



## The Hopes and Fears of All The Years

Of all the wonderful Christmas carols and hymns, “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” by Phillips Brooks may have the most haunting line. “*the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*”. Hope and fear are so different, but they can often occupy the same space. You may know this by experience right now. Life is filled with hope and fear, joy and pain, and both are present in the first Christmas.

It is so easy to read the gospel accounts and not see this mingling of ecstasy and sorrow that surrounds the birth of the Savior. Notice for example the joy of Mary when she learns of her privileged place as the mother of Christ. That joy burst forth from her spirit as she utters the first words of the Magnificat, “*My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*” But this joy is mixed with the pain of being shunned by society, a society that can smell a scandal, because they do not know that “*what is conceived in [Mary] is from the Holy Spirit.*” Another exhibition of joy is that of Mary and Elizabeth. They meet and share miraculous news that even caused the unborn prophet of our Lord to leap for joy in his Elizabeth’s womb. However, this is later followed by the physical pain of a natural childbirth on a stable floor, as Mary presents the Savior to the world. There is the joy of the shepherds as they experience a night crammed with miracles. From the celestial visitor that proclaims the birth, to the heavenly choir of angels that blast forth praise to God, to the encounter with the Christ child himself, these shepherds leave the manger scene as men drunken with joy. Much later there is the joy of the Magi as they saw the star that led them to the Son of God. In their ecstatic state they lavished the King of Kings with gifts of great value and then returned to their country by another route. Why another route? Because not everyone shared the joy of the shepherds and wise men. You see, there are the sounds of pain as mothers cry over their slain children. A wicked king Herod orders the massacre of all Bethlehem boys two years and younger out of jealousy over the Christ. The heavenly sounds of the angel choir in the shepherd’s field are later mixed with the weeping sounds of the grieving. Jesus is born in the midst of man’s misery.

The first Christmas was a mixture of elation and sorrow, and so it is today for many people at Christmas. Friends, family, acquaintances, and strangers all pass through our lives this holiday season that are living in pain, and Christmas will somehow make that pain worse. There are those who stood by the grave of someone they loved this year, and that means there will be one less place to set at the table during Christmas dinner. Others have known the recent wounds of divorce or separation and dread the thoughts of an empty house on Christmas Eve. Still others know the physical pain of an unexpected disease, and at Christmas they more keenly sense how the plans of their lives have been altered. Then there are those who battle the unseen force of depression that can flood them even in the midst of lights, tinsel, and holiday music. It is a difficult time for many.

This is where the miracle of Christmas comes to bear on the wounded hearts of those around us. Christ came into the world in bodily form to complete a mission that would bring a conquering joy to the hurting inhabitants of this world. The full measure of this joy, unbroken and unhindered, cannot be fully experienced in this life. There awaits for us a joy in eternity with Christ that will never be threatened by crisis, and never be tainted by sin. Until then, Christ’s joy is most often born through committed Christians who become His incarnate presence in the world. When we love, pray for, and support those who are going through “the dark night of the soul” this holiday season, we can become vessels of Christmas joy. A Christmas joy that we pray will soothe the hearts of those who are uniquely surrounded by the anguish of this world.

As we fulfill all of our holiday traditions, let us ask the Lord to make us mindful of those who are hurting, and as Christ reaches out to them through us...joy can win the day again!

*Randy*

**NOTE: WEARING MASKS IS OPTIONAL. USE YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT.**



**Each Sunday:** Sunday School at 9:30 AM; **Worship at 10:30 AM** Options: **Inside**; Tune in to: **FM 88.9**; **Facebook Live**

Submitted By Ginger Holt:

**Special Music:**



December 4 – The Choir

December 11 – Handbell Choir

December 18 – Sydney and the Kids

December 25 – The Choir

**Choir Practice:** Check with Ginger.

**Nursery Volunteers during Worship:**

December 4 – Cathy Shore

December 11 – Donna Raines

December 18 – Sarah Ray

December 25 – No Nursery

Submitted by Jay Brendle:

**Greeters for the month of December:**

Adam Hutchins and Sarah Ray

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**December 11**

**Monthly Meeting After Worship**

*Committees, please be prepared to report.*

**Sunday, December 11 – Youth**

**Christmas Play, “The Wise Woman”**

**at 6:30 PM – Everyone Invited.**

**NOTE: Bring a Christmas treat to share (appetizers/finger foods, etc.)**

**After the program, everyone gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship.**

*Christian Ed Committee would like to thank the meeting for all their support and prayers throughout the year and we look forward to what God brings in the New Year of 2023.*

**CE Committee will NOT meet in December**

**December 18 – FOJ/DOGS**

**Christmas Play during Worship**

**December 25 – Christmas Day**

**Worship at 10:30 – A Christmas message, music by The Choir and March to the Manger see pg.3**

**(No Sunday School)**

**Ministry and Counsel will NOT**  
**2 meet in December.**

THOUGHT for December

**Isaiah 9:6**

**For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder:  
and His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting  
Father, The Prince of Peace.**

*May the God of the Universe give you Joy and Peace  
this Holiday Season.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Ginger Holt, Clerk



*Quaker Women thank you for your support of this project.*

**Christmas Card Mailbox IS OPEN through December**

**Leave your cards in the Box in the Foyer as you go in.**

**Drop in 25 cents per card – All donations go to missions.**

*We ask that you Please directly mail your cards to shut-ins and non-attendees.*

**You are Invited**

**For a presentation of**

***Handel's Messiah***

**By**

**The Yadkin County Community Chorus and Orchestra**

**Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 PM**

**at**

**Yadkinville United Methodist Church.**

**Everyone is invited.**

*Contact Ginger Holt for more information.*

*Several of our people will be participating.*





*From Randy:* **Join Us for Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM – Meal included** Everyone is welcome. A time to study, share and pray.



## March to the Manger Offering December 25, 2022

The March to the Manger offering is a time to express the generosity that is at the heart of Christmas as we bring our Christmas gifts to the Savior. It is an opportunity to give above and beyond our normal tithing to God's work here at Deep Creek.

All undesignated contributions will go into our General Fund. The General Fund is the financial hub for God's work at Deep Creek. Or you may want to designate your giving to a special project, mission, or individual here at Deep Creek. Checks should be made payable to Deep Creek Friends Meeting. If you have a designation be sure to write it at the bottom of your check or on an offering envelope.

As you prepare to present Christ your gift on Christmas Day, do so with prayerful adoration for His goodness and grace. May this year's offering be a sincere and heartfelt gift of love for the Lord's work here at Deep Creek Friends Meeting!

*One of the Core Values of Deep Creek Friends Meeting:*

### WORSHIP

We are a fellowship centered in Jesus Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit. Worship is a celebration of adoration and obedience to God through listening, music and the spoken Word.

*Pray Daily for Ministries, Other Friends Meetings and Leadership:*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Mobsters have the expression "going to the mattress" as a way of denoting starting a war with someone else. Christians should have their own comparable expression: "going to the rug," which means kneeling on your prayer rug as you relentlessly pray for others on their behalf.</i></p> <p><i>Richard Wagner, Christian teacher and author</i></p>				1 Bethel Church Marcus Wall FEMAP	2 Branon Friends Gloria Simmons Ricky Lovelace	3 Cane Creek Friends Cheryl Benson
4 Cedar Square Friends Michael Fulp Jr Sterling Brown	5 Centre Friends No Pastor Beulah Guillion FCM	6 Concord Friends Greg Creed	7 Connection Church Mike Wall	8 Deep Creek Friends Randy Quate Jared Warden Sydney Matthews	9 Forbush Friends Mitchell See Kyle Widlicka	10 Goldsboro Friends George Strickland QUAKER MEN
11 Harmony Grove Friends No Pastor	12 Hood Swamp Friends Lee Lane	13 Hunting Creek Friends No Pastor	14 Kernersville Friends Jeff Barnes	15 Liberty Friends James Moore QUAKER LAKE	16 Marlboro Friends Ray Luther Terry Linthicum	17 Mar Mac Friends Howard Seymour USFW
18 Mountain View Friends Jeff Stowers	19 Odre Nuevo (New Wineskins) Misael Morales Jamaica Yrly Mtg	20 Pilot Mountain Friends Jeremiah Thomas	21 Randleman Friends Wade Craven	22 Rocky River Friends David Hobson FDS	23 Science Hill Friends John Porter Superintendent Mike Wall	24 South Plainfield Friends Hugh Spaulding
25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 🔔🔔	26 Thomasville Friends Eric Morrison	27 White Plains Friends No Pastor	28 Winthrop Friends Harold Salmons	29 Archdale Friends Rodney Kirby East Africa Yrly Mtg	30 Asheboro Friends David Millikan	31 Back Creek Friends No Pastor Social Media Coordinator

## Food for the Hungry

*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.* Matthew 25:4

**Thank you** for your continued donations. The need continues.

### Quaker Women Challenge!

Every Sunday, bring a food item  
to donate to Yadkin Christian Ministries.  
The Need is Great!



### DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER 25

Please consider joining us in the effort to help our students and teachers.

Leave your items in the container in front of the Pastor's Study.

Bring in school supplies for our local school students (including ALL ages). The collected items will be given out at a supply handout along with a lunch handout around the end of the year or first of January. There is always such a great need for things halfway through the school year that often students and families cannot afford. This is in partnership with our Christian Education and Youth groups as they have felt a leading to do this ministry.

An example (not a set list) for School Supplies:

Loose leaf paper, Notebooks (spiral), Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Markers, Kleenex, Paper towels, Hand Sanitizers, Ziploc bags (pint, quart, gallon), Snack foods (Nabs, other individually wrapped items)



**Rules to Live By: The Queries from the Faith and Practice of Friends Church of NC**  
**PERSONAL LIFE AND CONDUCT**  
**Do you strive to live so that others see Christ in you?**

### Local Celebrations of Interest:

The **Town of Yadkinville Christmas Tree Lighting** will take place on **Friday, December 2 at 6:00 PM.** at the Yadkinville Community Park. The Forbush Middle School Ensemble will be performing. Refreshments will be served.

The **Yadkinville Christmas Parade** will be **Saturday, December 3 beginning at 10:00 AM**

**Boonville Small Town Twilight Christmas Parade**  
**Saturday, December 3 beginning at 4:30 PM**



# What Is Christmas

It is the time when people's hearts ring like bells. And legend says that oxen kneel in their stalls at midnight in memory.

Christmas is the anniversary of one kind of faith and selflessness. It is the natal date of a lonely Jewish carpenter who in 33 short years of breath stamped an undying conscience on this world and promised all men life everlasting through belief.

He died a radical upon a cross for what he taught, bleeding slowly to death from the agony of nail and spear wounds. Few listened to his message in his day. He died a minor gadfly to a Roman world.

One of many martyrs to many faiths, time has raised Jesus Christ to a gigantic stature, so that today more than 600 million people, one-fourth of all mankind, celebrate Him. More men follow him than any man who ever lived. In the centuries since his birth, he has become the greatest religious figure in history.

What is Christmas?

It is his spirit and his philosophy – that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Today the celebration of his birth, as is his death, is crossed with old pagan ceremonials. But his spirit and his example inflame the day.

Sometimes religious leaders get cross with Santa Claus and say he takes the honors that belong to Jesus. But no one who has read the life of Christ could ever think of Him as being jealous. Santa is just Him with a beard on.

Perhaps, if Santa Claus pressed his view 365 days a year, as Jesus did, he might even in these enlightened days, risk a similar persecution.

What is Christmas? It is the time of letting go of hidebound prejudices and having the courage to be sentimental and good. It is the time when men take down a cold unfeeling star from the sky and make it a warm and stirring beacon on a tree.

Mainly, the grownups say, “Christmas is for the kids.” But they themselves enjoy it most, although often they are oddly ashamed to acknowledge it. In December their crust of foolish sophistication – the crust they grow to protect themselves from disappointment – wears thin. They light a silent candle to an old belief, that most men really do wish each other well but don't know quite what to do about it.

What is Christmas? It is a season when they can cast away their mutual doubts and really do something for one another.

The Jews, who regard Jesus as only a prophet, have their own festival this time of year. It is called Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. It lasts eight days. On each day they light another candle, give another gift. The other day a Jewish friend of mine, whose children go to a public school and love the festival of Christmas, told me the plight of his young daughter.

She came to her father and said: “Daddy, I was chosen to be an angel in our Christmas play, but do I have the right to play it?”

And her father, knowing her problem, said: “Honey, be their angel.”

I think that is Christmas – and America.



Hal Boyle  
From Editorials of *Winston-Salem Journal*



Invite your Friends  
and Family

# CHILDREN

From Sydney

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Children's Church** (During 10:30 Worship):  
December 11

**Friends of Jesus / DOGS**

**Christmas Program Practice:**

December 2 (Friday)

December 4

December 16 - Last run through (Friday)

**Friends of Jesus Christmas Program**  
during worship on Sunday December 18

**Friends of Jesus Christmas Party**  
Friday, December 16 at 6

Sydney Matthews:  
(336) 469-3476 or  
[syd.matthews22@gmail.com](mailto:syd.matthews22@gmail.com)

*If you have any questions or concerns,  
please let me know!*

## Hanging of the Greens



## Upcoming Events:

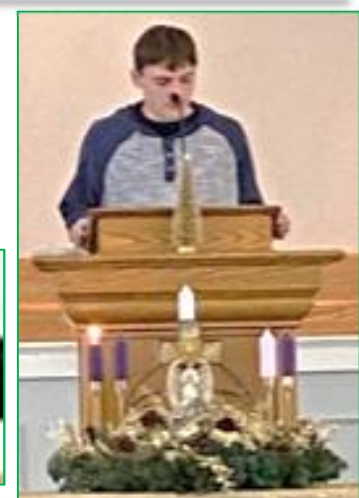
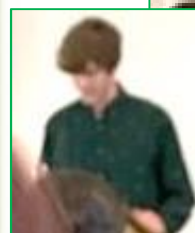
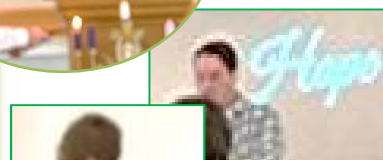
December:

Dec. 4 - Youth Play Practice at 6:00 at  
Deep Creek, Dinner at 5:30

Dec. 10 - Youth Dress Rehearsal for  
Christmas Play at 9:00 am at Union Cross

Dec. 10 - Youth Christmas Play at Union  
Cross at 6:00

Dec. 11 - Youth Christmas Play, "The Wise  
Woman", at Deep Creek at 6:30  
(appetizers/finger foods to follow in the  
Fellowship Hall) Adults bring an appetizer or finger  
food to share.



## YOUTH & JR. YOUTH

From Jared



## Young Adults Outing

Always a great time with our Young Adults; we enjoyed a meal at Pancho Villa Mexican Restaurant and Krispy Kreme for dessert to celebrate the Thanksgiving season.

We would love to have any of the young adults join us anytime for our outings and devotion times. Please reach out to Angie or Jacob if you have any questions.





## CONGRATULATIONS

### HOLLY HUTCHINS RECEIVES HONORS



On November 28, Holly Hutchins was inducted into the National Honor Society and BETA Club. Holly is a Junior at Forbush High School and is the daughter of Adam and Jean Hutchins.

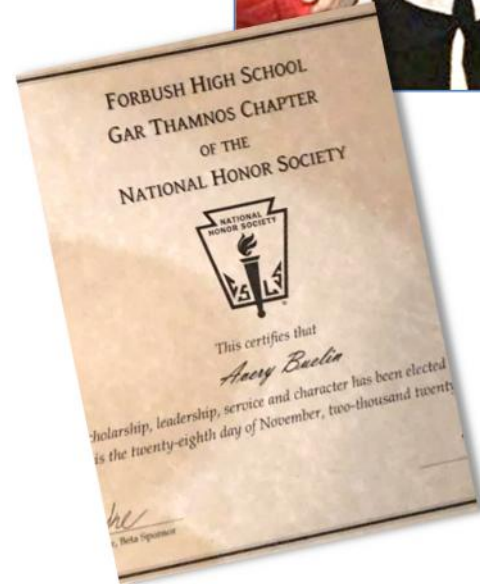
### MAGGIE RAY IS PLAYING BASKETBALL

Maggie Ray is a Junior at Starmount High School playing basketball for the Rams. *Maybe interesting to our community is the Yadkin rival coming up: Starmount will host Forbush Falcons on December 9 and Forbush will host Starmount Rams on January 20.*

### GRANDPARENTS CELEBRATE TOO

Grandparents Mike and Vicki Shore celebrated with Avery Buelin as he received membership in the National Honor Society November 28.

His parents are Shannon and Jeff Buelin.



### KACI BARBER EXCELS IN MUSIC



Kaci Barber recently had her first Salem Youth Symphony Concert. She played the French Horn instead of the Flute we usually see her play. We are told she also plays the Bass Guitar in the Jazz Band.





## REMEMBER TO **PRAY** – Prayer changes things!

The following information is included by request. **Be specific when you pray** and send notes.

\*This color indicates an addition or change from last month.

### Among those requesting prayer:

Pray for special needs of members, friends and relatives and celebrate God's care.

*Contact the editor for information*

*From Friends minister,  
David Hobson's Church bulletin*



### *Songs of Jesus*

*O sing* a song of Bethlehem,  
Of shepherds watching there,  
And of the news that came to them  
From angels in the air:  
The light that shone on Bethlehem  
Fills all the world today;  
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth  
The angels sing always.



O sing a song of Nazareth,  
Of sunny days of joy,  
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,  
And of the sinless Boy:  
For now the flowers of Nazareth  
In every heart may grow;  
Now spreads the fame of His dear Name  
On all the winds that blow.

*Excerpt – Louis F. Benson*





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### Deep Creek Friends Meeting



Let us come before him  
with thanksgiving and  
extol him with music  
and song.  
Psalm 95:1

- Do you have a friend or relative that would enjoy *The Encourager*? Send address (PO or e-mail).
- Send suggestions, news, information, announcements or materials that you would like included in *The Encourager*.
- Please send any change of address.
- Are you receiving *The Encourager* in error or you no longer wish to receive it? If so, let us know.
- **Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue. Next issue – January, 2023**

**Deadline for news – December 26**

Send Information and Materials to:

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*Shelby Shore*

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Phone: 336 961 4404  
Clerk: Ginger Holt

Director of Youth and Jr. Youth Ministries: Jared Warden

Director of Children's Ministries: Sydney Matthews