



THE CHURCH SPIRE

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Luke 1:38:

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Yikes! I'm not so sure I'm a big fan of this verse that is tucked away in Jesus' birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke.

Mary, a young teenage girl, in shock because an angel is standing before her, makes her declaration of faith: "Let It be with me according to your word."

HALT! REWIND!

This is Mary. A teenage girl. Single, but dating Joseph. Talking to an angel from God. Conceding that she will in fact carry God's son through 9 long months of pregnancy.

Maybe Mary is simply naïve. Maybe God knew this task had to be given to a teenager who would be less likely to question if this was at all a good idea. Or perhaps, Mary is an all-star when it comes to matters of faith.

I'm betting it's the last one.

"Let it be with me according to your word." If we were to say that, ourselves, we might find our lives in equally sticky situations as Mary. After all God's word says that we will suffer, be persecuted for following Christ. It says that death does not separate us from God, but sin does. It says that we must forgive 70X7 times. It says we must have faith the size of a mustard seed.

Trusting God and all that His Word says is no easy task. But if Mary could suffer ridicule for bearing God's only Son, what do we have to complain about?

Even so, choosing to have faith in God isn't even the hardest part of the story. The hardest part of the story is that the angel of God does not stay with Mary. He leaves. I would be clinging to that angel's sparkly, white robe with a grip of desperation.

God's angels may give us a message and then leave. Our friends, our families may give us a message and then leave. Because clinging to friends, to family, to angels — they will not be enough for us.

But Jesus is. God's Holy Spirit is. The very Son that Mary brought into the world to live on Earth, to die, to be resurrected for us. The very Son that sent the Holy Spirit after him for us. That Son, that Holy Spirit, our God, will be with us as we have faith to say, "let it be with me according to your word."

Featured Advent Devotional

Although my mother attended a different denomination, she loved worshiping at the Scottsboro Cumberland Church. Approximately four years ago while she was still mobile, I would occasionally ask the caregiver to drive her to Scottsboro for worship. On this particular day they arrived about 11:40, and I was assisting Mother on her walker to the entrance of the sanctuary.

When we got to the second double-door she paused, looked around, and in an *audible* voice said, "**Oh I am SO happy to be here.**" After a few seconds of slight embarrassment, I ushered her to our seats on the left side of the sanctuary. As I sat and pondered her words, it occurred to me that she verbalized exactly what we should feel and sometimes say as we enter God's house. Maybe she felt what the Psalmist was feeling and writing: "I was glad when they said unto me 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1.

Prayer: Oh Lord, thank you for a sweet reminder from my precious mother to be glad to enter the house of the Lord. May we be inspired to embody the gladness and happiness she obviously felt as well as the bold enthusiasm she displayed. In the name of Jesus Christ.....Amen.

Submitted by: Susan Bell



This Sunday:

"Joy in the Morning" through Music and Worship

Join Us for a Special Christmas Service

11 AM on Sunday December 13th

The Service will include the Children's Christmas Program, readings from our youth, and special music led



The Deacon Soup Luncheon was a Success!!

\$2,902.00 was raised for Christmas Charities

Congratulations to Mr. Fred Thomas for his induction into the Jackson County Hall of Fame.

Weekly Youth Bible Study Upcoming Schedule:

6PM-7:30PM. Dinner provided.

December 13th: Regular Youth

December 20th: Ugly Sweater Christmas Party. All Youth and their families (including siblings) are INVITED to put on your ugliest, most outrageous, gaudy Christmas sweater and join us at 6PM for our final session of the year. Please bring a snack and dessert to share!

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship



Prayers of the People:

Tim Allen, Shelia Amos, Mary Jo Bradford, Stroby Stewart; Erica Scott; Bill Beigay; David Patrick; Julie Merwin; Des Noble; Jim Holmes; Judy Hood, Christine Miller, Andy and June Vaughn, Rex Parris, Mike Lee, Michael Boring, Viki Harrell, Miriah Penick, Ivy Bridges, Reese McPhail, Rev. Bill Allen, Charlene Allen, Room in the Inn Program for the upcoming season Cindy Rice's Father-Don Falk, Tammy Holcomb and others in our thoughts and prayers from Sunday, December 6th

If you have a name to add to the prayer list please use the Christian pads in the pews and drop it in the offering plate Sunday morning. You may also email them to: scottsbocpc@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars:

MDO Christmas Program
Thursday December 10th at 10AM

AUTOMATIC DRAFT **Deadline to Enroll December 20th**

If you are interested in automatic Draft a copy of the form is on the website or available in the church office. For more information, contact Sheri at 256-574-2575



Sock and Mitten Tree

November 22nd through mid December

Bring Socks, Mittens, and Toboggans
for the Choctaw Indian Children in Oklahoma



**"Lunch with the
Ladies"**
December 14th
At Stevarino's



Deacon Meeting
December 16th at 5PM

Session Meeting
December 15th at 5PM

Room In the Inn

Will start on December 15th

Our First Date to Host will be December 26th.

**Need: White Twin Bed Sheets, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Wash cloths*

**Please Consider Volunteering!!*



Update on Administrative Building

The building plan that was presented to the congregation last month has now been approved by the session. After much prayer and discernment, the session voted to build a new administrative building for the sake of creating more space for Sunday school classes and in order to more effectively use the spaces we currently have in our church. Now that the building plan has been approved, we will need to raise \$75,000. This money will go towards the new building AND towards making improvements to the current offices and other classrooms in the existing structure. We encourage you to prayerfully consider giving to the building fund. If you would like to give, please make a check out to the church and put "Building Fund" on the "for" line.

A more intentional fundraiser will begin in January of 2016 for the build project. However, we want to offer up the opportunity to start giving now for the sake of claiming tax deductibles for both the 2015 and 2016 years.

may all your
sweaters be
UGLY
& **BRIGHT**



Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

December 20th at 6PM

All Youth and their families

(including siblings) are INVITED

Wear your ugliest, most outrageous, gaudy sweater!

Please bring a snack and dessert to share!



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP 2016



July 9th - 16th, 2016

WHAT: A Trip to Guatemala City to work with the Hot Lunch Program (where we sent the Loaves and Fishes money).

A trip like this will help us build a relationship with Cumberland Presbyterians in Guatemala, to learn from them, love on them, be tourists (and who hasn't wanted to worship in Spanish?!)

WHO: 8-10 adults. We could use both medical professionals AND other adults. Medical professionals would work with the kids doing health checks in relation to their specialty. Any other adults would work with the kids, teaching Bible Lessons, cooking meals, and playing games.

WHEN: We would be flying out on Saturday, July 9th, and returning on Saturday, July 16th.

COST: \$1000-\$1200/person (depending on plane tickets) IF you are interested in going on this trip, contact Pastor Micaiah by email. Also fill out an application, and start saving your money.

DEADLINE: In order to reserve lodging and buy plane tickets, we need commitments by JANUARY 31st, with a \$200 deposit and an application. Another \$450 will be due March 1st. The remaining balance will be due May 15th.

*If you want to HELP but can't join us—you can help pay someone else's way!—make donations out to Scottsboro CPC with Guatemala Mission Trip as the subject line.

2015

General Fund

December 6th offering: \$ 8283.00

YTD Offering: \$ 295,522.17

Budget Requirements

Budget Requires per Sunday: \$6,533.67

YTD Budget Requires: \$ 313,616.16

Attendance for 12/6/15

Sunday School: 67

Worship: 139

Worship Aids for Sunday

Head Usher: Rodney Bell

Pastor: Micaiah Tanck

Worship Leader : Brian Tanck

Greeter: Gay and Bill Zimmerman

If you cannot serve, please find someone who will replace you.

If you need something please call the Church office If no answer please call Micaiah, (205) 478-5985; Brian (630) 730-1577 . Your concerns and needs are important to us.

The Church Spire

Church (256) 574-2575

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Sheri Allen, Adm, Assistant

Julie Gentry, MDO Director

Carolyn Davis, Music

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