***SERMON TAKE AWAY for DEC 13, 2015***

**“ And The Joy of the Lord Came Upon them!”**

Scripture - Luke 2: 8-20

As an addition to the Sunday morning sermon the following questions have been designed to facilitate conversations and reflection for individuals, couples and groups.

**Opening Question**:

1. When you were growing up, when did your family put up the Christmas tree? Who decorated? What Christmas traditions do you still keep?

**Looking At The Scriptures**:

1. How does the shepherd’s experience with angels compare to Zachariah’s (1:8) and Mary’s (1:26)?
2. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why did God send them to the shepherds?
3. How does that relate to Mary’s song (1:26)?
4. What effect did these night-time events have on the shepherds?
5. What do you think the shepherds were most excited about telling other people?

**Questions To Reflect On**:

1. God appeared to Zechariah, Mary and the shepherds when they were just doing their jobs, being themselves. What does that imply about what it means to be spiritual? How has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life?
2. Other people didn't hear the angels. Why?
3. What effect has the news of Christ’s birth had on you?