

Central Church of Christ

515 N. Tibbs Rd. Dalton, GA 30720

December 20, 2015

2015 Theme: "Homecoming"

However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Mark 5:19

Visit Our WEBSITE: ccoedalton.org



Strengthening The Soul...

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

I have really been enjoying our study of Mary the last few weeks in the Ladies Bible Class. I think it is unfortunate that we may have allowed some of our religious neighbors to scare us away from listening to and learning from Mary, the mother of Jesus. Scripture shows that she was an incredibly faith-filled young woman at the time of Jesus' birth and grew to be one of Jesus' most faithful first followers.

To me, one of her most admirable traits was Mary's ability to pause and ponder the unbelievable God-activity taking place in her life. You can see this trait initially demonstrated during the unusual visit from the angel, Gabriel in **Luke 1**. As Gabriel greeted Mary with his words, *"you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you"* Mary's world was beginning to be turned upside down and she *"wondered"* about this greeting. In her world and in her experience, poor young females were not thought of as being *"highly favored"*. And then later in her totally turned upside down and inside out world, Mary is said to have *"treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."* (**Luke 2:19**) What *"things"* did she ponder? Well, probably the words of Gabriel, the words and blessing of Elizabeth, the whole experience of telling her fiancé and her parents what God was doing in her life, the journey to Bethlehem, the very un-Christmas card like experience of giving birth to her son far from home and in the smelly confines of a room for animals, the visit from the shepherds with their crazy story of angels singing about her son – just for starters!

Here's what I like about Mary – when her world "got weird", she had the presence of mind to pause and intentionally engage in the practice of pondering. I am told the word used here for "ponder" means "to place together for comparison." She held all these things in her heart and paused to ponder how they all fit together. What is all the more amazing is that she did her pondering during some of the most perilous times in her life. Instead of crying, or running, or complaining, or avoiding, or blaming – she paused and pondered. I read this quote recently that fits well with Mary's pondering: *"Practice the pause. When in doubt, pause. When angry, pause. When tired, pause. When stressed, pause. And when you pause, pray."* And I would add the lesson Mary teaches us: When life gets weird, pause, ponder and pray.

Steve Griggs

WELCOME

Last Sunday, **JoAnn Davenport** responded to the invitation. She said that she is on the wrong path. She wants to talk with someone to help her on that right path. Please pray for her as she finds her way. Please take time to meet her and encourage her.

JoAnn Davenport

708 E. Morris St. Apt. B, Dalton, GA 30721



SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of **Don Evans** who passed away last Saturday morning. His funeral was Tuesday. His wife, sweet Sue, passed away in August. It is so hard to lose parents just months apart and especially during the holidays. Don and Sue were so special and meant so much to our church family. They have left an empty place for us and especially for their family. Continue to pray for Lisa, Celeste, Carla and all the family.



YOUNG AT HEART PARTY

All **Young At Heart (55+)** are invited to an afternoon party on Saturday, December 19, in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 p.m. Bring finger foods & desserts.



CLOTHES ROOM NEEDS

Boy's Clothes (sizes 3 – 7), Men's Shoes & Belts, Blankets



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

There will be a **planning breakfast** for all **Elders, Ministers, Deacons & Ministry Leaders** on Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Connie Shepherd as agreed to cook breakfast! Make plans, NOW, to attend!

THANK YOU

I just wanted to say "thank you" for your generosity. Matthew Locke may be a policeman, but he is a hero and Santa. My dad, Charles Black, would be proud to know that one of his own took care of his granddaughter and great-grandson. Thank you and God bless you all. Merry Christmas.



Tina

LET ME GIVE

I do not know how long I'll live
But while I live, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
By smile or not - kind word or deed.
And let me do whate'er I can
To ease things for my fellow man.
I want naught but to do my part
To lift a tired or weary heart,
To change folks' frowns to smiles again -
Then I will not have lived in vain;
And I'll not care how long I'll live
If I can give - and give - and give.

MORNING WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

9:00 A.M.

"Thoughts on Giving"

Acts 20:32-36

Welcome

Congregational Reading - Matthew 1:23

Song (Screen) - Beautiful Star of Bethlehem (v. 1-3) - John Cox

Prayer - Ray Moss

Song #7 - Abide With Me (v. 1) - John Cox

Song #299 - I Stand Amazed (v. 1,2,4,5) - John Cox

Communion & Contribution Prayers - Doug Bingham

Communion Leaders

Jack Brown Porter Marcus
Ron Gowan Don Kittle
Joshua Holloway Keith Rollins
Danny Jones Darrell Edwards
Keith Yarbrough Jim Cook

Song #613 - Take My Life and Let It Be (v. 1-6) - Gene Threet
(Children Ages 2-5, dismissed to Wee Worship)

Scripture Reading - Wade Ferguson

Sermon - Bryan Collins

Invitation Song #29 - All To Jesus I Surrender (v. 1,3) - Gene Threet

Shepherds' Moment & Closing Prayer - Gary Duke

Count on Sundays (All Services) - Chris Smith & Bruce Holloway

Nursery Attendants (9 a.m.) - Eliska Lee & Meredith Milburn

2nd WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

11:10 A.M.

"God Provides"

Song (Screen) - Beulah Land (v.1-3) - Steve Barton

Prayer - Mark Foshee

Sermon - Bryan Collins

Invitation Song #571 - Seeking The Lost (v. 1,3) - Steve Barton

Closing Comments

Closing Song #663 - There Is Sunshine In My Soul (v. 1) - Steve Barton

Closing Prayer - Tony Coley

Serve Communion: Kelly Cherry & Jerry Wallace

(Communion served in Primetimers Classroom.
Dismissal during the Closing Song.)

TIMES & ATTENDANCE

Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship.....	NC
Sunday 10:10 a.m. Bible Classes	NC
Sunday 11:10 a.m. 2 nd Worship Assembly	NC
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	125

Hispanic Congregation

Sunday Worship	NC
Sunday Adult Bible Class	NC
Wednesday Adult Class	9

Budget \$ 9,200.00
Contribution \$10,037.00

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

HOSPITAL: Lois Cole - Erlanger...Kenneth Crow - HMC

RECOVERING/HOME/SHUT-IN/ON-GOING ILLNESS:

Yvonne Abernathy, Rickey Allmon, Minnie Anderson, Sherry Bales, Jimmy Ballew, Julie Barton, Jaxon Beavers, Eric Bejar, Charles & Peggy Bennett, Dylan Bigelow, Rufus Bingham, Jason Blaylock, Ruby Bramlett, Garland Brock, Jack & Elizabeth Brown, Sandi Brown, Larry Brunson, Valor Burnett, Glenn Cantrell, Carman Carrillo, Nelda Carr, Jeff Chadwick, Charlotte Chaney, Lester Chastain, Myra Chastain, Edith Cherry, Jane Cherry, Ellen Claiborne, Barbara Cloer, Bill & Rebecca Cofer, Tom Cole, Gabbi Cook, Jennifer Cooper (Surg. 12/21), Bill Cornutt, Jim Dalzell, Allie Daniel, Steve Daniel, Helen Dardin, David Davidson, Melissa Dietrich, Charles Doler, Marie Dollar, Gary Earnhart, Terry Ensley, Turner Fordham, Joan Foshee, Mark & Anna Foshee, Glenda Gardner, Judson & Sarah Gay, Katherine Green, Karen Griffus, Jon Griggs, Kandis Guice, Rich Gwyn, Brenda Hall, Lauren Hall, Richard Hall, Melinda Harrub, Pat Henderson, Rhonda Hill, Tommy & Judy Hoffpauir, Ben Holloway, Bruce Holloway, Charlene Holloway, Kathy Holloway, Lyndon Holloway, Frances Hopper, Joann Howell, Seaver Hudson, Barbara Jackson, Dennis Jackson, Bill Johnson, Brad Jones, Lanie Jones, Barbara Judd, Craig Kinsey, Diane Kinsey, Susan Kouassi, Debbie Lanning, Anne Lee, Carly Lewis, Hannah Locke, Judy Malone, Hubert Marsh, Renee Mathis, Mike Mays, Betty Melson, Bob Miller, Esme Miller, Gayle Miller, Doug & Sue Mitchell, Lynn Moss, Josh Mullins, Barry & Juanita Newman, Edra Nix, Keith Parker, Sandra Parker, Tina Parker, Willa Mae Phillips, Kathryn Pressnell, Nancy Province, Brodie Quinn, Ed Riddle, Jasper & Gladys Rogers, Layfield Rous, Bill Russell, Eddie Sane, Dan Sessions, Alwilda Shepherd, Brenda & Harold Shepherd, Hazel Shepherd, Martha Shepherd, Mike Shepherd, Adrianna Shireman, Charlotte Silvers, Brandi & Greg Smith, Emy Smith, James Smith, Jerry Smith, Laura Smith, Colleen Stevens, Tommy & Jimmie Stroud, Jim Stuman, Charlie Swanson, Jack & Eva Taylor, Tom Taylor, Cayden Tennant, Azeala Thompson, Bill Threet, Martin, Reatha & Jeff Tilley, Sam Vandergriff, Crystal Williams, Patsy Williams, Teresa Williams, Steve & Barbara Wilson, Cathy Woods, Claudell Woods, Kim Woods, David Wright

Please notify Lanie when someone needs to be added or taken off the prayer list!