



## **What Shall He Be Called?**

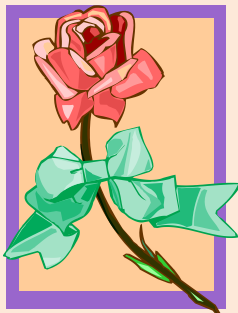
The naming of a baby today takes thought, and parents pick names for different reasons. Some choose common names while others make up names from parts of family member's names. Naming may reflect events around the time of birth. My granddaughter's name is Noelle, and you can guess around what holiday she was born.

Naming babies was important in Bible times, and the naming of two baby boys are imbedded in the Christmas story. When Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy, neighbors and cousins wanted to name the baby after Zacharias, the boy's father. Elizabeth said no "he shall be called John" (Luke 1:58-61). The baby boy's father indicated his name would be John. That was in keeping with the direction of the angel who announced the conception (Luke 1:13). The angel also brought the news of a miraculous conception to a virgin Mary and told her what to name the baby—Jesus (Luke 1:31). Jesus means "Jehovah saves", and the name was prophetic of what he came to do. The angel told her intended husband the name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). This name was the equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua— who indeed saved the people and brought them into the Promised Land.

The disciples came to understand that the name of Jesus spoke about His salvation. In Acts 4:12 Peter told the authorities that there is no other name under heaven whereby a man is saved.

Paul would add in Colossians 3:17 that the name of Jesus ought to be the basis for everything we say and do. He told the Philippians that the name of Jesus will ultimately be the name we all will bow and confess Him as Lord. (Phil. 2:10, 11)

"Precious name, oh how sweet, hope of earth and joy of heaven." What do you call Him? Master, Savior, Lord, all appropriate names and titles, but this Christmas think of His given name "Jesus".



## **In Memory**

On November 11, 2011, our Lord welcomed home another beloved member of our church. Thelma Strobe was ushered into heaven and joined the heavenly choir in continual praise. While heaven's gain is our loss, we could not wish her back to a life of struggle and sickness.

Thelma was a faithful pillar at First Baptist Church for what seemed like hundreds of years to this child growing up. She served alongside her husband in just about every ministry imaginable, from kids to choirs. Thelma left a lasting mark on hundreds of lives over her years of service. She patiently trained the youth in Awana clubs and even more patiently trained young voices to sing the glory of God.

She was also a whiz on a typewriter and could "clip art" with the best. (Back when it really was CLIP art) Many hours were spent of her life making sure that church publications were ready and correctly done.

The Nuggets hopes to continue in the fine tradition that has been laid over the years. The standard was high and by God's grace, it will continue.



## Gratitude Offering

It is with thanksgiving and praise that our Gratitude Offering totaled \$5,188.01. We designated the offering as a Servant's Offering and it was distributed to those in our church family with needs.

## Offering Envelopes

Do you need offering envelopes? Envelopes are available on the table in the back of the auditorium. Please feel free to pick up a pack for your use. Don't forget to write your name, amount and check number on the face of the envelope so you receive proper credit.



## Daddy's Christmas Present

The other day a little girl told me she was going to give her father a pair of slippers at Christmas. "Where will you get the money from?" I asked. She opened her eyes like saucers, and said, "Why, Daddy will give me the money." I was silent for a minute as I thought about the dear man buying his own Christmas present. But the father loved his little girl for the gift, although he had to pay for it. She had nothing in the world that he had not given to her. We have nothing of our own to give to God. We can only give back what belongs to Him.

-Exchange



## *Women Who Worship*

### **"Changing Places"**

*"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

Although I have never read the novel, I recall the old classic movie, "The Prince and the Pauper." The gist of the plot is an identity switch between two look-alike boys, one a prince and the other a pauper. The poor boy experienced the lavish life of being a royal while the prince suffered the indignities of being poor. It's a story that's purely fictional, right? Well, such a situation really was played out in heaven and earth two millennia ago and continues to be played out daily-- when a person is saved!

That night in Bethlehem when the Lord Jesus put on human flesh, the Prince of Heaven (Acts 5:31) stepped into the poverty of our world. He "humbled himself," "became poor," "made himself of no reputation," and "took upon him the form of a servant." He had no place to lay His head. He was reviled and rejected and subjected to man's brutality. In His final act of changing places, He became sin for us and took our judgment on the cross of death. He did all this so that we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

We, on the other hand, have been raised to the position of royal children. Although we were but poor slaves to sin and Satan, by placing our faith in Christ and His cross work, the Lord not only sets us free but adopts us into the royal family of God and makes us joint-heirs of His inheritance (James 2:5). We



have access to the King's throne room (Hebrews 4:16), a place in the heavenly mansion (John 14:2), and the riches of His grace at our disposal (Ephesians 2:7). Truly we have been raised from spiritual poverty to a place of lavish privilege.

The Prince of Heaven has been restored to His rightful place at the Father's right hand, but we may still retain all the glorious gifts of life of our royal position. May every day find us loving and living for Him—the One Who has blessed us through His amazing grace!

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### **Holiday Schedule**

This year Christmas falls on Sunday, along with New Year's Day. We have decided that we will have a Christmas Eve Service on Saturday night, and have no Sunday School or Evening Service on Christmas Day. We recognize the day is special for family gatherings, but we would all like to come together for a great service of celebration at 10:45 on Christmas morning. Our choir will sing and Pastor will preach his annual Christmas message. For New Year's Day we will schedule Sunday School and Morning Service, but no Evening Service.

We trust you will enjoy the extra time with your families during this special season.



### **Winter Schedule**

As in previous years, we will change our service times during January and February. Starting January 8th, we will have an Afternoon Service following a fellowship dinner. Watch for details of what you are to bring for the dinners.

Our 1:15 p.m. service will replace our Evening Service until March 4th when we will return to our regular schedule. Our Winter Schedule eliminates night driving on winter roads and provides a much needed time of fellowship with one another.

Our Prayer Meeting will be moved to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and will take the form of a discussion group. We hope you will join us.

Our new year will also bring a special series for the children on the subject of stewardship. We will be opening up a Stewardship Shop. Watch for details, kids!



### **Christmas Card Junction**

Once again this year, we will have a portion of the bulletin board in the main foyer dedicated to Christmas greetings. Don't forget to bring your Christmas card and post it on the board for the church family.



## **Happy Ending**

A little boy and his daddy were looking at a litter of puppies, planning to buy one for Christmas. The daddy asked the boy which one he wanted. The lad pointed to a pup whose tail was wagging furiously and said, "That one with the happy ending."

*In Tune With...*



Prayer is vital for both the individual and the church's health. In an attempt to convey the vitality of prayer, I want to share with you what others have said on the subject.

*"Men are God's method. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organization or more and novel methods. She needs men whom the Holy Spirit can use-men of prayer, mighty men in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men-men of prayer."* [E.M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer]

*"Prayer will make a man give over sinning, or sinning will make a man give over praying."* [Mr. Dod who is quoted in 1853 publication of Russell's Seven Sermons]

*"Praying that does not result in right thinking and right living is a farce. We have missed the whole office of prayer if it fails to purge our character and correct conduct. We have failed entirely to understand the virtue of prayer, if it does not bring about the revolutionizing of life. In the very nature of things, we must either quit praying or quit our bad conduct."* [E.M. Bounds, The Necessity of Prayer]

*"He who prays as he ought will endeavor to live as he prays."* [John Owen]

*"Prayer is absolutely necessary if we want to carry on God's work properly...Nothing is done well without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the work. It is so easy to be seduced by the good and to neglect the best, until both the good and the best perish...How easy it is to neglect prayer or abbreviate our praying simply by the excuse that we have church work on our hands. When he can keep us too busy to stop and pray, Satan has effectively disarmed us."* [E.M. Bounds, The Weapon of Prayer]

Is the 21st century church a healthy church? How important is prayer in today's church? I don't doubt in the lives of individuals prayer is important. The early church prayed together. In Acts 1, they prayed before choosing a successor to Judas. After Jesus gave them the Great commission and ascended into heaven they *"all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..."* [14]. In 2:42, 47: *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers...And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people."*



What was the result of their praying? *“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”* [2:47] Then in 3:1 we read of Peter and John going to the temple at the hour of prayer. How important was prayer to the early church? Prayer is mentioned 31 times in Acts. Many of the references indicate that the church prayed together as one body. Paul writes in his letter to the churches that he prayed for them daily and he instructed Timothy on how to pray. How important is prayer in the 21st century church? Is the attendance at prayer meeting any indication? Is the number of people being saved an indication? What does today’s church need? Paraphrasing E.M. Bounds, today’s church does not need better programs or better methods, but better men and better men are praying men. We need men who will call today’s church to prayer and lead by example. [From the Hope Triumphant Blog, November 12, 2011]

## Christmas Cards

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book,  
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.  
And that is when I realize that these names are a part,  
Not of the book they’re written in, but in my very heart.

For each name stands for someone, whose path touched mine and then,  
Left a print of friendship, that I want to touch again.  
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,  
Just meeting you shaped my life more than you think.  
For once you’ve met someone, the years cannot erase,  
The memory of a pleasant word or a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.  
For when I send a Christmas card, that is addressed to you,  
It’s because you’re on that list of folks I am indebted to.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,  
The biggest gift life can give is meeting folks like you.  
And may the Spirit of Christmas that forever, and ever endures,  
Leave its richest blessing on the heart of you and yours.

-Author Unknown





## The Greatest Gift

You ask what I'm wanting for Christmas,  
What gift I would like to acquire  
A gift that would thrill my whole being  
And satisfy every desire.  
Well, just such a Gift has already  
Been given and it is my own;  
For no greater gift could be given  
And no greater love could be shown  
Than when God the father gave Jesus,  
His only, His well-beloved Son,  
To suffer in my place on Calvary,  
To pay for the sins I had done.

O Gift over all gifts transcending!  
O Gift dear and precious, divine!  
Unspeakable Gift God has given  
To all who believe - and He is mine!  
And since this great Gift I've accepted,  
To me God has given, beside,  
A life never ending, eternal;  
A promise with Him to abide.

He gives sweetest peace 'mid life's conflict,  
In days filled with peril and fear;  
Gives joy day by day in His service;  
In sorrow gives comfort and cheer.  
His presence is with me each moment,  
He satisfies full my needs;  
Gives grace for each test; bears my burdens,  
And gently my footsteps He leads.  
What gift could I ask, then, beside Him?  
Could man such a gift e'er afford?  
Oh no! God in mercy has given  
The greatest gift - Jesus, my Lord!

-Georgia Knick Home,  
Christian Clippings





## December 2011 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLVI No 556

*The gift God gave the world is sometimes lost amid all the tinsel and jingle. Some of us need the admonition of a little girl, when her parents were setting up a Christmas crèche.*

*She said only, "Make sure Jesus shows."*

### *Christmas Events...*

#### **ACLF Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

We will be filling a basket for our speaker Liz Mayner to use in their ministry. All ladies are welcome to attend the Christmas Party. Please sign up!

#### **Communion**

We will once again be starting the Christmas season off with a Communion Service on Sunday morning, December 4th. Join us for this special time of remembrance and to set the tone for our Christmas celebrations.

#### **Valley Classics Luncheon**

This year's Christmas special for Valley Classics will be a Bus Ride to Bethlehem, courtesy of our travel guides, Craig and Shirley Golden. Please join us as we tour, via power point, some special places in the Holy Land. The luncheon will be Tuesday, December 6th at noon.

#### **Christmas Caroling**

We will be having a combined caroling outing with adults, teens and children starting at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Children's Christmas Program**

The children will be presenting a musical entitled "The Perfect Gift" during the Sunday School Hour on Sunday, December 18th. Please come and support our kids as they present the Gospel message.

#### **Christmas Eve Service**

Please join us for a short service to reflect on the Savior's birth. We will be singing carols and Pastor will be reading "The Little Shepherd's Christmas" to the children. This is a wonderful way to start your Christmas celebration!

#### **Christmas Day**

We will be having a Morning Service ONLY on Christmas day, so that you are able to enjoy family time. The Senior Choir will be singing selected Christmas songs during the service. Join us in celebrating Christ's birth!