

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2015

### THE BIG PICTURE

*1 Corinthians 13:12 "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."*

While spending time at a Birmingham hospital I would often stand and look out a large glass window overlooking a circular parking lot. I was high enough to see the entire area and could tell where the vacant parking spaces were. Time and again I would watch cars drive through the circle in search for a space only to drive away again to park in another area. I wanted to tell them they were wasting their time but of course, they had to find out for themselves. Their view was limited to just a few feet in front of them. Similarly, God sees us and our lives in their entirety but we can see only the small portion in front of us much like the people searching for a parking space. If they only knew what I knew - if we only knew what God knows. But we do not, by design, as the apostle Paul wrote, "We can only see dimly now and we must trust that God sees the big picture and in His love and compassion is working things out for our good." (Romans 8:28) The people looking for a parking space probably never saw the big picture, but we can be encouraged that someday we will see clearly and understand what God's big picture for our lives looks like. When what you see right in front of you is discouraging, take heart; God sees it all and He has a plan unfolding for your life.  
- Jan Niel, Director of Prayer Ministry

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 10, 2015

### APTRONYMS

*Isaiah 9:6*

I learned a new word last year called aptronym. It is a name that matches the occupation of the character of its owners. In other words, an aptronym occurs when what a person is named also describes what they do. Here are some real aptronyms. Dan Druff – barber; Prince Fielder – baseball player; Sally Ride – astronaut; Robert Coffin – undertaker; Russell Brain – neurologist; Sue Yoo – lawyer; James Bug – exterminator. In Isaiah 9, the prophet prophesied the birth of Jesus. He gives four names to the Messiah that are, in a way, aptronyms because the names describe the character and mission of the Messiah. He is the wonderful counselor. Jesus has all knowledge and all wisdom and all insights. Some people give you advice and opinions. Jesus gives you the truth. He will never steer you wrong. He is also a Mighty God. As a Wonderful Counsellor, Jesus will tell you what is right, and as a Mighty God, he will empower you to do what is right. He is Everlasting Father. That phrase literally means one who cares for his children forever. As an Everlasting Father, he will always be there for you and will never leave you. He will always love you and provide for you and always take care of you. You are safe in his hands forever. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Where he resides, there is peace. Some folks bring chaos to your life. Jesus brings peace; peace with God and the peace of God. Ponder the wonderful names of Jesus as you journey to Christmas day. - Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 11, 2015

### THE SIN VIRUS

*Luke 2:11 "11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

The name Jesus literally means Jehovah saves. In Jesus' job description, the angel listed only one task, to save people from their sins. Some people don't believe they are sinners. Some people believe they are just morally challenged, or dysfunctional or things can be fixed psychologically and that given the proper education, circumstances and care that somehow moral virtue will replace bad behavior. For people who do not believe in a final judgment or accountability or heaven or hell, there is no need of a savior. Jesus is a fine moral example; a great teacher. But, that's not what Christmas is all about. Jesus came to save people from their sins. Think about it this way. When winter hits, people get sick and viruses knock them down. Every now and then, a virus will infect a computer and mess it up from the inside. So we try to protect our bodies and computers from viruses. But, there is a worse virus. It's a virus that affects 100% of people. The symptoms of the virus are everywhere – divorce, child abuse, lying, stealing, injustice, prejudice, cheating, racism, family feuds, unforgiveness, money worship, and the killing of babies. You can throw laws, education and money trying to fix that virus but it will never work, because here's the deal; it is a sin virus, a heart issue. Unless the sin virus is healed, it will continue to destroy lives in this world. There is good news. A cure has been found for sin. God sent the cure in a baby named Jesus. If you recognize your sins and confess your sins and repent of your sins and turn to Jesus, he will save you from your sins and save you for life now and forever.  
- Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12, 2015

### PEOPLE OF LOVE

*John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

I read the following quote in a book entitled "Love Does" by Bob Goff, "I learned that fully loving and fully living are not only synonymous but the kind of life that Jesus invited us to be a part of." We live in a world where the word "love" is thrown around in many different contexts and places. Throughout the study of the life of Jesus, one can clearly see that love is an action. A genuine life of love for God and love for others has the greatest opportunity to impact the world where we live. A commentator said, "Love must become the dominant quality of life, the root of your existence, the foundation on which all else rests." A couple questions to think about today are, "Is my life characterized by love for God and love for others? When people see me, do they see a person of love?" The obvious truth is that genuine love that leads to an action is hard. Some people are Auburn fans and others Alabama fans, some people get on your nerves, and other people are just not fun to be around. A great truth to remember from God's Word is that God will work out the action of love through us as we surrender to Him. May we be people of love as we go throughout our day today!  
- Chase Faulk, Youth Minister

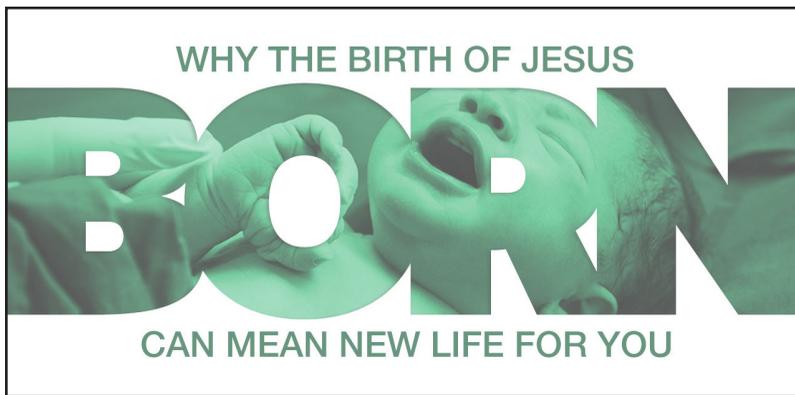
## CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - DECEMBER 6, 2015

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

**FRAZER**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6000 ATLANTA HWY. MONTGOMERY AL 36117  
FRAZERUMC.ORG • 334-272-8622



**SET LIST**

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)” ..... by Chris Tomlin  
 “Alive” .....by Hillsong Young and Free  
 “Forever Reign” .....by Hillsong United

**SERMON NOTES**

**JOY IS BORN**

**Christ in Who?**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! “ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel told her, “for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” - Luke 1:26-33 (NLT)

**Christ in You**

Mary asked the angel, “But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin.” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God...

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

...What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s already in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.” And then the angel left. - Luke 1:34-38 (NLT)

**Christ in Us**

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “You are blessed by God above all other women, and your child is blessed. What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me! When you came in and greeted me, my baby jumped for joy the instant I heard your voice! You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.” - Luke 1:39-45 (NLT)

**Christ in Joy**

Mary responded, “Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and now generation after generation will call me blessed. For he, the Mighty One, is holy, and he has done great things for me. His mercy goes on from generation to generation, to all who fear him. His mighty arm does tremendous things! How he scatters the proud and haughty ones! He has taken princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. And how he has helped his servant Israel! He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful. For he promised our ancestors -- Abraham and his children -- to be merciful to them forever.” - Luke 1:46-55 (NLT)

— **Rev. Brandon Dasinger**

Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions  
 Bdasinger@frazerumc.org • 334-495-6388  
<http://transform.frazerumc.org/category/missions/>

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV, online at [frazerumc.org/media](http://frazerumc.org/media) or download the podcast at [frazerumc.org/podcast](http://frazerumc.org/podcast). You may also order a CD of today’s service at the Connection Point desk.

MONDAY

DECEMBER 7, 2015

**PEOPLE OF PRAYER**

*Acts 4:31, “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”*

As children growing up, we do not have to learn to beg and plead with our parents for certain things. If I wanted that new baseball glove, I told my mom and dad that desire as many ways as possible. All over the Bible we see God’s people praying and pleading to him for many different things. In Acts 4, we see the believer’s prayer after Peter and John have gone before the Sanhedrin for preaching the Gospel. This prayer brings a few characteristics that all should seek to be obedient in when praying: 1) Pray Honestly, 2) Pray Boldly, and 3) Pray in All Things. The early church sought the Lord in all things through a bold and honest prayer. The neat thing to see through this scripture is the results of their prayer. The Bible tells us that the place shook and God used them greatly! May you and I today seek the Lord in such a way through prayer that our world is shaken and changed!

- Chase Faulk, Youth Minister

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2015

**TRUE BLESSINGS-LESSONS FROM CUBA**

*Acts 20:35 “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

A couple of weeks ago I went to Cuba on a mission trip. We have a great partnership with a Methodist Church in Guanabacoa. We visited and played with some of the kids at the Mission Churches. We held training seminars for lay people and several of us had the opportunity to preach. We also saw the progress on the sanctuary our church is helping to build. The trip was amazing, and my mind is still trying to process all that I learned. It was great meeting with the Cuban pastors and seeing their desire to spread the gospel. Most people do not have transportation so most of the people walk miles to get to their churches. Their example has challenged me and my own desire to learn. This trip also clarified my own calling in life to... *Seek God’s Presence; Preach the Gospel; Serve the least of these; Be a voice for the voiceless.*

Obviously my life includes numerous other elements. Having a calling does not mean I stop changing diapers and washing dishes (*although it would be great if it did*). But I’m beginning to realize that God is pulling my heart into different places. He is giving me opportunities to serve in ways that stretch me. This can be hard at times, but I pray for more. I see a reoccurring theme in my own life: my greatest joys come through service and sacrifice. Whenever I live for something bigger than myself, I gain a greater intimacy with Christ. Mission trips always remind me that our true blessing is always found in blessing others.

- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/Teaching/Missions Pastor