

Frances Smith was dismissed Tuesday from the U. T. Hospital and is now recuperating at her home.

Leighton Sissom remains in Bethesda in Room #111.

Prayer requests for **Rita England**.

Sympathy to the family of our **Rebecca Bean** who passed away at her home on Friday. Her funeral was held Monday.

Sympathy to **Beverly Manley** on the death of her mother **Mary McAfee**, who passed away Saturday morning in Somerset, Kentucky. Visitation will be at the Pulaski Funeral Home in Somerset Friday, December 16 at 12:00 noon until time of the service at 1:30pm EST.

Those who are dealing with cancer:

Kathy Adams, Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Myron Anderson, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Rene' Canfield, Karma Carter, Joy Carter, Walter Fitzpatrick, Jeremy Fortner, Nathan Goolsby, Anthony Hammock, Tim Jennings, Dave Leaf, Angela Leffew, Rhett Massey, Buddy Morgan, Paula Palk and Jan Shepherd

Our Shut-Ins

Bethesda: Jan Shuster, Leighton Sissom, Cornelia Steakley & Lyda Taylor

Heritage Pointe: Peggy Cooper and Wilma Hayes

NHC Healthcare: Evelyn Solt & Aletha Tino

His Place: Lyman Schroeder

Signature Health-Algood: Kathy Anderson

At Home: Hugh & Kathy Adams, Herman & Becky Bean, Sue Clack, Matilda Craighead, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Geneva Glasgow, Ralph Medley, Pat McCanless, Opal Nichols, Claudine Smith, Marty Smith and Jordan Terry

Thank you **Chuck & Sarah Johnson** for sharing your lovely poinsettias with us and making our auditorium beautiful.



30s & 40s Christmas Party:

It's Finally Here!

This Saturday night is our Annual Christmas Party at Nick's Restaurant, beginning at **6:00pm.**

No "Dirty Santa" this year. Instead, we are doing a monetary donation to the Gatlinburg Church of Christ. If you would like to donate but cannot attend the party, please see **Leah Milton** or **Stacey Bennett.**

Young-At-Heart: Be watching the board for a sign-up sheet to the Branson Show Tour Extravaganza that will take place **May 7-13.** We have a very short amount of time to register and pay. More details later. **Donnie**

College Graduates: Please let the church office know if you are a December graduate. We need your degree and college attended.



Address Change: **Wanda Howse**, 790 State Street, #D1, Cookeville, 38501.

New Year's Eve Singing will be at Herren's Chapel Church of Christ at 7PM. Refreshments will be served at the break.



MAGI UPDATE: December items are coloring books, cars, trucks, paddle balls and fashion dolls.

Christian Service Group: Leaders for the month of **December** are **Jim & Marian Dale.** Assisting are **David & Laura Fox** and those with **last names beginning** with the **Letters K, L, M, N, O, P and R.**

BIRTHDAYS



December 25-31

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 25 - June Farris | 27 - Sylvia Tackett |
| 25 - Rod Lewis | 27 - Shane Wheeler |
| 25 - Judi Williams | 28 - Bob Farris |
| 26 - Don Thrasher | 28 - Lisa Rhodes |
| 27 - Clarence Anderson | 31 - Charlie Moore |



Say a good word for Jesus this week!

Church of Christ
521 S. Jefferson Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501

Web Site: <http://www.jacoc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonAvenueCOC>

<u>Sunday, December 11, 2016</u>	
Bible Class.....	302
Sunday Morning.....	554
Sunday Evening.....	207
Wednesday Night.....	293
Contribution.....	\$14,612
Church Office.....	931-526-4605
Information Line.....	931-528-1006
Fax Line.....	931-520-8708
Mother's Day Out.....	931-260-7861
Email	
Church Office (Mary).....	info@jacoc.org
Church Office (Carol).....	carol.hart@jacoc.org
Buddy Johnson.....	buddy@jacoc.org
Matt Collins.....	mattc@jacoc.org
John Mayher.....	john.mayher@jacoc.org
Bo Perez.....	bo@jacoc.org
Mother's Day Out.....	laura.fox@jacoc.org
Service Schedule	
Sunday Bible Study.....	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning.....	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study.....	6:30 PM

<u>DEACONS (cont.)</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Phillip Burr	Glenn Binkley
Brian Carver	Jann Cupp
Randy Chaffin	Doug Fowler
Ken Clark	Don Foy
Jim Dale	*Bobby Lane
Jason Fowler	John Mason
Chad Gilbert	John Rhodes
Seth Gilbert	Leighton Sissom
Jim Hicks	*Chairman of Month
Chuck Lankford	
Bryan Limer	MINISTERS
Bob Mackie	Buddy Johnson
Ken Mayes	<i>Pulpit Minister</i>
Brian McDaniel	Matt Collins
Andy Milton	<i>Youth Minister</i>
Dean Olson	Bo Perez
Jimmy Patterson	<i>Hispanic Ministry</i>
Dave Piggott	John Mayher
Gaylon Presley	<i>Visitation Minister</i>
Bud Simpson	DEACONS
Pete Story	Jason Bennett
Don Viar	William Birdwell
Donnie Westbrook	Sam Brown



December

Winter Break 21—Jan 3

Opry Mills—22

JANUARY 2017

13-15: EU—(max 15; \$50ea)

