



DECEMBER 17, 2023

FRANKLIN ROAD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Think on These Things

This begins our fourth week of the Advent season; can you believe it?! This week we'll light the candle of LOVE also known as the Angel candle. Angels, in regard to the

Christmas story, played a very important role as messengers and heralds. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptist (**Lk 1:11-20**), the one who was prophesied of in Isaiah as "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'*" Six months later, Gabriel was then sent to Mary to announce to her that she was the one chosen by God to give birth to the Messiah (**Lk 1:26-38**). An angel was later sent to Mary's fiance', Joseph, to tell him in a dream that he should not

be afraid to marry Mary because "*that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit and she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.*" (**Mt 1:20-25**). Upon the birth of Jesus, an angel of the Lord announced to a group of nearby shepherds "*...good tidings of great joy which will be to all people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...*"

who after this announcement was joined by "*a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'*" (**Lk 2:8-20**) God used these heavenly messengers to proclaim the coming of "*...His indescribable gift*" (**2 Cor 9:15**); the very embodiment and epitome of love: Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son.

Since Jesus' birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, God has given all followers of Jesus the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming His great love

to all men (**Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:48; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8**). Just think: we have been entrusted with a message that goes even further than the birth announcements the angels brought; we are to be the earthly messengers of God's great love for all people! As we proclaim God's incredible love with our mouths, we need to ask God for His help in making sure that our lives (actions) speak of His love for all even more clearly than our words, since it is more by our actions than by our words that people are attracted to Christ.

The early Latin writer, Tertullian of Carthage, declared that the one thing that converted him to Christianity was not the arguments they gave him, because he could find a counterpoint for every argument they would present. "*But they **demonstrated** something I didn't have. The thing that converted me to Christianity was the way they loved each other.*"

This Christmas, may we be enthusiastic messengers of His unfathomable love for all people not only in word, but also in deed (**James 1:22; I Jn 4:7**).

Something to think about as we go about our week.
Love, prayers, and blessings,

Trace

(I will be out of the office for most of the week as I will be having carpal and cubital tunnel surgery on my left wrist/elbow on 12/19. I truly appreciate your prayers. You can still contact me via cell at 727-773-6440. Love y'all and praying that you have an amazing week!)



SUNSHINE PROJECT

FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF DECEMBER WE WILL BE COLLECTING CARDS/LETTERS FOR ALL OF OUR SUNSHINE PROJECT MEMBERS.

GO TO THE TABLE IN THE FOYER FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

There will be a brief Deacon's meeting today immediately following the worship service.

Kids & Youth Christmas Caroling

Wednesday Dec. 20 @ 6:30p
All are welcome to join!

The Church Office will be closed from Dec. 20 to Dec. 27

We will also have no evening activities Wed. Dec 27 & Wed. Jan 03

December Birthdays

- 12/08 Margaret Forcier
- 12/20 Andy Buchanan
- 12/20 Walter Capes
- 12/23 Sean Shirey
- 12/24 Dale Simmons
- 12/26 W.J. Webb
- 12/27 Jeff Simmons

December Anniversaries

- 12/22 Walter & Joanne Capes
- 12/29 Jeff & Deena Simmons

this week at FRBC

SUNDAY (DEC 17)

- Sunday School.....9:30a
- Worship.....10:45a
- Children's Church
- Deacon's Meeting.....12:15p

WEDNESDAY (DEC 20)

- Christmas Caroling.....6:30p
- Adult Bible Study.....6:30p

CONNECT WITH FRBC

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Office Hours:

Mon: 10a-2p, Wed: 10a-2p. Thu: 10a-2p
info@frbclagrange.org

Trace Lasher	Lead Pastor	727-773-6440
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Hannah Lasher	Admin Assistant	admin@frbclagrange.org

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To receive FRBC phone/text alerts: text ALERT to 22300

of the week DEACON

- Dec 17 Ernest McCurry
- Dec 24 Bill Forcier
- Dec 31 Jerry Parkerson