

hope **one** God
 Lord Spirit body
 faith **family**
 baptism hope

January 11, 2015

12932 S. Elwood Ave. • Glenpool OK, 74033

Strong, Silent Type

ELDERS

Jesse Byers
 Bobby Hill
 Bill Path
 Keith Riggs

MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

Matt Caldwell,
 ASSOCIATE MINISTER,
 YOUTH & EDUCATION

James Hamilton,
 WORSHIP

Todd Khoury

BLDG. & GROUNDS

Bruce Rothell,

MISSIONS

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

Advent and Christmas have focused millions of hearts and minds around the world on the story of Jesus' birth as it is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Gabriel, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, the Magnificat, the birth of John, Nazareth, the census, Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, shepherds, jubilant angelic messengers, Jerusalem, the Temple, Simeon, Anna, a star, magi, Herod, the slaughter of the innocents, the flight to Egypt, the return to Nazareth; all of these people and places are woven into the tapestry of a timeless story that rests at the very foundation of our faith and at the heart of who we believe Jesus Christ to be.

Intentionally omitted (just to see if you would notice!) from the foregoing list of individuals who are integral to the narrative of the Savior's birth is someone who is present at nearly every turn in the story... Joseph of Nazareth.

It is somewhat surprising to discover just how little is revealed about Joseph in the Gospels. He is not mentioned at all in Mark, and is only mentioned in passing in the Fourth Gospel, where twice John records that people referred to Jesus as "the son of Joseph." Matthew and Luke, then, serve as our sole sources of information, limited though it is. For example, what is accepted as common knowledge about Joseph's occupation as a carpenter rests on a lone reference in Matthew 13:55. Still, the things which are revealed about him offer powerful insights into Joseph's faith and character and the vital role that he played in the unfolding drama of God ushering in salvation through Jesus Christ.

Carpentry would have demanded significant physical strength. The birth narratives similarly bear witness to Joseph's great strength of faith and character.

But, why refer to Joseph as the "silent type?" Because nothing from his lips is recorded in the Biblical text; nothing; not a word! We don't have a single, solitary quotation of anything Joseph said to Mary, the angelic messengers in his dreams, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, or the magi. What we do have, however, is a vivid portrait of love, faith, and commitment in action.

At whatever point Joseph learned of Mary's pregnancy, he simply could not accept her explanation of how there came to be an unborn child in her womb. What man would have believed her? In addition to her presumed guilt of sexual sin and her unfaithfulness to her betrothed, she was now compounding her iniquity with lies of the most outrageous and imaginative sort.

If Joseph were like every other man, then he was hurt, he was devastated, and he was angry. He felt completely betrayed by Mary. This had to be a deal breaker; he could not and would not marry

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 9:30 am
 Morning Worship Assembly 10:30 am
 Evening Worship & Classes 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 7:00 pm

Continued From Previous Page

her. Still, he loved her. Oh, how he loved her! He couldn't bear the thought of other people looking at her the way he now did. He couldn't expose Mary's pregnancy in such a way that would make her the object of scandal, accusation, condemnation, derision, and perhaps even punishment. He would annul their betrothal and send Mary away underneath the radar of public scrutiny and scorn.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, verified Mary's account of her pregnancy, and instructed him to name the child Jesus when this son, Immanuel, was born (Matt 1:18-25). "And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him..." That's Joseph's M.O. Three more times (Matt. 2:13-14, 19-21, 22-23) God will communicate to Joseph via dreams and angels. Three more times Joseph will do precisely as the Lord directed him. He believes in the God of His fathers, He trusts the voice of the Lord, and submits his own wishes to the Divine will. Joseph is just an all around stand-up guy: a hard worker, a generous provider, faithful, committed, protective, compassionate, etc. As a subject of Rome, it is Joseph's compliance with the requirements of the census that takes him and a very expectant Mary on what must have been an arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. In keeping with the covenant of his fathers, He has Jesus circumcised on the eighth day (Luke 2:21), and gives him the name Jesus, just as Gabriel had instructed Mary and as he himself had been celestially directed in his dream. Also in keeping with the requirements of the Law of God, Joseph offered sacrifices at the Temple in the Jerusalem when Mary's postpartum purification had been completed (Luke 2:22-38).

After protecting his family in Egypt and ultimately returning to Nazareth, Joseph led his family (which including four sons and at least two daughters subsequently born to him and Mary) in devotion to God. He taught his trade of carpentry to Jesus (Mark 6:3). Joseph ensured that the entire family made an annual pilgrimage from Galilee to Jerusalem for Passover (Luke 2:41). As an adult, Jesus' custom of being in the synagogue every Sabbath (Luke 4:16) surely could be traced back to the way he and the rest of his earthly family had been led in habits of faith by Nazareth's resident carpenter.

What did Joseph say to Mary when he learned of her pregnancy? How did he humbly and profusely apologize to her after the truth of Mary's story was confirmed by the angel? What words and instruction did he routinely impart while raising Someone Else's son in such a way that he grew in strength, stature, wisdom, the grace of God, and both divine and human favor? Perhaps one day we will know.

Though somewhat overlooked because he is not granted a speaking part in the inspired Christmas pageant, Joseph most certainly occupies a prominent place in the cloud of witnesses who have preceded us in faith, known not for what he said, but for what he so consistently and faithfully did.

Joseph provides an example of faith that I desire to follow. If God communicated with me through an angel in a dream and told me what He desired for me to do, I would like to believe that I, like Joseph, would immediately respond as directed. What if God just wrote it down for me?

by Tim Pyles

upcoming
work dinners
events fellowship
meetings
retreats picnics games parties

Sunday, Jan 11th

Elder's and Deacon's meeting at 3:30
Tulsa Area Wide Youth Rally at 29th & Yale

Sunday, Jan 18th

Chili Cook-off after evening services, group Hill is responsible for set/clean up

Sunday, Feb 8th

Elder's and Deacon's meeting at 3:30

Sunday, March 8th

Tulsa Area Wide Youth Rally -- here!

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Steve Wetzels co-worker, Bill Taylor, has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. They are asking for prayers for Bill and his family (he has very young children at home).
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear; David Guten (Afghanistan);
- **Our friends and family:** Suzanne Stamps; Sue Gilbert (Leasa's mother); Jeannene Thomas (cancer); Barbara Vaughan; Eric Vaughan (heart); the Mulkey family; Larry Isaacs (chemo); Bryant Calip (chemo); Maggie Ryan (cancer); Daniel Cessor (cancer); James Hultman (cancer); Maile Reedy (kidney transplant); Darcy Ives (cancer); Jerry O'Shields, Bob Simmons, & others.

MEETING

An Elder's and Deacon's meeting today at 3:30.

CHILI COOK-OFF

A Chili Cook-off is planned for Sunday, Jan 18th after evening services. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the old foyer for those who would like to compete. If you do not wish to compete you can bring soup, sandwiches or desserts or other ideas are listed on the sign up sheet. Come and join the fun. Group Hill is responsible for setting up and cleaning up. For questions see Shirley Hill, Deb Path, Nancy Riggs or Becky Byers.

CUT IT OUT

If you would like to help cut out teaching material for the teacher's supply room please see Karen Brown.



Caleb Hallsted and can say the first verse of the Bible! And **Reid Figueiredo** can say the 5 Acts of Worship! Great work you guys!

AREA WIDE YOUTH RALLEY

The youth are invited to attend the Area Wide Youth Rally at 29th & Yale today. You will leave our church building at 3:00 and return about 7:30. See Matt Caldwell for questions.

DEACON

Todd Khoury has been installed as a new Deacon in charge of buildings and grounds. We look forward to working with Todd.

JOHN SHAFER

John Shafer will be leaving Jan 19th for his mission trip to India. He is asking for prayers on his behalf and for Jack McNeil, who will be traveling with him. We wish them a safe and successful trip.

BOX TOPS

Please consider collecting Box Tops for Hope Harbor Children's Home.

You can find them on a lot of different products including: Betty Crocker, cereal, Ziploc, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Scott... A complete list of products is posted on the bulletin board in the old foyer. When you have collected some just put them in the plastic bag on the bulletin board. Many Thanks!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Hannah Edwards, Jan 11	Misty Eichler, Jan 20	Doris Miller, Jan 28
Randy & Vickie Crawford, Jan 15	Ryan & Jennifer McCafferty, Jan 21	Penny Hall, Jan 28
Rita Risley, Jan 18	Billy Russell, Jan 22	Bayla Burrus, Jan 28
Chris & Leasa Mulkey, Jan 18	Kenley Yeager, Jan 23	Nancy Riggs, Jan 29
Jesse & Eleanor Phillippe, Jan 19	Savannah Caddell, Jan 28	Todd Khoury, Jan 29

GLENPOOL church of Christ

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Attendance: Last Week

Sunday Bible Classes	127
Sunday AM Worship	145
Sunday PM Worship	108
Wednesday Bible Classes	68

Contribution

Sunday Contribution	\$4,657.10
Budget	\$4,371.00
Over Budget	\$286.10
Building Fund	\$33,531.81

Men To Serve

Sunday Morning

Song Leader	Bobby Hill
Opening Prayer	Jeff Bullinger
Scripture Reading	Matt Hamilton
Closing Prayer	Randy Brown
Lord's Table	Robert Hallsted Thomas Hallsted Jack Lierly Harry Reeve Robert Hill Hayden Bullinger

Greeter

Bruce & Lilia
Steve & Sandy

Ushers

Topper Causby
Todd Khoury

Lock Building

Bruce Rothell and Bobby Hill

Announcements

Bill Path

Sunday Evening

Song Leader	Bobby Hill
Opening Prayer	Darrell Burcham
Closing Prayer	Jerry Buller
Lord's Table	Thomas Hallsted Jack Lierly

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader	James Hamilton
Opening Prayer	Jack Lierly
Closing Prayer	Robert Hill

Communion Preparation

1/4	Leasa Mulkey
1/11	Rothell Ladies
1/18	Susan Yeager
1/25	Kay Robinson
2/1	Edward Ladies
2/8	Autumn Caldwell
2/15	Tonya Davidson
2/22	Causby Ladies



Sundays at 7:30 a.m. KWHB
TV47 or Cable Channel 7

Search Programs:

Jan 11 - God Understands
Jan 18 - Did God Make Me Sinful?
Jan 25 - Forgiving Yourself

Sunday Morning Sermon

The Light of the World: "Declaration"
John 1:29-34
Benjamin Williams

Sunday Evening Adult Class

A Study of the Church of Christ
Benjamin Williams