



Woodland Hills

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HERALD

Sunday, December 4th 2022

Volume 66, Number 47

Notes From The Preacher's Desk....

There are two things I'd like to bring to the congregation's attention.

Firstly, I want to thank the Ladies Sunday Morning class for their help in preparation of my sermon series on the women in Jesus' genealogy. A month and a half ago I asked them to reflect over those women, study their stories, and offer feedback to me. I was specifically interested in how women today view the stories of women in the Bible; their perspective picks up aspect of the stories that I would gloss over. Our ladies class gave me wonderful points on Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. This is deeply helpful in order to gain a fuller picture of these great women of faith. I have mixed in many things they shared with me into the sermons.

Secondly, I am in the process of forming long term sermon plans for 2023, Lord willing. If there is a topic, verse, idea, or suggestion you have for sermons please get those to me asap. I would love to preach over things which you are interested in! -Matt

Elders

Ronald Barker Dick Holt
Mike Barrios Charles Mars

Deacons

Dan Amar Rafael Barrantes
Mark Hillis Jim Hubbert
Larry Knox Mark Mitchell
Ken Robison John Waddell
Keith Williams

Pulpit Minister

Matt Mitchell

Minister of Songs & Praise

Dennis Sangster

Missions

Malawi – Preacher Training
Baxter Institute, Honduras

Benevolence

AGAPE
Sunnybrook Children's Home
Hope Works
Fleming Tarpidu Institute, India

E-MAIL/WEB PAGE

info@woodlandhillschurch.com
www.woodlandhillschurch.com

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
AM Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m.
PM Worship Svc. 5:00 p.m.*
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
(Attended Nursery at all svcs.)

*No 5:00 p.m. service on the third Sunday of the month

Phones:

901-755-7709 (office)
901-755-7214 (fax)

AWAY FROM THE MANGER

Rick Owens

We are coming to the time of year when children begin to think about stockings hung by the chimney with care (if there are chimneys anymore), the perfect placement for the Christmas tree, and all sorts of things that go along with this coming holiday season. This is a fun time of year when many of us are able to reunite with family members that we may not have seen for most of the year, and enjoy the traditions of the season. However, many in the world view this time of year as a particularly religious time and mistakenly attribute the season to the birth of our Lord. History does not tell us the day or month that the Lord was born, but we do know that it couldn't have been anytime during the winter months because the shepherds were "abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). The greatest problem with a religious observance of Christ's birth is that the Holy Spirit never inspired a New Testament writer to command it to take place. He did, however, inspire the New Testament prophets to command us to observe the day of His death and resurrection from the grave (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Aside from the observance of the Lord's Supper, Paul condemned the celebration of religious days (Galatians 4:10-11).

Does that mean that one cannot observe a traditional secular holiday? No! Christians are permitted to observe those days as long as it is not made into a religious day. It is not mandatory to observe a secular holiday, but at the same time it is permissible to do so. The decision to observe or not to observe falls under the category of a scruple. Paul taught about scruples to the Corinthians and Romans; he said, "One man esteemeth one day above another, another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans 14:5). Similarly, he taught that if one was not able to, with a good conscience, eat meat that was once offered to an idol that they should not do it, but if one could eat the meat and not harm his conscience then that was acceptable as well (1 Corinthians 8:4-8). Since it is His death and resurrection that we are to celebrate, we need to be able to look at His life away from the manger, because it is there that we find the great blessings that He has given to the world. It was away from the manger that Christ achieved the success of His earthly mission.

Away from the manger he was baptized. In the Jordan River at the hand of his first cousin, John the Immerser, he fulfilled all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). His baptism was not for the remission of sins (1 P3e534 2:22), instead it fulfilled righteousness and was an example to His followers. His submitting to baptism showed the great importance that He place upon it. Away from the manger the Lord was the greatest preacher the world has ever known. He taught with those wonderful parables that we are blessed with today. He addressed the moral, political and religious problems of the day. He came preaching that the kingdom of heaven was about to come into existence (Matthew 4:17), and like John, He tried to prepare the people for its coming. Away from the manger Christ promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). (In order to build or to establish the church, Jesus the man, had to go to the cross and be the propitiation for man's sins (1 John 2:2). The promise He made to build His church was satisfied on the first Pentecost after His resurrection (Acts 2:1-47), and about three thousand people became the first members of the church of Christ. Away from the manger Jesus became the author of eternal salvation to those that believed and obey (Hebrews 5:9). All people need to understand that Jesus is not the eternal babe that lay in the manger. He is the eternal Word that became the Son and now resides in heaven at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33). It is acceptable to observe a Christmas celebration as a secular holiday, but it is not acceptable in the sight of God to set apart a holy day of observance when He has not authorized such a practice. We are not required to participate in any secular holidays, but we are required by God to observe the one day that He has commanded, and that day is the first day of every week (Acts 20:7).

OUR PRAYER LIST

Woodland Hills Members:

Stan Adams, Rhoda Amar, Ron Barker, Jim Brown, David Dement, Chris & Paige Essary, Osby Riley, Viktor Tretiakov, Louise VanSickel, Nancy Waddell

In Assisted/Senior Living or Homebound:

Stan Adams, Clemmie Allison, Wilma Barfield, Janet & Billy Brown, Jackie Greene, Pat King, Elaine Martin, Raymond McClendon, Mary Ann Morrison, Osby & Martha Riley, Clara Shipman, Linda Thompson, Mary Ann Watson

Family and Friends:

Jim Adams (Brother of Tom Adams), Kris Alexander (Sister of Julie Grantham), Aaron Cadden (Nephew of Dee Close), Eleanor Daugherty (Mother of Betty Barker), Jacqueline Ferrell (Sister of Ina Story), Phyllis Gilbreath (Sister of Judy Brown), Phil Hubbert (Cousin of Jim Hubbert), Kevin Knight (son of Debbie Knight), Donny Long (Bro-in-law of Diane Hinton), Archie May (Father of Kerwin May), Russell May (Uncle of Kerwin May), Debbie McCoy (Friend of Hintons), Leah Morgan (Daughter of Sharon Estes), Jessee Murah (Friend of Kerwin May), Keshia Owsley (Friend of Daphne Jenkins), Mark Paschall (Brother of Brenda Renner), Randy Pinckley (Brother of Robi and Rhonda), Misty Pinckley, Beverly Renner (Sister-in-law of Brenda Renner), Mike Robison (son of Barbara Rea and brother of Ken Robison), Tammy Roschell (Sister of Bill Estes), David South, Pat Thomas,

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

01 John Waddell
02 Jeffie Dacus
03 Robert & Pat King
03 Mark & Kerry
mittchell
12 - Linda Thompson
13 - Lesley Dacus
14 - Ron & Diane
Hinton
18 -Aysia Jenkins
18 - Donna Mars
19 Prince & Sylvie
Achu
19 - Spencer Dacus
25 - Donald Bennett
27 - Jim Hubbert

28 - Jim Brown
28 - Osby & Martha
Riley
29 - Ken Robison
29 - Ben & Samantha
Kurtz
30 - Bill & Sharon Estes
31 - Jim & Rhonda
Hubbert



YOGA CLASS SCHEDULE

December 17th at 1 pm – 1:45 chair yoga and 2:15-3:15 for mat yoga. Sign up sheet in the foyer.

TO SERVE THIS WEEK December 4

Welcome & Announcements::

Dan Amar

Opening Prayer:

Kenny Cox

Closing Prayer:

Keith Williams

Serve Communion:

Larry Knox, Chris Essary,

Jerry Brown, Jacob Maynard

AM Nursery: **Paige Essary/Nedra Robison**

5 PM Worship Service

Opening Prayer: **Ron Hinton**

Closing Prayer: **Mike Barrios**

PM Nursery: **Lynn Allison Tretiakov**

3rd SUNDAY LUNCHEON

For our 3rd Sunday luncheon in December (December 18th), we plan on having a “Chili/Soup/Dessert” meal. Please bring your favorite soup/chili/dessert and “fixins” to share pot luck style!

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Keith Williams and family in the recent death of Keith’s mother, Mary Jane Williams. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, November 23rd in Beech Bluff, TN.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Ron Hinton for stepping up to bat last Sunday to fill in for Dick Holt (sick) teaching the auditorium class and for preaching for Matt Mitchell who was also sick. Thank you so much Ron!

Thanks to so many of our men for preaching on Sunday evenings when Matt is away! Brother Barrantes, thank you for this past week’s sermon and a big thank you for Kenny Cox, Steve Grantham, Pat Patchell and Aaron Anderson for leading singing when Dennis is not available. What a loving and supportive church family doing what they can to help!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



Mark your calendar for an “Open House” at the home of Sharon Close on December 18th to begin at 6 pm. Please bring finger foods/desserts/etc. Always an enjoyable evening of fellowship/and singing!

WIDOWS LUNCHEON

Sharon Close is hosting a Widows luncheon at her home on Sunday, December 11th following our morning worship. Sharon has hosted this luncheon for many years and has graciously expressed her desire to host it at her home again this year.. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Sharon.

CALENDAR

December 4 -	9 AM Classes 10AM Worship 5 PM Worship
December 7 -	7 PM Wednesday Classes
December 11 -	9:00 AM Classes 10 AM Worship 11:30 Widow/Single Meal 5 PM Song Services
December 14	7 PM Wednesday Classes
December 18 -	9 AM Classes 10 AM Worship 11 AM Pot Luck 12:15 Devotional No 5 PM Open House at Close's
December 21 -	7 PM Wednesday Classes
December 25 -	No 9 AM Classes 10 AM Worship No 5 PM Worship
December 28 -	7 PM Wednesday Classes
<i>Happy New Year!</i>	
January 1 -	No 9 AM Classes 10 AM Worship No 5 PM Worship

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