

THANKS TO ALL ...

for your gifts, kindness and generosity! The Christmas gift basket was exceptional—and we appreciate the monetary gifts.

Pastors Bob & Phylis

FAREWELL

Help us say goodbye to Dana, Linda, Mia, and Andrew on **December 28** as they make a move to a new congregation. We appreciate their valued contributions to JCC the past few years!

BRUNCH & BOCCE

Anyone not attending the Ladies Brunch is welcome to join us on **01/18/15** at **Pinstripes** following the service for **Brunch & Bocce!**

BAPTISM SUNDAY

TAKE THE NEXT STEP—GO PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH. HERE'S HOW:

BAPTISM CLASS, 01/11 @ 9:30 A.M.
BAPTISM SUNDAY, 01/25 @ 10:00 A.M.

Let Pastor Bob know you are ready to say **YES** to Jesus!

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.



Is This What You Call “Highly-Favored”?

PRAYER REQUESTS

■	Emma G.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Lily M.	▶ Dementia
■	Anabelle G.	▶ Lung Cancer
■	Andrew H.	▶ Health Issues
■	Noe F.	▶ Health Issues
■	Linda L.	▶ Health Issues
■	Elizabeth S.	▶ Health Issues
■	Maria A.	▶ Complete Healing
■	Kenny D.	▶ Skull Fracture
■	Trevor W.	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
■	Jim W.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Keith K.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Paul S. III	▶ Complete Healing
■	Peggy K.	▶ Health Issues
■	Kevin K.	▶ Surgery 12/30
■	Paul S.	▶ Surgery 01/08
■	Phyllis N.	▶ Breast Cancer

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Learn how to say ‘no’ to the good so you can say ‘yes’ to the best.”

-John Maxwell

12/21/14

METRICS
THAT MATTER

42

ATTENDANCE

\$1,531

GIVING

3

GUESTS

12

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

Is This What You Call “Highly-Favored”?



²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.” ³¹ *You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.* ³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

==== **Luke 1:28-31; 38** =====

The promises of God are “yes” and “amen”, meaning that God is faithful to fulfill them. He keeps his word! Today, we look at how we can respond to the Promise Giver—knowing that his word is sure.

Let’s look at the process through this Mary story.

1

God has favored me

Mary was chosen from among 42 generations.

- She was 16 years old.
- She was entrusted with heaven’s choice gift—God’s Son.
- By our standards, she was an unlikely candidate.

2

The angel left her

• She was given an angelic visitation, but there was never a follow-up visit.

- What happened on the signless morning—after the angel left?
- She resumed her daily life—how did that work out?
- 700 prophecies---7 covenants
- God trusted her with a lot of disappointment, abandonment, and sadness.

3

When God sets a miracle in your life in motion the most common thing that happens is nothing

Noah

- Built an ark
- Took 120 years to build
- Boarded with his family
- Took animals as well

Abraham

- Promised a son
- Called out of Ur
- Waited over 20 years
- Told to go to the Promised Land

Joseph

- Saved an entire nation
- Sold by his brothers
- Sent to Egypt
- Falsely accused

Moses

- Called to be a deliverer
- Spends 40 years in Midian
- Sent to the best schools in Egypt

Is this what you call “highly-favored”?

Can you be trusted with the pain, the loneliness, and the chaos? If you only get one angelic visitation, can God count on you?

4

The Promises of God must be carried “full-term”

- Mary did. She withstood the gossip. The accusing looks.
- Even her fiancé thought about divorcing her privately.
- She carried her “promise” full-term. Can you?

⁵Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope.