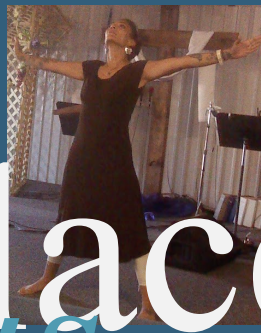


His Place *focus*



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HIS PLACE WORSHIP CENTER JANUARY 2017

A “Year of Our Lord” Ends; A New Year in Christ Begins

Happy new year; Christ is born! And He will be with us throughout 2017. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

His Place wound up 2016 with several December worship celebrations of the Lord’s birth. On December 11, the children led the Praise and Worship portion of the service, celebrating Christ’s birth through music. (See article on page 3.)



Thomas and Lauren Bass. (See page 2.)

On December 18, the church was the scene of a renewal of wedding vows for

Since Christmas fell on a Sunday, His Place worshippers, led by Tony and Mariah McKinney, lifted up gifts of song, prayer, and fellowship to the giver of the gift of salvation.

His Place honored the Laney family December 11 as the family prepared to answer the Spirit’s call to Morningstar University in Fort Mills, South Carolina. The Laney’s will be living in nearby Charlotte, North Carolina while Chase studies for a ministry degree in the University’s “Worship Leader” program. He and his wife, Beth, will also help lead worship and prayer in the newly-constructed Bob Jones Vision Center, a house of prayer in Fort Mills.



Jim Jackson blesses the Laney’s. Pictured are: rear, l-r, Emily, Zachery, Beth, and Chase; and front, Bella.

CHURCH EVENTS

- The Holy Spirit is scheduled to appear each Sunday during our worship services. Worship begins at 10:30 am.
- Sunday morning Bible study resumes at 9:30 on January 8. Jesus says, “Let the little children come unto me.” This includes the adult Children of God!

“For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5



It began with a teaching about the wise and foolish virgins waiting for the bridegroom at a wedding. But Pastor Paul's December 18 message soon metamorphosed into a surprise marriage ceremony for Thomas and Lauren Bass. The event was a fourth wedding anniversary surprise from Thomas to his wife. The family—Thomas, Lauren, and their daughter Rosemary—had recently accepted Christ and been baptized. Thomas, Paul explained to the congregation, wanted to renew wedding vows "in the house of God, with my wife and friends." The couple's daughter, Rosemary, served as flower girl for the ceremony. An earthly representation of the "marriage supper of the Lamb," potluck - style, followed.



Children's Ministry

Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. Psalm 127:3-5

Children Convey Christ's Christmas Cheer

♪ Ten lords a leaping ♪

His Place suspended Sunday School during most of December. However, the children spent the first Sunday of December, December 4, leaping into the Christmas season—literally. The children jumped over a duct tape line to demonstrate that John the Baptist's birth marked the leap from the Old Testament covenant to the New Testament's message of salvation through Christ.

The lesson subject was the birth of John, and Zechariah's regaining of his speech, from Luke 1:57-66. Children took turns sitting quietly in a chair for 30 seconds, while the rest of the class remained silent as well. At the end of the 30 seconds, the seated child would cry "His name is John," as Zechariah did 2,000 years ago. Then the rest of the class members cried out whatever expressions of joy they desired.

♪ Have a holly, jolly Chrismon ♪

Also on December 4, the children made Chrismons, white and gold symbols of the Christian faith. Armed

with markers, sticky-back golden jewels, and gold trim, the kids applied their own creative touches to angels, crowns, and crosses made of white cardstock.

♪ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ♪

The Praise Team took the day off December 11, as the children presented the story of Christ's birth through

music. Susan Beck read, in segments, the scriptural account of the Messiah's birth. After each passage, the children highlighted the passages via renditions of "Silent Night," "Mary Did You Know," and "Happy

Birthday, Jesus." The program culminated in a musical encouragement for the congregation to, like the shepherds, "Go Tell it on the Mountain."



From The Pastor's Desk

Thoughts from Pastors Paul and Marion

As the first month of the year, January is usually associated with newness: new possessions that were acquired at Christmas, a new year filled with promise, New Year's resolutions, and (at least this year) new national leadership. But Christmas gifts lose their novelty, resolutions are soon broken, and leadership can prove disappointing.

"Newness" just doesn't exist. As the author of Ecclesiastes puts it, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

But "under the sun," in the small town of Bethlehem, a child was born. And because of this child – who is both the Son of God and God incarnate - everything is becoming new. "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" (Revelation 21:5)

The new creation begins in us, from the moment we give our lives to Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). It culminates in

the re-creation of our bodies. "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body..." (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

The new creation also culminates in the re-creation of the world around us. "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away" (Revelation 21:1).

We tend to conceive of the new heaven and the earth as a more glorious replica of our current world. But God's kingdom will be something beyond anything we can imagine. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Eternal life won't merely be an unending continuation of our lives, but a fulfillment. "For we know in part and we prophesy in



part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears" (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

And the new earth, spread out under a new heaven, will be more than a collection of gold streets and jeweled buildings. It will be a new Eden in which God walks with us. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God'" (Revelation 21:3).

We don't want just to wish you a happy new year. Have a happy new eternity!

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From birth
I have relied on you;
you brought me forth
from my mother's
womb. I will ever
praise you.
Psalm 71:6