



# Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

December 11th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)

## The Third Candle—Join the Joy

This week shines the third candle with a message of the Joy that Jesus' presence brings. Indeed, as the forerunner of Jesus, it is entirely appropriate that John the Baptist's very first response to Jesus was "leaping with joy," and this while still in his mother's womb (Luke 1:44). The joy was shared by Mary as it dawned on her how blessed it is to be the mother of the Lord. She broke into praise saying, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46). The angelic heavenly hosts "joined the joy" by leading creation's praise at Jesus' birth with the exclamation: Gloria in excelsis deo—that is, "Glory to God in the highest!" The angel of the Lord explained the wonder of Jesus' birth to the shepherds that glorious night saying, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Joy certainly continued as Jesus (our brother & Lord) ushered in the promised kingdom of God through His proclamation and presence. Folks received the Kingdom Word with joy. However, there would be the shock of crucifixion, whereupon Jesus, "for the joy set before him," endured the shame (Hebrews 12:2). They were beginning to understand Jesus' parting discussion with them when He said, These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11).

Joy characterized the early church, for "the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:52). It is no wonder that the apostle Paul would write: "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" ; "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ... " and "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say Rejoice" (Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4). So deep and infectious is this Joy, that James could write to the many dispersed Christians, "Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials" (James 1:2). Jesus' birth brother through Mary closed his short letter with the strongest encouragement: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy" (Jude 24).

Jesus' birth as God with us (Immanuel) is a beacon call to join the joy. It is not something we can conjure up; nor is it psychological games playing. It is rather like partaking of a wondrous gift. We are invited to "join the party" where Jesus is celebrated and center. The following prayer is just as fresh for us as when Paul first penned it: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). LH



## PRAYER & PRAISE

- Remember our loved ones in Kenya— Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lord Thank You for the Gift of Jesus & the gifts of His kingdom
- Grant us grace to see your hand in our lives this past year
- Bless the elders with continued wisdom, love, and awareness
- Thank you Lord for all ministries of the body like Frank & Jimmy's Prison work; Karen, Tim & Ann's Counseling; Adam's attention to Youth; Tommy's Next Right Step; Ministers of the Word thru Teaching, Preaching, or Singing; Maintaining the building; Cooking for Wednesday fellowship; Liz & Gil for Winyo; Outreach to Muslims; Website
- Bless Matthew Christy & other loved ones to make peace with Jesus
- Grant us vision for the service you would have each of us doing
- We are grateful for the many tangible answers to our prayers this year
- Bless our youth and college aged to enjoy the Light of Your Presence
- Prince of Peace may Your peace increase throughout the earth
- Lead us to walk in the joy of your Kingdom



God has cast our confessed sins into the depths of the sea, and He's even put a 'No Fishing' sign over the spot. Dwight L Moody



We can be assured that each step deeper into the Lord's Presence will reveal areas in our hearts which need to be cleansed. Do not be afraid. When the Spirit shows you areas of sin, it is not to condemn you, but to cleanse you. Francis Frangipane





“Glory to God in the Highest” by Deborah Reeder

**Joy: You Become What You Crave**

John Piper reflects below on the meaning of 1 Peter 1:8, “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.”

What gives joy its quality? I don't mean merely its intensity, but its moral character? What makes joy ugly or beautiful? Depraved or noble? Dirty or clean? The answer is that the thing enjoyed gives joy its character. If you enjoy dirty jokes and bathroom language and lewd pictures, then your heart is dirty and your joy is dirty. If you enjoy cruelty and arrogance and revenge, then your heart and your joy have that character. Or the more you get your joy simply from material things, the more your heart and your joy shrivel up like a mere material thing. You become like what you crave.

Peter says (in v. 8) that Christian joy is inexpressible and glorified. So how does it become that like that? It becomes like that because Christian joy is the joy of craving the preciousness of Jesus and the reliability of Jesus. You become like what you crave. Christians crave Christ. Therefore they become like Christ. Christ's preciousness and reliability are inexpressibly great, and so our joy is inexpressible in him. And Christ has in him all the glory of the universe and of God, and so our joy in him is a glorified joy—that is, a joy being changed from one degree to another by his glory as we are attracted by its preciousness and as we are confident in its reliability. We become what we crave and what Christians crave above all else is the glory of Christ. So our joy is "inexpressible and glorified" because it is joy in loving Christ and trusting Christ who is inexpressibly glorious.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY IS THE ANNUAL HERDMEN CHRISTMAS PLAY!!!**  
**BE READY TO SEE THE JOY OF THE LORD THROUGH OUR CHILDREN!!!**

Breakfast at Tim & Karen’s 9:00  
**THIS MORNING** (permitting dress rehearsal for play at church building)

**Announcement:**  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES TODAY OR DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>.**

**Announcement:**  
**No Around the Word Groups for December**

It's that time of year again! We are planning our Christmas progressive dinner for Wednesday evening, **December 21**. If anyone is interested in hosting please give me a call. We will probably be starting at 6:00p.m. More details to follow. Hope everyone can make it. -Linda

**BOOK CLUB**

This month’s book is *Velva Jean Learns to Fly* by Jennifer Niven. It would be helpful but not necessary to read the prequel *Velva Jean Learns to Drive*. We will meet at Shannon Whitehead’s in early December, Date & Time: T.B.A



**2011 Calendar**

- TODAY – XMAS PLAY! NO CLASS, B'kfst @ Tim & Karen's
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual FH Progressive Dinner
- DEC 25<sup>th</sup> – NO CLASS
- EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@church, Intercessory prayer 4 anyone
- EACH TUES MORNING – 6:30am, mens bible study
- EACH WED – Dinner @ 5:45pm & Women's Bible Study @ 6:15pm

For every look at self take ten looks at Christ.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Dec 11	Shannon Whitehead	Dec Christy	Dec 14 Pizza
Dec 18	Lois McAlister	Jan D'Ann	Dec 21 Sarah/Kathleen
Dec 25	Mari Ann Farmer	Feb McAlister	Dec 28 Liz/Dawn
Jan 1	Pat Gil		Jan 4 Linda/Lois
Jan 8	Sam Lamborn		Jan 11 Lisa/Wendy
Jan 15	Linda Boyd		Jan 18 Ocie/Shannon
Jan 22	Leah Hickerson	(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	Jan 25 Pat/Karen