



Please join us
for worship on Sunday
December 14, 2008

Sermon Series:
"Preparing for the Promise"

Sermon: "Mary"
by Pastor Chuck Holliday
Luke 1:26-38

If you missed a sermon,
click [here](#) to listen on-line
or download to your iPod.

Sunday Schedule

- 10:30 AM Worship Service.
- Nursery during Worship Service
- Children's Programs for Pre-K through 5th Grade during Worship Service

YOUTH SCHEDULE

**MIDDLE SCHOOL (OBX)
YOUTH GROUP**
Mon. 6:30-8:30pm
Joey Redd
Joey@riverpca.org

**HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP**
Wed. 6:30-9:00pm
Adam Young
Adam@riverpca.org

COLLEGE GROUP
Sun. 6:00-9:00 pm
Brandon Gantt
gantt.brandon@gmail.com

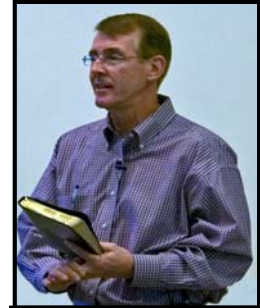
MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

" 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6). These were God's words of encouragement to Zerubbabel, the leader of the Jewish remnant who went back to the Promised Land to rebuild the temple after the captivity in Babylon. They came to him in a time of great discouragement when there seemed to be no possible way to finish the task God had called him to. They are fitting words for any of God's servants who are about an overwhelming task entrusted to them by their Lord.

Biblical scholars have long understood that Zechariah spoke simultaneously of rebuilding the physical temple and of God's rebuilding His church when the Messiah would come. He was explicit about this in

3:8, when he refers to Jesus as the Branch or Stem, "I am going to bring my servant, the Branch." Compare Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." Remembering this prophecy must have been deeply comforting to Mary when the angel announced to her that she, a virgin, would give birth to the Messiah. In response to her question, "How will this be?" the angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." (Luke 1: 34, 35). Essentially the same message God gave Zerubbabel, God will do it with His mighty power.

As we look together this coming Sunday at how God prepared Mary for Christmas,



Chuck Holliday
Pastor River of Life

we will see that He often asks more from us than seems possible. But his grace is sufficient for all that He puts on our plate. Mary did her part. Indeed, she went through the labors of childbirth, and the greater pain of loving and relinquishing her child who was to become the world's greatest martyr. But what God asked of her was so much more than any woman could do in her own strength. It may feel that way to you and me sometimes. When it does we will do well to remember, " 'It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."

Pastor Chuck

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:00 PM *Candlelight Service*

7:30 PM *Candlelight Service*

Invite your friends and neighbors.



Limited childcare will be available in the nursery during both services for children ages 2 and under.

CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE



The celebration begins after the first Christmas Eve service. Come and go or stay late. Please join us for fellowship, food, and fun. Enjoy a cup of cheer and chat with old friends or make new ones.

You're invited!

WEEKLY UPDATE

Weekly Budget Need.....\$ 11,723.29
 Offering Last Sunday.....\$ 16,690.00
 Year To Date Deficit.....(\$112,994.15)

CHAPTER TWO CAMPAIGN

Goal.....\$200,000.00
 Pledged.....\$139,080.00
 Pledges Received ..\$120,800.00

END OF YEAR GIVING

For those interested in the opportunity for end of year giving, send your donation to River of Life Church, 8323 W. Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32819 . Contributions postmarked by Wednesday, December. 31, 2008 will be applied to 2008 giving statements.

Financial Update

Story '08:

A mission conference for the whole family.



Get a front row seat on worldwide, eternal action at Story '08, a family-friendly mission conference in Orlando, December 28-31. Come meet and interact with 30 frontline missionaries from 17 countries and four continents. Meet Kate, who serves slum-dwellers in India; Dave, who's doing church-planting outside of Darfur; Jason, who took his family to the jungles of Peru and many more!

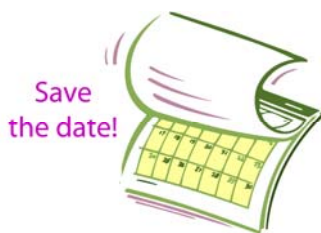
Want to give your kids a global view of a global God? Story '08 includes a program for children ages 12 and under. With a multimedia, story-driven curriculum called "Kids Around the World", your children will come away with an enlarged perspective of the spiritual and physical needs of people in other cultures—and they'll see how they fit into God's plan. Teens will be captivated by the missionary stories and the fast-paced program

running from 9 AM to 9PM—complete with a special New Year's Eve Service. Let this Christmas be a time of shaping your entire family's worldview. Early bird pricing for only \$150/adult is still available. Or bring 10 friends and come for free! Would love to come, but have to work? Come for an evening for only \$25. Learn more at

<http://www.story08.com>

or e-mail

story08@pioneers.org.



PARENTING WITH GRACE

A new year, a new opportunity to grow as a parent.

Mark your calendars now so that you can be

a part of "Parenting with Grace."

The evening of **January 23rd** and the morning of **January 24th** will be a

time for parents to be encouraged and refreshed. Don't miss it!

More news to come soon.

Thank you!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child was a wonderful success at ROL this year. A total of 115 boxes were collected and sent to children in need. This was an effort to bring joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled

shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love.

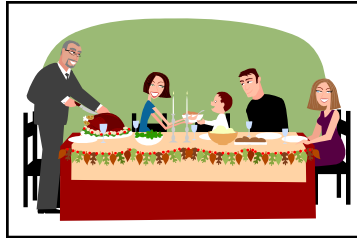
Thank you to all who participated and a special thanks to Gene and Patricia Schreckengost who coordinated the project.



FAMILY THANKSGIVING DAY BASKET PROGRAM (FTDBP)

This year was the 6th year that River of Life provided complete Thanksgiving dinner baskets for local families in need.

accessories like roasting pans, aluminum foil, plates, napkins and treats.



The families receiving the dinners were nominated by the ROL congregation and guidance counselors from Southwest Middle, Tangelo Elementary and Windy Ridge K-8 schools.

We served a total of 110 baskets. Each basket included a 12-16 pound turkey, 5 pounds of potatoes, canned goods (cranberry, green beans, gravy, yams, stuffing, etc.) Also included were

Thanks to all who made this a huge success and special thanks to Emmett and Lori Bradford for coordinating the event.

Thank you!

LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA

The Christmas Tea last Sunday was a wonderful time as we celebrated the *The Treasures of Christmas* "the good news of great joy" just as "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" Luke 2:10,19

Rhoda Gray led us in singing Christmas carols and was accompanied by Elise Levesque on the keyboard.



The food was abundant and scrumptious!

Debbie Holliday introduced Eileen Strickland, Leticia Saavedra and Melanie Manneck who shared what Christmas was like when they were children.

Thanks to Mary Jo for coordinating the wonderful day and to all that helped her.



There was a hostess for each table. She decorated the table with her Christmas china and decorations. Then graciously served the people at her table.

We all enjoyed visiting with each other. It was neat to see all the mothers and daughters there too.



To see all the pictures, click [here](#).

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

From December 20th–December 30th, 50+ international university students will be here in Orlando. Most are from China, Korea & Japan. Most don't know the true meaning of Christ-

mas. Consider being a **host for at least 5 days** by making room for an int'l university student in your home. You can make an impact in a university student's life for eternity just by dem-

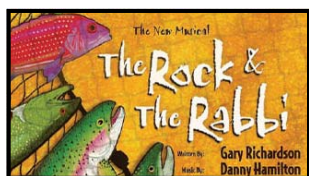
onstrating to them the love of Christ. For more information [click here](#), call Dave Hedberg at 407-719-3572 or send him an email at dave@ifmusa.org

Jesus said: "I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Matthew 25:35b

WHOLESOME, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

By Terry Griffo



The Rock and the Rabbi My #1 pick for any season. I have personally been to see this show five times over the past three years. It is a powerful presentation of the Gospel from Peter's perspective. Beginning with his initial call by Jesus, through his doubt, the crucifixion and resurrection. Prepare for spiritual goose-bumps!

Check

www.theplazatheatre.com for dates in December soon. All ages.

2. A Christmas Story—A stage adaptation based on the award-winning and time honored film, A Christmas Story follows 9 year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for



Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt's Department Store. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out."

This story is a classic American Christmas story. It illustrates a simpler time and holiday tradition that may be becoming increasingly undervalued in the fast-paced, digital society of today, said director Tad Ingram. We live in an era where the Internet, cell phones, and text messaging seem to have diminished and maybe even replaced, for many children, the appetite for face to face contact and the delicious experiences of childhood that usually occur in the absence of parents. There is a lot for us all, particularly we parents, to be reminded about life in the days before the technology boom. This

story is a story about kids being kids. Ages 5 and up should enjoy!

A Christmas Story, Orlando Rep Theatre, November 21-Dec 21, 2008

Show times: Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. and 7p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.

Call for tickets @ 407.896.7365

www.Orlandorep.com



3. A Christmas Carol - A traditional telling with added music and dancing.

A good family night out, for ages 6 and up because of scary ghosts of Christmas!

Nov.28-Dec.21

Click [here](#) for more information.



Celebrate the Season!