

# Announcements and Church News

## Our Stik

John Benson— hip replacement surgery went well; Mattie Simmon's— healing from a fall; William McRoy— not feeling well; Pat Ledford— has shingles; Les Vasterling— recovering/hip surgery; Wayne Bishop— for covid; Willie Mae Hooks— health issues; Tim Miller—doing better; Shirley Lydic—doing better; Ronnie Sommerville, Jr.— cancer trmt; Delia Schlachter back issues; Teresa Broyles cancer treatment; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Guery & Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;

Lexie Cahill's— mom Kelly surgery went well; Miolly Burgess's—daughter, Carrie/needs kidney transplant; The Herman's son, Jared/broken hip; John Core's—father/health issues; Dottie Curls—son Douglas/health issues; The Adam's—granddaughter Trinity; Jackie Clark's mother Dorothy and grandmother Gayle/health issues; Patrick Pinto's—sister Angelina and nephew Joshua need prayers; Lexi Cahill's—grandfather/lung cancer & prayers for mom Kelly and brother Jacob; Carol Untied's—stepmom Emily/shoulder issue and son Matthew health issue; Paula Davis—friend Tracey; Carol Mitchell— tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles'—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/lupus; Darrell Broking—for health issues.

### PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dy-ianna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; John Benson's friend, Wendell; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Linda Hadsock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Mattie Simmons brother Joe Hooks and friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Pete Pepjess and Marie Woleck.

**INMATES:** Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

**OUR SERVICE MEN:** Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

**SHUT INS:** Delia Schlachter, Joyce Stanley and Guery & Nancy VanWinkle

## Activities

**NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS**— Friday, October 20th at 1:00pm in the small building. All ladies are invited, see Vicki Herman with questions.

**NEXT MEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE CLASS**— Thursday, October 19th in the small building from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. See Van Stewart with any questions.

**GOSPEL MEETING**—Our Fall Gospel Meeting with Wade Webster begins today through Thursday October 5th. We will have a fellowship dinner today immediately after the morning service. If you are visiting with us today, please stay and join us.

**SYMPATHY**— Our deepest sympathy is extended to Kelly Sarver and family for the loss of her father-in-law, Don Sarver on September 24th.

Our deepest sympathy also to William McRoy and family for the loss of his aunt, Phyllis Sealy of Blakely, GA on September 24th. Please remember these families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

**FOYER TABLE**—The latest issue of the Christian Courier just arrived and is on the table in the foyer. Pick up a copy today.

**CD'S**— Our Gospel Meeting with Wade Webster will be available on CD. If you would like a copy for yourself or to share, please fill out a request form on the foyer table.

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

**Greeters**— Van/Dianne Stewart  
**Announcements**—Charles Broyles  
**Song Leaders**—Jesse Lancaster/Joe Bonelli  
**Scripture Readers**—Max Herman/Dennis Cuckler  
**Opening Prayer**—James George/Van Stewart  
**Lord's Table**—Mark Bernhardt  
**Closing Prayer**—Joe Bonelli/Rob Schlachter

## Birthdays This Week

Debbie Methvin— October 1st  
 Delia Schlachter— October 2nd



**GBN** Gospel Broadcasting Network  
<http://gbntv.org> YouTube  
<https://spiritualsword.org/>

**SEARCH** IN TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday YouTube  
 OF THE LORD'S WAY watch & hear Phil Sanders

**THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR** YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

**House to House Heart** [www.HouseToHouse.com](http://www.HouseToHouse.com)  
**FSOP** [fsop.net](http://fsop.net)

**Childhaven, Inc.** Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL  
[www.childhaven.com](http://www.childhaven.com)

**FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME** [www.christiancourier.com](http://www.christiancourier.com)  
[fairhavenchildrenshome.com](http://fairhavenchildrenshome.com)

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking  
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance  
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale  
 Czech Republic Missions —Tony/Heidi Orellana

**Elders:** Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles James George  
**Deacons:** Max Herman Van Stewart

**Preacher:** Charles Broyles  
 Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

**Gospel Meeting—Wade Webster**  
 October 1st—5th  
 Tell Us Plainly

**Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM**  
 The Bible  
**Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM**  
 Worship  
 John 4:23-24

*Fellowship Dinner after AM Worship*  
**Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM**  
 The Church  
 Matthew 16:18

**Monday—7:00PM**  
 Hell  
**Tuesday—7:00PM**  
**The Thief On The Cross**  
**Wednesday—7:00PM**  
**The Second Coming**  
**Thursday—7:00PM**  
 Salvation

All services are available!  
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**@centralcofc-clearwater**



### From the Preacher's Pen

## **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**

Wade Lee Webster

Jude wrote, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Jude saw the need to write the brethren and to exhort them to "earnestly contend for the faith" because of false teachers that had "crept in unawares." Jude could write this same letter to any host of congregations today. Let's notice three things these verses teach the Christian about "contending for the faith."

First, we see the **MANNER** in which we are to contend. Jude said we are to earnestly contend. The phrase "earnestly contend" is literally "to wrestle, strive, or agonize." The secular writers used these words to describe the intense effort that the athletes put forth to win the Grecian games of the first century. Paul, in comparing the Christian life to a race, used similar terminology (1 Cor. 9:24-25). Likewise, the phrase "earnestly contend" describes the intense efforts which are to characterize the faithful as they stand for the truth. We cannot give a half hearted stand for truth and fulfill this command.

The Lord has never been satisfied with those who are trying to remain in the middle between what's right and what's wrong. He condemned the Laodiceans for their lukewarmness and the congregations of Pergamos and Thyatira because they failed to stand against the false teachers that were among them (Rev. 3:14-16; 2:12-15,20). We must never be "ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

Second, we see the **MESSAGE** for which we are to contend. Jude said that we are to earnestly contend for "the faith." The phrase "the faith" stands for the system of faith that we have revealed for us in the New Testament. For example, in the book of Galatians we read concerning Paul, "But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed" (Gal. 1:23). Also, in the book of Acts we read that "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7).

As Christians, we are not to contend for just any religious doctrine, but, rather, we are to contend for what the New Testament teaches.

Third, we see the **MEN** with whom we are to contend. Jude wrote, "For there are certain men crept in unawares..." (Jude 4). Here, Jude told the brethren the men against whom they were to contend for the faith — false teachers. These false teachers were trying to turn "the grace of our God into lasciviousness." Jude wanted the brethren to stand up for the truth, which included standing against these false teachers.

After warning the brethren of the presence of the false teachers, Jude begins a lengthy description of the false teachers to help the brethren to be able to detect them (vs.8-16). Jude wanted these brethren to have the attitude that Paul expressed in the book of Gala

tians. Paul wrote, "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you" (Gal. 2:4-5).

We are not to harbor false teachers but rather to mark and avoid them (Rom. 6:17-18). False teachers may appear to be the ministers of righteousness, but they are in reality the ministers of Satan (2 Cor. 11:15). We must not support them in any way lest we become partakers of their evil deeds and suffer with them in their condemnation (2 John 9-11). Jude wrote the brethren to teach them the manner in which they were to contend, the message for which they were to contend, and the men against whom they were to contend. May we also heed Jude's words and stand against the false teachers of our day who are making "havoc of the church."

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## **WHY SHOULD WE NOT PRAY TO MARY?**

Todd Clippard

Colossians 3:17 teaches us to do all things in the name of Jesus. This means we must do things by his authority. You may recall in old TV shows where a policeman would say, "Stop in the name of the law!" He meant, "As a duly authorized agent of the law, I am commanding you to stop." The same goes for Colossians 3:17; we must only act by the authority of Jesus.

Jesus never gave authorization to pray to Mary. No apostle ever prayed to Mary or commanded others to do so. Jesus prayed to the Father (John 17), and taught His disciples to do the same (Matthew 6:9-13).

Jesus taught that our heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:8), this includes the necessities of life (Matt 6:32). In Matthew 7:11, Jesus said our heavenly Father gives good gifts to them that ask Him. James said the same (James 1:17). See also John 15:16; John 16:23; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 4:6-7; James 1:5; and 1 John 5:13-15. These passages, and many others, speak of praying to or making requests known unto God our Father.

No Bible passage gives us license to pray to Mary. In fact, there is no reference to Mary in the New Testament after Acts 1:14, where she is only mentioned as being present with the 120 disciples. She played no role of authority in the church, and any reverence directed toward her is the result of the doctrines of men (Matthew 15:7-9).

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- **Some want to serve God, but only as advisers.**
- **When you get to your wit's end, you will find God lives there.**
  - **To make a long story short, don't tell it.**
- **Some minds are like concrete—thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.**