



First Edition



December 2016

First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

Joy, Hope, and Help

By Pastor Marc Heinz

The past few months, as I have observed all the anger, angst and fear in our nation, I have often found myself wondering where would I be without Jesus? I don't know about you, but I can't even begin to imagine what it would be like to live on this planet, had He not come! Fortunately, He did come and it is my hope that later this month you will be celebrating His birth, His incarnation, and His incredible love for you!

When I was a kid I never wanted Christmas to end. If I could have had my way, every day would have been Christmas. I bet some of you felt the same way!

In Luke 2:8-10 we read:

"In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people"

These verses remind us that the announcement of Jesus Christ's birth was good news. In fact this announcement that the Messiah and Savior had been born was good news for all of mankind and it was intended to produce tremendous joy. His coming brought hope and help to our fallen and broken world!

The good news is that what was true at the time of the angels' announcement is just as true, just as significant today. Moreover, this reality can and should be producing great joy in the life of every believer! In a very real sense everyday can be Christmas, because the heart of Christmas is the fact that a Savior has been born. My friends, we shouldn't need a holiday to remind us of God's great gift, especially when we recognize that this is a never-ending gift. If we live in the reality of God's gift and His love we can find great joy wherever we are and in whatever we do.

No matter how much we may love Christmas, Jesus Christ is the only reason for this special holiday. Therefore what we ought to focus on and celebrate December 25 is the good news that God's love and His ultimate plan of salvation were revealed in the birth of His Son Jesus. Love provided a way for us to be delivered from our sin. Love stepped into the picture and provided a gift, Jesus, God's only begotten Son, "That whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

As we celebrate His birth may we remember the hope that is ours because He lives! May your Christmas be blessed in a multitude of ways by Him who is worthy of all our praise! Have a joyous Christmas and New Year!

Women's Fall Luncheon

The New Year - in November? Yes! On November 19, the women of FBC gathered together in the chapel to not only express their gratitude to God but to think ahead to the New Year. The ladies arrived to see the chapel beautifully decorated by Tami Strang. Stenya Strang greeted all who came. After an opening prayer and time of fellowship led by Candace Heinz, we enjoyed worship led by Janet White and Mara Prieto. Following worship was the presentation. The presentation was entitled, "One Word".

Sandy Murray, the speaker, gave a brief testimony about how this short, simple devotional had deeply impacted her walk with God in 2016. Then she explained the 3 steps involved and challenged each lady to ask the Lord if they should do the same in 2017.

After spending some time individually seeking the Lord, we were served lunch by Tim Dufficy and several of the men. We are so grateful for their ministry as it frees up the ladies to participate in all the different aspects of the luncheon without being distracted. We will be meeting some time in January to follow through on those whom the Lord has led to participate.

God's presence was felt by all at the luncheon. Our verse from the Lord for Women's Ministries is the same this year as in 2016. It is:

Psalms 81:10 "I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."

He certainly did fill it with His Presence.

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”—John 17:24

Why did Jesus come?

There are many reasons, and many things He accomplished. But what is right there at the top? What was most important to Him and therefore should be for us?

Lately the Lord has been sharpening our focus on His great purpose for our lives and subsequently for us as a church. And while there are many biblical truths that scripture reveals explaining Jesus purpose in coming, the LORD has been drawing our attention to what seems to be emerging as the most important reason for everything. While expressing His love, mercy, grace, justice, holiness are critical factors, they all seem to point to the greatest aspect of God, and to which we need to be seeking above all others. Through each Sunday morning message and Wednesday night lesson, the LORD has been drawing our attention to this great purpose and Pastor Marc has been clarifying this focus for us.

For the last several years I have been reading a 25 day devotional for Advent that has been so powerful and inspirational. In the introduction for this devotional John Piper highlights this greatest of all purposes so well.

“What does Jesus want this Christmas?”

“We can see the answer in his prayers. What does He ask the Father for? His longest prayer is John 17. The climax of His desire is in verse 24.

“Among all the undeserving sinners in the world, there are those whom God has “given to Jesus.” These are those whom God has drawn to the Son (John 6:44, 65). These are Christians—people who have “received” Jesus as the cruci-

fied and risen Savior and Lord and Treasure of their lives (John 1:12; 3:17; 6:35; 10:11, 17–18; 20:28). Jesus says he wants them to be with him.

“Why does Jesus want us to be with him?”

‘... to see my glory that You [Father] have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.’

“I’ve heard people in the world say that God created us because He was lonely. But we can clearly see here that Jesus is not lonely. He and the Father and the Spirit are profoundly satisfied in the fellowship of the Trinity. We, not He, are starving for something. And what Jesus wants for us is for us to experience what we were really made for—seeing and savoring His glory.

“Oh, that God would make this sink in to our souls!

“Jesus made us (John 1:3) to see His glory.

“Just before He goes to the cross He pleads His deepest desires with the Father: ‘Father, I desire [I desire!] that they ... may be with me where I am, to see my glory.’

“Then, once we’ve experienced His glory what comes as a result is wonderful. What He wants is that we not only see His glory but savor it, relish it, delight in it, treasure it, love it? Consider verse 26, the very last verse:

“‘I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.’

“That is the end of the prayer. What is Jesus’ final goal for us? Not that we simply see His glory, but that we love Him with the same love that the Father has for Him: “that the love with which you [Father] have loved me may be in them.” Jesus’ longing and goal is that we see His glory and then that we be able to love what we see with the same love that the Father has for the Son.

And He doesn’t mean that we merely imitate the love of the Father for the Son. He means the Father’s very love becomes our love for the Son—that we love the Son with the love of the Father for the Son. This is what the Spirit becomes and bestows in our lives:

“Love for the Son by the Father through the Spirit.

“What Jesus wants most for Christmas is that His elect be gathered in and then get what they need most—to see His glory and then savor it with the very savoring of the Father for the Son.”

John Piper -

“Good News of Great Joy”

What an incredible truth. What God wants most is for us to see and experience His glory. The amazing thing we learn from this, is that once we’ve experienced His glory through drawing near to Him, we are so impacted and changed that we fall more deeply in love with Him and want to direct everyone’s attention to Him in that same way. Everything else will fall into place in peoples lives if they can just experience Jesus’ glory resulting in great love for Him.

This month, the worship ministry is together going through another one of Piper’s Advent devotionals. If you’d like to go through this with us, come by the choir room and pick one up. It is my hope that we truly SEE the glory of God by looking intently at Jesus Christ in all His splendor and glory through the insight, wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. Not only so we would have an impactful Christmas, but that our very lives would be transformed and changed by His incredible love.

‘For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God displayed in the face of Jesus Christ.’ 2 Corinthians 4:6

Christmas Day on Sunday!

**Begins with a Hot Chocolate Bar
at 9:30 a.m.
Then, a Combined Service
at 10:00 a.m.**



FBC YOUTH Service Sunday Mornings 11:00 - 12:15 pm

Our teaching direction for our Sunday youth group meeting is focusing on "Exploring God's Word" and how we fulfill His purpose for us in our lives as the church.

FBC YOUTH Mid-Week

Combed CAD and TNT (High/Jr. High) - Tuesday Nights 6:30-9:00 pm (no Thursday nights)

Our teaching direction for our mid-week youth group meeting is focusing on "Walking with the Lord" in our lives.

Youth Guyzzz Bible Study - Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

We're studying through the book of Philippians and looking at how a Christian makes decisions and where strength for life comes from.

December Tuesday Youth Events

Dec. 6 @ 6:30-9:00pm

Starbucks and Christmas Light Viewing

Dec. 13 @ 6:30-9:00pm

Ice Skating, Central Park - \$15 per person

Dec. 20 @ 7:00-9:00pm

Christmas Party (Bring a wrapped <\$5 gift)



A HUGE THANKS TO ALL

God's 70 years of faithfulness to First Baptist Church is being celebrated and part of the celebration is the gift of the oval plaque. Sixteen people worked with me to bring glory and thanks to Him and here are the names of these faithful servants: Doug Andrews, Tim, Janine and John Dufficy, Norma Hinderlie, Skip Hoard, Krystal Kotter, Sandy Murray, Caitlin Neciuk, Becky, Lily, and Laurie Olson, David Shong, Stenya Strang, Cathy Thomas, and Maxine Yip. They rolled the slabs, cut the ovals, formed the edges, painted, carved, did calligraphy, and hauled heavy boards holding all the pieces back and forth from the church to my studio.

And thank God with me for His help and seeing it through to the finish in the kiln. I'd still be working on this if you hadn't pitched in!

Love and appreciation, Doris Waddell

A Letter from Ron Walters

Good morning,

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears.” (Hebrews 5.7)

Physiologists love to dissect that verse, explaining that a human’s cries and tears are “a complex secretomotor phenomenon characterized by the shedding of protein laden fluids from the lacrimal apparatus that both cleans and lubricates the eyes.”

Thanks. That’s really helpful as if I wanted a medical journal!

But to those of us in the people business, sequestered behind a door labeled Pastor’s Office, tears are more than a lubricant. They’re the visual sign of heartbroken people dealing with uncontrollable reality. And, more times than not, the tears are ours.

It’s amazing how much fluid can come from those two small tear glands each about the size of an almond and sitting behind the upper eyelids. But once those babies let go, watch out!

Whereas we may be bashful about our tears, scripture isn’t. Page after page offers vivid pictures of our heroes who’d conquered their enemies, but not their emotions.

Biblical writers routinely used the words pray and cry interchangeably because one usually led to the other. And the words are typically saddled with emotionally charged modifiers like distress, joy, doubt, confidence, agony, triumph, and sorrow. At times, scripture even uses “cry” as a silent, unuttered emotion.

Truth be told, tears are a stock and trade in our work. We come from a long line of criers:

- The stress in David’s life brought so many tears that he asked God to fill a bottle with them as a memorial of his suffering. On another occasion he confessed to causing his couch to dissolve because of his constant weeping.

- God twice declared Job to be “blameless and upright.” Yet that didn’t stop the tears when the poor guy lost everything.

- It was Hezekiah’s tears that moved the heart of God to add fifteen years to the king’s life. And as an added bonus, God rid Jerusalem of the dreaded Assyrians.

-Jeremiah the weeping prophet, used his tears as sermon material. “My soul will sob and my eyes will bitterly weep if Judah does not repent of her sin.” And



By Cathy Thomas

God has been blessing the Awana ministry here on Wednesday Nights. He has brought new people to help, and faithful leaders have returned. Many of our own children and youth here at First Baptist are involved. God has blessed us with a Cubbies Leader, and that Club has 12 boys and girls from ages 3-5 attending. The Sparks Club (K-2nd Grade) has 26 children in attendance, the T&T Boys and Girls (Grades 3-6) have 20, and Trek and Journey (7th-12th Grades) has 13 students, making a total of 71 children and young people and 20 leaders attending the Awana Club this year.

Here are some comments from some of our children and young people here at First Baptist regarding why they enjoy Awana:

- Ronan Reyna – “I like the puppet show, the songs, and wearing my vest!”
- Sofia Corzantes – “I really like the games and learning about God, especially since everyone is so nice.”
- Emma Andrews – “I like playing the games and learning Bible verses.”

sure enough, they didn’t, and he did.

- Timothy, Paul’s young protege and heir apparent to his ministry, wept as he watched his mentor leave town, possibly seeing him for the last time.

And let’s not forget the Apostle Paul, another of the Bible’s chief sobbers. But it wasn’t the 39 lashes that brought the tears, nor was it the many beatings, or when he was left for dead having been stoned, or the three shipwrecks he endured. No, these were only, as Paul called them, “momentary, light afflictions.”

The thing that drove Paul to tears was people’s indifference to the things of God. He could never get over that. And therefore it shouldn’t surprise us that the Bible details Paul’s tears more than anyone else’s, telling the why of each occasion.

Paul was driven to tears:

-because false teachers were leading unsuspecting sheep to tumble hopelessly down a cliff.

-because immature churches had

● Abigail Jalilie – “I like memorizing the verses and seeing all my friends, plus spending my Awana Bucks at Store.”

● Laurie Olson – “Awana helps me learn verses from the Bible, and I want to learn more and more.”

● Adrian Corzantes – “I love to learn about God with my friends.”

● Lily Olson – “I like listening to the Sparks recite their Bible verses.”

● Nathan Olson - “I enjoy being with Christian friends.”

● Daniel Bjornson – “I like listening to the Sparks as they recite their Bible verses and helping them memorize.”

In November the Clubbers participated in collecting canned goods for the poor and needy in our area. Their many bags were delivered to our local Samaritan House who reported that they were almost completely out of these items, and this would help them be able to make up many bags for the needy at Thanksgiving.

Thank you for supporting the Awana ministry. We know that your prayers and helpfulness in many ways have made a difference

aligned with the ways of the world instead of conforming to the plumb line of Scripture.

-and, because lost souls didn’t know the love of God and forgiveness in Christ.

Paul knew what was important and what wasn’t. His tears told it all. The ministry wasn’t about him. It was about the Savior and those for whom Christ died. Anything less wasn’t tear-worthy.

At age 19, Charles Spurgeon was called to pastor the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. His powerful preaching developed the world’s largest congregation. But Spurgeon’s real power may have come from the many times he barricaded himself in his office weeping over his inadequacy for the task. Yet during his 36 years of preaching nearly 15,000 people came to know Christ.

Now that’s something to cry about.

Blessings,

Ron Walters

Senior Vice President

Ministry Relations

kfaxcommunity@SaleminteractiveMedia.com

Our Missionaries at Work From Alan and Audrey Dianich

Dear Friends,

During December, we will have several Christmas events to share the Gospel with international students. Please pray that the students will be touched by the Lord at these events.

We prayed for God to bring ten students from the Sacramento area to go to Cru's winter conference for international students in Daytona Beach, Florida, December 28th to January 1st. Because the price of air flights is so high, it looked like it would take a miracle to see any students register and purchase tickets. Thanks to many generous people, some scholarship money was made available to help with the costs. Praise God! Eleven students have purchased their tickets! The group going is very diverse: three from Africa, two from Vietnam, two from Europe, and others from China, Mexico, India and Japan. In addition to this group, one student who transferred from Sacramento to San Diego is bringing three of her non-Christian friends from China to the conference too. Thank the Lord with us that He answered our prayer! Pray that God would change the hundreds of international students from all over the USA who will attend the conference. Thank you!

(Updates about their family has been posted in the church office.)

Prayer Requests:

Pray that all the new believers would want to meet someone for follow-up Bible study.

Pray for God to use Christmas activities to touch students' lives with the Gospel.

Praise God for the miracle that students are going to the winter conference! Pray for the Lord to meet each of these students personally at the conference.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. (Luke 2:1-20)

Men's Monthly Breakfast

**December 3,
8:30 a.m.
in the Chapel.**

For ALL men.

Another Old Hymn:

By Doris Waddell

I enjoy singing from an old hymnal, but recently I've been reading and enjoying the words of those I don't remember having sung before. Here are a couple of verses of one of those:

Just for Today

Lord, for tomorrow and its need I do pray;

Keep me, my God, from stain of sin,
Just for today.

Let me no wrong or idle word unthinkingly say;

Set Thou a seal upon my lips,
Just for today.

In pain and sorrow's cleansing fires,
Brief be my stay;

O bid me, if today I die,
Come home today.

So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray,

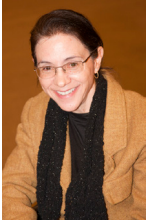
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord,
Just for today.



Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

**Special offerings for the month
of December will go for
Christmas Outreach.**

Thanksgiving Eve Services



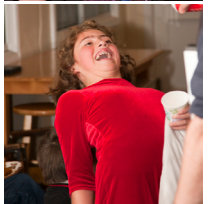
The joy of new friends



A lot FUN, a lot of FOOD! Amazing FELLOWSHIP, and THANKS TO OUR AMAZING GOD!



A son acting up!





A taste of whipped Cream!





December 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship	All Events Are Subject to Change.					8:30am Men's Breakfast 10am Christmas Decorating
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion		6:30-9pm FBC Youth To Starbucks and viewing Christmas Lights	6:30 pm Study of John 6:30 pm AWANA Class/Party for T&T Club Members 8pm Worship Rehearsal			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12:30 pm Children's Leadership Meeting		6:30-9pm FBC Youth Ice Skating at Central Park	6:30 pm Special Activity Rehearsal 8pm Worship AWANA resumes on January 4, 2017			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		7-9pm FBC Youth Christmas Party	7pm Carol Sing and Dessert Fellowship 8pm Worship Rehearsal			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day 9:30 am Hot Chocolate in the Chapel 10 am Combined Service						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Church Closed </div>						



First Baptist Church
2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Mateo, California 94403

Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

December

Thurs.	01	Galatians 1-3
Fri.	02	Galatians 4-6
Sat.	03	Ephesians 1-3
Sun.	04	Ephesians 4-6
Mon.	05	Philippians 1-4
Tues.	06	Colossians 1-4
Wed.	07	1 Thessalonians 1-5
Thurs	08	2 Thessalonians 1-3
Fri.	09	1 Timothy 1-3
Sat.	10	Timothy 4-6
Sun.	11	2 Timothy 1-4
Mon.	12	Titus 1-3
Tues.	13	Philemon
Wed.	14	Hebrews 1-3
Thurs.	15	Hebrews 4-6
Fri.	16	Hebrews 7-9
Sat.	17	Hebrews 10-13
Sun.	18	James 1-3
Mon.	19	James 4-5
Tues.	20	1 Peter 1-5
Wed.	21	2 Peter 1-3
Thurs.	22	1 John 1-3
Fri.	23	1 John 4-5
Sat.	24	2 John, 3 John, and Jude
Sun.	25	Revelation 1-3
Mon.	26	Revelation 4-6
Tues.	27	Revelation 7-9
Wed.	28	Revelation 10-12
Thurs.	29	Revelation 13-15
Fri.	30	Revelation 16-18
Sat.	31	Revelation 19-22

*Christmas Carol
Sing-along &
Dessert Fellowship
December 21st,
7:00 p.m.*

*Join us this Special
Wednesday Night to sing our favorite
carols,
and bring your favorite
Christmas Dessert to share.*