



Please join us  
for worship on Sunday  
December 7 2008

Sermon Series:  
Preparing for the Promise  
Sermon: "God the Father"  
by Pastor Chuck Holliday  
Ephesians 1:3-10

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](mailto:Joey@riverpca.org)

##### HIGH SCHOOL

##### YOUTH GROUP

Wed. 6:30-9:00pm

Adam Young

[Adam@riverpca.org](mailto:Adam@riverpca.org)

#### COLLEGE GROUP

Sun. 6:00-9:00 pm

Brandon Gantt

[gantt.brandon@gmail.com](mailto:gantt.brandon@gmail.com)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Nancy DeMoss writes, "When are we as Christians going to realize that the world is not impressed with a religious version of itself?" We would like to think that Christmas would be a very different celebration for those of us who truly have embraced Jesus the Messiah as our Lord and God. Indeed, if the Christmas story is real history then the implications are both startling and deeply comforting. The ultimate reality in the universe is a personal God who is for us. The Christmas message of the angel is, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10).

The simple truth is this: if God is for us then we can be for others. If God is not for us then, "every man for himself" makes a lot of sense.

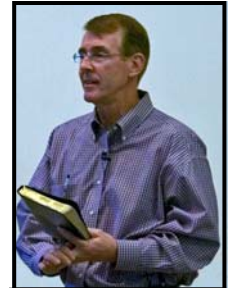
In his book, *New*

*Rules*, Daniel Yankelovich of New York University documented the massive shift in social values in the last half of the past century. The old rules, he states, stressed duty to others. If someone were selfish and got caught, it was embarrassing. But no longer. In what Yankelovich calls, "the duty to self ethics," our primary responsibility is for our own needs and interests. One would hope that the Christian community in America, armed with the belief in a God who is radically other centered, would have resisted this cultural shift. The evidence does not seem to bear this out. James Davison Hunter, in his examination of students and faculty in 16 leading evangelical colleges and seminaries, used Yankelovich's earlier questionnaire and concluded that evangelical

Christians are even more committed to self-fulfillment than their secular counterparts. It would appear that we have ended up with a neutered form of authentic Christianity, more formed by our culture than able to speak powerfully into its empty self absorption.

Only the true message of Christmas can free us from ourselves. "Unto **us** a child is born, unto **us** a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). If God is a giving God and we are made in His image and renewed into that image through Christ, then we can become other centered sons and daughters. That is where we will find our freedom and contentment. May we all taste more of him this Christmas.

Pastor Chuck



Chuck Holliday  
Pastor River of Life

## CHILDRENS CLASSES

Due to having only one service time at 10:30 am, some of our age groupings have changed.



Following is the way new classes are set up:

- 2-4 year old preschoolers
- 5 year olds and Kindergarteners
- 1st-2nd graders
- 3rd-5th graders

# WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA



Ladies if you have already signed up for the tea on December 7, please see Joy Baker in the foyer, on Sunday after the worship service to pay for your tickets (\$5.00 each) and to pick up maps to the Windermere Town Hall. **Sorry, this event is sold out.**

*Pay for tickets and get map!*

# 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.*



## WEEKLY UPDATE

Weekly Budget Need.....\$ 11,723.29  
 Offering Last Sunday.....\$ 6,234.00  
 Year To Date Deficit.....(\$118,307.66)

## CHAPTER TWO CAMPAIGN

Goal.....\$200,000.00  
 Pledged.....\$139,080.00  
 Received Pledges...\$120,750.00

## Financial Update

# OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

A member of our church family is in need of a sofa bed or day bed for use by a relative who will be living with them. If you have one you can donate, please call the church office at 407-351-4333.



## OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

Do you have the gift of proofreading? Are you on your computer most Wednesday afternoons or Thursday mornings. If the answer is yes...and if you



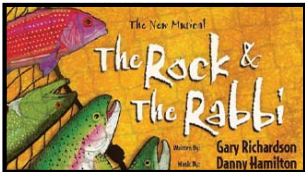
see yourself in this article that could be corrected...then PLEASE send me— Faith Reynolds— an e-mail at [faith@riverpca.org](mailto:faith@riverpca.org) or call me at 407-240-9452.

Thank You



## 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](http://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](http://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!*

# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	<i>1</i> 6:30-8:30pm OBX	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10am continuing Believing God Bible Study  6:30-9:00pm HS Youth	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connection 1:30pm Ladies Christmas Tea 6m College Group	<i>8</i> 6:30-8:30pm OBX	<i>9</i> 7pm Women's Prayer Group Rhonette 407-625-6943 7:30pm continuing Women's Survey of Book of Ruth	<i>10</i> 6:30-9:00pm HS Youth	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connection 6m College Group	<i>15</i> 6:30-8:30pm OBX	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 10am continuing Believing God Bible Study  6:30-9:00pm HS Youth	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connection 6m College Group	<i>22</i> No OBX Youth	<i>23</i> 7:30pm continuing Women's Survey of Book of Ruth	<i>24</i> 6 & 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  No H.S. Youth	<i>25</i> <b>Christmas Day</b> 	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connection 6m College Group	<i>29</i> No OBX Youth	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> No H.S. Youth			

