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(un-denominational)
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First Christian Church - Memphis, Missouri **EVANGEL**

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Dear Ones,

The word may seem outdated, but the importance of the act is not. What in the world is an "evangel?" It is a message characterized by good news! The angel announcing the birth of Jesus said, "I bring you good news..." Jesus told his disciples, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mk. 16:15). That word "gospel" he used was the same one used by the angel announcing Jesus' birth as good news. Part of making disciples as we are directed in Matthew 28:19, 20 includes this essential activity ... "Evangelizing. I've heard it called "soul winning" or "personal evangelism." Sharing the Gospel message with others is not just for a few, it is for you too.

Making disciples for Jesus begins with evangelism. What better season of the year to give a renewed emphasis on sharing the Gospel with our friends and neighbors. Some of our friends become upset over taking Christ out of Christmas or thinking their ability to say "Merry Christmas" is hindered in some way. Some of us can get caught up in tensions over old family feuds or scheduling all the activities of the season or choosing the right gifts for friends and family. In the midst of all these things, how about centering our thoughts on the Christmas story. How about starting a conversation with a neighbor, a co-worker or a family member that may be struggling or hurting this season. Perhaps hearing the story especially now may make an eternal difference to one close to you!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was struggling and hurting one Christmas season. His wife had died a tragic death. The Civil war was raging and one of his sons was killed in battle. Another son, Charles was severely wounded and lost an arm. He poetically spoke of this season of peace and good will. He'd heard familiar Christmas carols play. Reflecting on his personal tragedies and the nation ravaged by war, we can understand his discouragement. *"In despair I bowed my head, 'there is no peace on earth,' I said,"* Hearing the Christmas bells again, his focus was changed. *"Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, good will to men."*

Lord Bless, *Preacher Jack*

Youth Minister's Post

When Mary told Joseph about her pregnancy, Joseph knew the child was not his. His respect for Mary's character and the explanation she gave him, as well as her attitude toward the expected child, must have made it hard to think his bride had done something wrong. Still, someone else was the child's father and it was mind boggling to accept that the "someone else" was God.

Joseph decided to break the engagement, but he was determined to do it in a way that would not cause public shame to Mary. He intended to act with justice and love. At this point, God sent a messenger to Joseph to confirm Mary's story and open another way of obedience for Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Joseph obeyed God, married Mary, and honored her virginity until the baby was born.

We do not know how long Joseph lived his role as Jesus' earthly father. He is last mentioned when Jesus was 12 years old. Joseph trained his son in the trade of carpentry and made sure he had good spiritual training in Nazareth. Joseph took the whole family on a yearly trip to Jerusalem for the Passover, which Jesus continued to observe during his adult years. Joseph knew Jesus was someone special from the moment he heard the angel's words. His strong belief in that fact and his willingness to follow God's leading, empowered him to be Jesus' chosen earthly father.

In Christ, *Josiah Holloway*

Prayer Requests:

Mary Ann Blessing	Terry Fincher
Donna Wheeler	Bob Carney
John Wheeler	Kim Anderson
Dixie Drummond	Gwen Laudwig
Helen Hammack	Ramah Douglas
Charles Hammack	

Hospital:
Charles Harris

**FCC Members at:
SCCC & R.C.F**

Jeri Baker Louise Frederick
Velva Freburg

Schuyler County Nursing Home:

Marietta Garrison

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous.
Do not fear...for it is the *Lord your God*
who goes with you. He will not leave you
or forsake you.



**December
Book of Month**

Revelation

STATISTICS

December 06, 2015

Sunday School...62
Worship...
General Fund.....\$2,072.25

BUDGET (To date)

Weekly Needs \$3,242.00
Budget needs.....\$162,100.00
Gifts.....\$146,458.94

Sunday Services

Sunday School.....9:20 AM
Worship.....10:30 AM
Junior Worship (Ages 3 to 5yrs).10:30 AM
Super Church (Grades K—6th).....During sermon

Church Staff

Jack Sumption.....Preacher
Josiah Holloway.....Youth Minister
Kelly Cochran.....Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISC NEWS:

**December 8th @ 12pm
~Christmas Lunch~**

Joy Group/Young @ Heart
"Dad's Shed" 528 N. Adams St.
Soup & Drinks provided
Please bring a finger food/
sandwiches/desserts
Call church office if you need a ride.



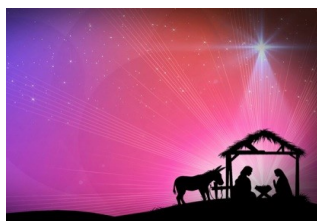
December 13th

**Children's Christmas Program/All
Church Dinner**

You don't want to miss this wonderful
program the kids are performing, and
a chance to eat some wonderful food.



Youth Corner:



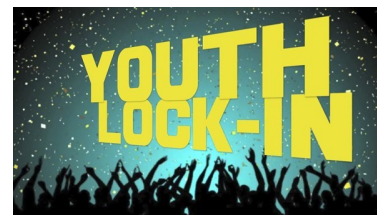
Children's Christmas Program

Dress rehearsal will be
December 12th @ 10am.

**PLEASE, make sure your
kids are here!**

Youth Lock-In

December 31-January 1
More details to come in the
upcoming weeks.



Reminder December 13, 2015

West Greeter.....Terry McDougall
West Usher.....Mike Aylward
East Greeter.....Benjie Briggs
Sunday School at SCCC.....Truth Seekers
SCCC Pianist.....Jana Muntz
Nursery.....Holly/Hillary Harris
December Bus Driver.....Lee Parish

945-3921 or 660-341-5178