

# Sunrise Christian Church

December, 2018 Family Newsletter

Called to Love God, to Learn to be like Jesus, and to Lead others to the saving knowledge of the cross.

## *The miracle of a birth*



*Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High-*  
Luke 1:30-31

With this profound announcement, God prepared to enter the world. Thus, near the end of his life, the Apostle John could testify: *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you”*- 1 John 1:1-3.

Have you ever wanted something so much that you could almost taste it?



Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary, the love of his life. So, with great delight he anticipated the day. But immediately following the angel’s announcement to Mary, she left to be with Elizabeth, extended family member.

Elizabeth was an older woman by this time, far beyond the age of conceiving. Yet God enabled her to bear a child- a son, who they were to name John.

Upon hearing of her own pregnancy, Mary journeyed to the “hill country” where Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah lived. Three months later, on her return home, Mary’s pregnancy became apparent to all. Joseph, her intended, must have been heart-broken, thinking there was another man in Mary’s life. Yet, because of his great love for her, he chose to divorce Mary “quietly.” In other words, he didn’t want to bring her condition to the attention of others. For in those days an engagement was legally as strong as was an actual marriage. And here his beloved was pregnant with a child that was not his. Yet, about time an angel appeared to Joseph, telling him: *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”*- Matthew 1:20-21.

And, speaking of angels.....



We like ours cute, innocent, and safe- tame even! But is this what they really are like?

No! says Scripture. Instead they are powerful spiritual (non-material) beings who at times are given a physical appearance. And they appear to us in the form of a man. And they nearly always invoke terror in those to whom they appear. Which is why they often bring the greeting, “Do not fear.”

Abraham saw angels when he met the three “men” going to investigate the wickedness of cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18&19). Moses saw an angel, this time in the midst of the burning bush (Ex. 3:2). And Daniel was rescued by an angel from the lions when he was forced to spend a night in the lion’s den (Dan. 6:22). In the New Testament, the priest Zechariah spoke with an angel who foretold that Zechariah’s wife would soon have a son (Lk. 1:11). And the virgin Mary spoke to an angel who brought her the good news of her pregnancy (Lk. 1:30-31). Later, Mary Magdalene saw angels when she visited Jesus’ empty tomb early that first morning (Jn. 20:12-13). Yet, the guards there fell in fear like dead men when they saw the angels descend to Jesus’ tomb (Matt. 28:4).

But not all angels are from God, for we’re warned that even Satan disguises himself as an “angel of light”- 2 Cor. 11:14.

Yet take courage- in speaking of God’s own angels, we’re promised this: *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation”*- Heb. 1:14.

## God's will in our lives



Have you noticed that following God is not always easy? Yet the virgin Mary gave us an example to follow. At a time when it could have cost her life to have been found pregnant but unmarried, Mary said this:

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.*

*He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and His descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors."*

By looking back at history, Mary realized that through her pregnancy God would fulfill all His promises to Israel. In the same way, when we realize that no matter what, God is also working through us to fulfill His promises, then we too can stand up to the pressure of the moment.

## Coming events:

\*Faithful Men men's breakfast- 7:30am, Saturday, Dec. 1 @ the church. Guest speaker.

\*SCC's Ladies Christmas Brunch- 9:30am, Saturday, Dec. 8, @ the church.

\*SCC's Christmas Dinner- Sunday, Dec. 16, immediately following our worship service

\*SCC's Movie Night- *The Christmas Carol*- 7pm, Wednesday, Dec. 19.

\*Christmas- Tuesday, Dec. 25

\* No Music practice or Bible Study on Dec. 26 and January 2.

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**"Teach us to number our days,  
That we may present to You a  
heart of wisdom"** - Ps 90:12, NASB.



SCC's Ladies' Christmas Brunch-  
Saturday, Dec. 8 @ 9:30am

*Reimagine the wonder of that very first  
Christmas morning.*

## Christmas fun



Just before Christmas, two young boys were spending the night at their Grandma's house. At bed time, they knelt down to say their prayers.

As they closed their eyes, one boy said in a very loud voice, "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Wii, a telescope and a new bike."

His older brother said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf."

"I know," said his brother, "but Grandma is."

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The judge asked the defendant what he was charged with.

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," was the reply.

"Well, that not illegal!. How early were you shopping?"

"Just before the store opened."

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How do you know Santa has to be a man?

Because no woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

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Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

'What denomination?' asked the clerk.

'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'OK, then give me 50 Methodist and 50 Baptists ones, please.'