



# GRACE

# HAPPENINGS

## **A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:**

Picture the scene for a moment. A baby. A new mom. A new dad. A stable. A manger. The animals. The smells. The thoughts of the angelic announcements given to them both nine months earlier. This is God's Son.

Mary holding Him close as she and Joseph said His name over and over – Jesus. Mary laying Him in the manger. Joseph watching over his new family and caring for Mary as she rested. The calm of that moment as they both tried to digest all that had just taken place.

And then the shepherds show up on the scene and it would seem that all that had been quiet and tranquil most likely became a bit loud and unorganized. And it would seem only proper that it should as the shepherds were busy minding their own business just a brief time ago. They were enjoying a quiet evening caring for their sheep on a hillside when all of a sudden the sky lights up and things got a bit chaotic. They are face to face with an angel and they are surrounded by the glory of God; not an everyday occurrence in the life of a shepherd. The Bible tells us they were terribly frightened and for good cause, but then the news comes. A Savior has been born and here's what you will find when you go to look for Him, a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And look for Him they did! As soon as the angels had gone away, the shepherds made the decision to go and see what God had shared with them.

And that quietness in the stable was disturbed by a group of lowly shepherds telling their story to Mary and Joseph. Can you picture the scene as they shared what had just taken place as they watched over their sheep? Can you hear the excitement in their voices as they described the angels, the message and their fear? Can you see the shepherds as they each strained to get a glimpse of the Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger? What a transformation in the setting where Jesus had just been born as the shepherds now joined Him, Mary, and Joseph.

We can picture the scene. We can imagine the excited voices all speaking at once. We can see the shepherds taking their turn to see the Savior they had just been told about.



But what about Mary? How did all of this affect her? Luke 2:19 tells us, "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Mary was taking it all in. She wasn't disturbed by the interruption of the shepherds showing up. She wasn't bothered by their telling of all that had happened to them. She drank in all of it.

There's a lesson for us in Luke 2:19 this Christmas season. Maybe it's time we let go of the busyness, the hectic self-imposed schedules, the running here and there shopping for the perfect gift and the list goes on and on. Maybe it's time this year that we sit back and view the birth of our Savior, who is Christ the Lord through the eyes of Mary.

And ponder these things in our hearts.

## **Worship**

DECEMBER 2018

John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson  
Julie Lindsey  
Gerry Gladfelter

Carol Sarver  
Russ Hearton  
Rita Brewer

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL

New Classes Forming December 2—9:30 a.m.!  
Classes available for Nursery through Adults  
Adults have 5 choices

The more you read the Bible,  
The more you'll love its Author!!

### Sunday, December 2 Missionary Reports

Kmett family sharing their ministry in Bangladesh  
and plans to return  
8:15 and 10:45 services

Pearland, Texas, Mission Trip Report  
6:30 p.m.

# WELCOME

2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, December 9  
6:30 p.m.  
All are *WELCOME* to attend



*An Inspired Christmas Musical presented by  
Grace Notes Children's Choir*

*Sunday, December 16  
6:30 p.m.*

Angels sing of peace on earth; we know that all is well.  
Outta Bethlehem a King was born  
outta Bethlehem on Christmas morn.  
Jesus is King, let all creation sing!  
Our Hope has come straight outta Bethlehem.  
God sent His son straight outta Bethlehem.  
A Gift of Love straight outta Bethlehem.  
God sent His son straight outta Bethlehem.  
Jesus is King; let all creation sing!  
We know that God is near; Emmanuel is here.  
We'll never be the same.  
New Hope has a Name,  
for Hope has come straight outta Bethlehem!

Join a group of spunky orphans to witness with them the  
birth of the Son of God who would grow up to redeem us  
and die in our place. Invite your family and friends!

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Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Traditional Worship  
6:30 Against the Flow Youth  
6:30 Evening Worship Service  
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults /  
Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett  
Assistant Pastor

