

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Good morning and welcome to Abundant Life! I am glad that you are here; I consider it an honor to worship the Lord together today. If this is your first time to worship with us please take a minute to complete one of our Welcome Cards located in the guest packet. If you did not receive a guest packet you can get one at the Information Center in the lobby. Once you complete the card either drop it in the basket during the offering or leave it at the Information Center. Again, I am glad that you are here today!

This Friday morning the air is filled with uncertainty! Is it going to snow? Or will we just be teased by the weather again and endure another cold rainy day. Do we go on with our plans or do we change them? I like snow but not at the end of the week and especially not on what may be our busiest weekend of the Christmas holidays.

So often we are thrown a curve ball. We don't know where it is going to go or where it is going to land and we are not even sure we can handle it. As I think about the simple challenges presented by the weather today, I thought about Mary and Joseph, they were living their lives just like the people in their culture lived. They were preparing for a wedding, the start of a new life together, they had an idea of what to expect, work, children, more work, service to God and family relationships, the normal kind of "stuff." Then God threw them a major league curve ball, the kind that makes your knees buckle and causes you to take a step or two backwards. They were visited by God's messengers and told of God's plans for their lives – it was different than what they had envisioned. Mary would give birth to God's own Son and Joseph would care for the mother and the child as if it were his own.

There are several unique responses that Mary and Joseph both had but the bottom line is that they accepted God's plan for their lives. They didn't try to change God's mind. Maybe they didn't understand all that this would mean but they said YES to God. Then they watched as God took the chaos of the world around them and in the midst of it brought peace, joy and hope to a lost and dying world.

You want to talk about changing plans, Mary and Joseph were experts at it but they had some help and so do you and I. Our help, as did theirs, comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Sometimes God asks us to change our plans to make room for what HE wants to do in us, around us and through us. He asks us to be willing and He takes care of the tough stuff. What plans are you being asked to change so that He can do His work? Blessings to you and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Pastor Bob

THANK YOU for giving in so many ways as we have *Shared the Gift of Christmas* with our community, with friends and with one another. You have been a tremendous blessing! **THANK YOU!!!**

Dave and Aimee Jenkins' New Address

809 Braxton Drive N.
Lafayette, IN 47909

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday Night Connection – There will be **NO** Wednesday Night service for the next two weeks due to the special holiday services. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – make worship a part of your family Christmas tradition. This year we are scheduling two Christmas Eve worship services so that you can choose which works best for your family's schedule. Both services will be candle light communion worship services and last an hour or less. The service times will be 6 and 10PM. Christmas Eve worship is a great way to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ.

New Year's Eve Celebration – beginning at 7:00PM and lasting until...after Midnight!!!

- Fellowship
- Food
- Fun
- Prayer

We will gather and share in games and fellowship and conclude the evening with a time of sharing and prayer for the New Year! Plan to arrive when you can if you can't stay until the end, feel free to leave early.

PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS

- **Aaron Compton** – recuperating at home from heart attack and surgery
- **Danielle Harris** – recuperating from surgery
- **Madison** – 9 year old cousin of Shannon Covington, cancer
- **Jenny** – Shannon Covington's aunt – cancer
- Remember those in our church and community who have lost jobs and those who are struggling financially

Christmas Card Box – Located in the church lobby is a box with the name of every family at Abundant Life on a folder. Save yourself the cost of postage and bring your Christmas cards to church with you and place them in each family's folder. Feel free to check your folder as often as you like to receive cards for your family.

Upcoming Events

Dec 23 – NO MIDWEEK SERVICE
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services – 6 & 10PM
Dec 25 - Merry Christmas
Dec 30 - NO MIDWEEK SERVICE
Dec 31 - New Year's Celebration/Fellowship

Building Fund/Harvest Offering Update (Year to Date)

- All Building Fund Offerings \$16,861.71
- Renovation Debt / PAID IN FULL \$ 9,500.00
- Building Fund Balance \$ 7,361.71