

December Birthdays

12/8 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

Anniversaries

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

Deacon Rotation

Dec 15 Jerry Parkerson
Dec 22 Jacob Thomas
Dec 29 Steve Thomas

connect with FRBC

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FRANKLIN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

December 15, 2024

Our Mission:

Here at FRBC we want to help people to KNOW God personally, GROW in the Lord spiritually, And SHOW God to others in word and action

Think on These Things

Today's message of Advent is Joy. Joy is often a misunderstood thing, as it is frequently confused with happiness. While the two often do go hand-in-hand, they are not the same thing. In simplest terms, happiness is often fleeting and frequently stems from a feeling, while joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus, and can be had regardless of how one is feeling. In other words, one can have joy in the midst of unhappiness, because joy is **not** dependent upon happiness, but lasting happiness **is** dependent upon joy. The happiest people I know are also the ones who are full of joy. True joy, I think, can only come from having a real relationship with Jesus Christ for He is the Bringer of joy.

When Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with the miracle baby, John the Baptist, Luke tells us that Elizabeth said: "*But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*" (Luke 1:43-44) Jesus, even before He was born of the young virgin, Mary, was bringing joy to those who were prepared for Him.

John the Baptist, foreordained by God to be "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD,*" (Isaiah 40:3) leapt for joy while in his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's voice. If an unborn child could leap for joy in anticipation of the Messiah, how much more should we rejoice, knowing who He is and what He has done and that He will be returning one day (soon)?

When I think of the brevity of this life compared with eternity, I must ask myself, "*Why am I not more joyful?*" Jesus has purchased and secured my place in Heaven; nothing here will matter anymore! The struggles of this life will be over and the joy of being in my Savior's presence will be forevermore! Eternal life! Eternal joy! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS (lit: "The Lord is salvation"), for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Something to think about (and rejoice in) as we go about our week.

Love, prayers, and blessing,

Trace

this week at FRBC

SUNDAY (DEC 15)

Sunday School.....9:30a
Morning Worship.....10:45a
Children's Church
H.O.P.E. ESL Christmas Party.....5:00p

WEDNESDAY (DEC 18)

Adult Bible Study.....6:30p
i220 Youth Group
Journey Kids - Explorers

upcoming events

DEC 24

Christmas Eve Service.....5:30p

JAN 05

Churchwide Fellowship & Devotion.....9:30a

Notice

The Church Office will be closed next week from the 23rd through the 30th in celebration of the holidays. Please submit any announcements to me by Wednesday,

Dec. 18th. Thank you!

- Hannah