

The Encourager

Deep Creek Friends Meeting

December, 2023

Christmas Hope

During the 2008 presidential race, John McCain was asked by *Time* magazine to share his "personal journey of faith". In this article, McCain shared a powerful experience he had while he was a P.O.W. in Vietnam:

"When I was a prisoner of war in Vietnam...my captors would tie my arms behind my back and then loop the rope around my neck and ankles so that my head was pulled down between my knees. I was often left like that throughout the night. One night a guard came into my cell. He put his finger to his lips signaling for me to be quiet and then loosened my ropes to relieve my pain. The next morning, when his shift ended, the guard returned and retightened the ropes, never saying a word to me.

A month or so later, on Christmas Day, I was standing in the dirt courtyard when I saw that same guard approach me. He walked up and stood silently next to me, not looking or smiling at me. Then he used his sandaled foot to draw a cross in the dirt. We stood wordlessly looking at the cross, remembering the true light of Christmas, even in the darkness of a Vietnamese prison camp."

The picture of McCain wrapped tightly in a contorted ball of torture, and the callousness of his captors to his suffering, exposes the darkness of the human soul. But everything shifts when the picture moves to the dark stillness of one night, when a guard's conscience was stirred by the Holy Spirit. As he releases his tangled prisoner for a moment of respite, everything shifts. Light begins to glow when a sandal shapes a cross in the dirt. The power of the manger and the cross have entered behind the Enemy's lines. The glimmer of grace has once more penetrated the thick darkness of sin.

This story is a vivid illustration of the hope found in the Christ of Christmas. Without the manger of Christ's birth, and the cross of Christ's passion, the world would still be smothered in the bondage of cruelty and hatred. The soft picture of the Nativity revealed through contemporary decorations cannot convey the ultimate battle that was waged during the arrival of Christ. It was a battle for every soul that has ever lived. The birth of Jesus was a frontal assault on the spiritual darkness of this world. I John 3:8 states, *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work"*. It's that simple: Christmas marks an eternal victory over the forces of evil.

In the midst of these difficult days, despair and depression have become more common. Yet as Christians, we must not become bowed and broken by the darkness around us. Instead, we must hear the bells of Christmas, and trust The Message more than ever. We must all live in the presence of Emmanuel, the power of the Resurrection, and the promise of Christ's return. Let us not allow the anxious spirit of this age, and the dismal news around us infect our souls. Let us stay convinced that our hope in Emmanuel is well placed.

Only six months after the carnage of the Battle of Gettysburg, while a nation mourned its dead, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned the words to a classic Christmas poem. The final two stanzas read:

*And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!'
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!*

At times it does feel like evil is winning. Cruelty and hatred have not yet been eradicated. We can tangibly feel the lingering attacks of our Adversary in the news of a globe gone mad. The world is on fire! Yet, every day, in the farthest reaches of this fallen world, the cross is still being drawn in the dust by faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Let us be diligent in this coming year to live in the power of such hope.

Randy

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



Each Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM or [Facebook Live](#)

Submitted By Ginger Holt:

Special Music:

December 3 – Hanging of the Greens
December 10 – The Handbell Choir
December 17 – Friends of Jesus Program
December 24 – The Choir
December 31 – 5th Sunday Sing: Church Members

Choir Practice: Sunday, December 3: - 3:00–4:00 PM
Wednesday, December 20 after Bible Study



Submitted by Jay Brendle.

Nursery Volunteers – Worship:

December 3 – Jean Hutchins
December 10 – Janet Robbins
December 17 – Cathy Shore
December 24 – Priscilla Shore
December 31 – Donna Barber

Greeters for the month of December:
Adam Hutchins, Sarah Hutchens

Submitted by Angie Brendle

Nursery - Sunday School
9:30-10:30 AM

December 3 – Priscilla Shore
December 10 – Donna Raines
December 17 – Cathy Shore
December 24 – Jean Hutchins
December 31 – Priscilla Shore

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December 3 through 31 – Christmas Card

Mailbox is Open: Bring Cards for anyone in the church. Drop in 25¢ per card – All donations go to missions. (Sponsored by Quaker Women)

December 3 – Hanging of the Greens

Youth, Young Adults and Children will help lead worship service. *Questions, see Jean or Angie*

December 3 & 10 - Handbell Practice

December 10 – Handbells Play during Worship

Monday, December 4 at 6:30 PM

Finance Committee will meet.

Planning the budget for next year.

Pam Steelman, Chair

Tuesday, December 5 – Quaker Women go

Caroling at Patriot Living, Yadkin Nursing Center and in the community. **Let us know if you can join us.**

December 7 at 12:30 PM - Quaker Women hosting **Christmas Lunch for our Seniors** in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Janet 336-971-1212

December 10 at 6:00 PM - Youth Christmas Play

Everyone Come for the play and after gather in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and **Christmas snacks**. Bring your favorite food to share.

December 17 – Friends Of Jesus Christmas Program during Worship

December 17 – Monthly Meeting

After Worship *Each Committee needs to **have at least one representative present.**

December 31 – Fifth Sunday Sing with Christmas Music and March to the Manger

As a special gift for Jesus, make an extra donation to the church and its general work or designate a project/program of your choice.



YOUNG ADULTS December EVENTS:

For questions about any of these events, see Angie, Jacob or Lisa.

Sunday, December 3 – Travel to Lunch after Worship

Friday, December 15 – “Lock-In” at church; 7:00 PM – Meet at the church; travel to Dinner.

Sunday, December 31, New Year’s Eve Gathering – 7:30 PM. at the home of Jay and Angie Brendle

December 17 - Everyone Invited:

The Messiah - December 17 at 3:00 PM @ Yadkinville Methodist Church: Several members of our congregation are in this choir. Some will also be soloist, playing instruments, and Ginger Holt, Director.

The Yadkin Arts Council Presents

The 20th Annual Performance Of

GEORGE F. HANDEL'S
THE MESSIAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2023
3:00PM

YADKINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
204 WEST MAIN STREET, YADKINVILLE, NC 27055

Directed by Dr. Ginger Holt

Featuring the Yadkin Community Chorus

THOUGHT for December
From Ginger Holt, Clerk of the Meeting:



A Christmas Gift

When I was about 7 years old, what I wanted most for Christmas was a Baby Tender Love. Unlike most dolls of the day, she was soft and was the most lifelike doll to that date. She was a chubby baby doll with blond hair and was dressed in pink, and you could move her arms and legs. I could not wait for Christmas to come. This would be the best one yet!

Christmas day came, and I had everything a little girl could want; everything EXCEPT my Baby Tender Love! To add insult to injury, later that day my cousin Robin showed up for family Christmas with a Baby Tender Love. I was so jealous I could not stand it; both Santa and Mama had failed me, and Robin had my doll! I think that was the day my eyes turned green.

I had one last hope. My Daddy was coming to get me for his family Christmas. I told myself that I knew when he showed up I would have my baby doll, maybe Daddy would save my Christmas. I waited with anticipation, and was so excited when I saw the large package in his hand. I ripped into the paper as fast as I could, and found that he had gotten me a new olive green hard shell Samsonite suitcase. You see, I went to Daddy's every other weekend, and I did not have a suitcase of my own. It was something I needed, I guess. I held back the tears and tried to look as excited as I could for my new suitcase. I did not get to see Daddy every day, and I did not want to hurt his feelings, but my little heart was broken.

I am sure that I did not hide my disappointment too well because, for my birthday, in May, I received a Baby Tender Love. I was so happy. I had waited, what seemed like a lifetime, to own this doll. I bet I played with the doll for at least 2 weeks before moving on to something else.

I carried that suitcase back and forth to Dads, to college, on a honeymoon, and on multiple vacations until I got one with wheels sometime after my children were born. All of my children have used it at some point, and I have also used it when going somewhere for just a night or two. It has held up, and still looks relatively new. I treasure that suitcase, and I am so glad Daddy got me that instead of a babydoll. There was wisdom in giving me that suitcase. There was a foresight that my 7 year old self could not see at the time. Today, I have no idea where that Baby Tender Love is.

We think we know what we want, what will make us happy. Sometimes, God gives us what we need rather than what we want. We may not understand it at the time, and may be disappointed or even heart broken. However, He has wisdom and foresight beyond our comprehension. In time, we often end up thanking Him for those unanswered prayers. We see His wisdom in not giving us our every desire, and we are more blessed with what we were given than we would have ever been otherwise. Trust that God has your best interest at heart. He will meet your needs. Treasure the Gift we have all been given, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and have a very Merry Christmas.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.



One of the Core Values of Deep Creek Friends Meeting:

DISCIPLESHIP

Together we become Christ-like servants by continuing to develop our personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and by knowledge of scripture.

Making More Room for God

21 Day Fast @ Deep Creek Friends - January 7-27, 2024

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:17

The practice of fasting is found throughout the Bible. The Children of Israel would fast when there was a time of repentance needed (1 Sam 7:6), or when a large challenge was facing the nation (Ezra 8:22-24). Jesus fasted for 40 days before he began his earthly ministry (Mt.4:1-11), and the early church fasted in order to confirm the mission of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:2-3). Such times of preparation, repentance, discernment, and challenge all became opportunities to fast.

Fasting is a way of disciplining the body and altering life's routine in order to awaken the spirit to God's presence. Fasting is a way of making more room for God in our hearts and lifestyles in general. Fasting does not have to only be abstaining from food. It could be forsaking social media or a hobby so more time can be given for prayer. It could be rising 30 minutes earlier than normal in order to pray and read the One Year Bible. Fasting is removing something common in our lives in order to make more room for God.

As we quickly approach a new year, this will be our focus. We will be encouraging each other during this time of fasting so we can be open to the Lord together. To make more room for God together. You will be hearing more about this but start thinking and praying about what you may give up in order to make more room for Jesus!

Pray Daily for Ministries, Other Friends Meetings and Leadership:

FCNC Prayer Calendar		DECEMBER 2023			<i>"To Know God And Make Him Known"</i>	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Leaving Nazareth, he (Jesus) went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet, Isaiah..."Land of Zebulun, and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned." -Matthew 4:13-16</i>					1 Bethel Church No Pastor FEMAP	2 Branon Friends Gloria Simmons Carlene King Ricky Lovelace Trish Belton
3 Cane Creek Friends Cheryl Benson	4 Cedar Square Friends Michael Fulp Jr Sterling Brown	5 Centre Friends No Pastor No Youth Pastor 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 No Pastor QUAKER MEN	11 Harmony Grove No Pastor	12 Hood Swamp Friends No Pastor East Africa YM	13 Hunting Creek No Pastor	14 Kernersville Friends Jeff Barnes	15 Liberty Friends James Moore QUAKER LAKE	16 Marlboro Friends Ray Luther Terry Linticum
17 Mar Mac Friends No Pastor USFW	18 Mountain View Friends Jeff Stowers	19 Odre Nuevo (New Wineskins) Misael Morales	20 Randleman Friends Wade Craven	21 Rocky River Friends David Hobson	22 Science Hill Friends John Porter Superintendent Mike Wall	23 South Plainfield Friends Hugh Spaulding FDS
24 Thomasville Friends Eric Morrison ----- 31 Baltimore Friends Gilbert Imbayi	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 White Plains Friends Dusty Ball Jamaica YM	27 Winthrop Friends Georgianne Hartline	28 Archdale Friends Rodney Kirby Social Media Co Jenny Gullion	29 Asheboro Friends David Millikan	30 Back Creek Friends Jon Voncannon

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 support.

Your Cash Gifts to Yadkin Christian Ministries are always good!

If you decide that you want to donate food items, check the following list:

Foods especially needed at this time are:

Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese, Cereals, Spaghetti Noodles, Shelf Stable Milk and Sugar.

A Thought:

Bill Crow, a Biblical Views writer for The Winston-Salem Journal, once ended an article on Eternal Life with this: "In closing, please remember the people who need food by contributing to a Church or Community Food Bank. Let that action be a prayer of gratitude for your blessings. "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18. "

Rules to Live By: The Queries from the Faith and Practice of Friends Church of NC

PEACE

Do you consistently practice the Christian principles of love and goodwill toward all people?

NOTE from Hospitality Committee:

On December 10, Deep Creek will have their **annual Christmas Play** presented by our Youth. Everyone is invited to attend and stay after the play for finger food and snacks.

Hospitality Committee would like for **church members to bring their favorite finger food or snack to share** with our guests of the play. *Extended family members will be present and are invited to join the fellowship and food.*

Thank you, see you there. Jean Gibson

December 2 – Local Christmas Parades, Morning and Afternoon:

Town of Yadkinville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 AM

Boonville Small Town Twilight Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 2 – Parade beginning at 4:00 PM

Our Grand Marshall is NC Senator Eddie Settle.





CHILDREN

From Sydney



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

EVENTS:

December 3rd @ 4:30 FOJ Christmas play practice

December 10th Children's Church

December 15th FOJ final Christmas play practice and Christmas Party

December 17th Children's Christmas play during church

December 24th Children's Church



YOUTH & JR. YOUTH

From Jared

Coming up...

Coming up...

December 3rd - Youth & Dogs Christmas play practice at Union Cross at 2:00 (Dress rehearsal)

December 9th - Youth & Dogs Christmas play practice
at Deep Creek at 1:00 (Dress rehearsal; come at 12:30 for lunch).

Youth Christmas play at Deep Creek on December 10th at 6:00.

Followed by Christmas Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall for everyone including family and friends

Youth Christmas play at Union Cross on **December 17th at 6:00.**

Youth New Years Eve Lock-in & Hockey Game - time TBD. Let Jared know if you plan to attend.

Youth Ski Trip in January. Let Jared know if you have interest.

Shelby's NOTE:

When I was growing up, my Dad's family talked about Old Christmas and certain things you should or not do then. My dad also made a point that between Christmas, New Years and Old Christmas, he and mom and I, together, would visit the shut-ins, sick, elderly and some less fortunate families who might not have much for Christmas. He would take a Treat Bag of Christmas goodies, stick candy, oranges and apples and nuts. Mom would take her canned goods and sometimes cookies. There was always a little wrapped gift for each person. The children were excited, the sick and shut-ins so pleased. It was very customary at that time, that when someone gave you a Christmas gift, you would give them one in return. The thing that touched me most in our visits was, when my dad handed the persons a gift, many would sadly say, "I don't have anything to give you." His reply was always the same, "It's from Santa Claus." The person would smile and nothing else said.

I did a little research to find out more about Old Christmas and share some of it with you.

Old Christmas - January 6

Why is it called Old Christmas Day? January 6th is called Old Christmas Day because calendars changed. The Julian calendar, which was in use from 46BC, was based on an incorrectly calculated solar year. The error only amounted to about 11 minutes annually, but over hundreds of years those minutes added up. By the time the error was detected --- and they had decided how to fix it --- it was the 16th century and the calendar was off by 10 days.

The solution was the system we use now, the Gregorian calendar. Part of the fix was to eliminate the 10 days that had 'built up'. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII decided October 5 would be followed immediately by October 15. The date changed everywhere governments were inclined to listen to a pope.

Britain, and its colonies were not among those places.

It wasn't until 1752 that great Britain moved to the Gregorian calendar. By that time an 11 day jump was required to fix the error --- so they decided that in 1752 September 2nd would be followed immediately by September 14th. This meant December 25th came 11 days earlier,

Many English and Scots were emigrating to the Americas and settling in Appalachia. Some didn't know or refused to change to the new calendar. This meant for them, Christmas fell on January 6. Christians in Appalachia started observing December 25 as Christmas. However, until fairly recently, Old Christmas was still celebrated in some rural areas of West Virginia. It's recalled in various traditions such as in the fiddle tune "Old Christmas Morning."

In Newfoundland, they sort of fastened Old Christmas to the 6th. Partly, out of tradition and partly because January 6th is Epiphany (the day churches mark the arrival of the wise men described in the Christmas story).

Regardless of origin, Old Christmas Day is a special day and comes with a set of customs, superstitions and even miracles and marked with festivities. Special cakes are made. Twelfth Cake is an old British custom. Traditionally 12 buns were baked, then taken house-to-house, one bun given at each house until all 12 were gone.

According to custom and of special interest to the children and maybe witness "Animals Pray or Talk" at Christmas. And the Cows would kneel down and pray.

Many of these practices have largely subsided in recent years. It still seems January 6th is the end of the Christmas season. Christmas lights and trees disappear and visible signs of Christmas retreat.

Some say it's bad luck to turn your Christmas light on January 7th.

Merry Christmas





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

Monday, January 1, 2024 – HAPPY NEW YEAR

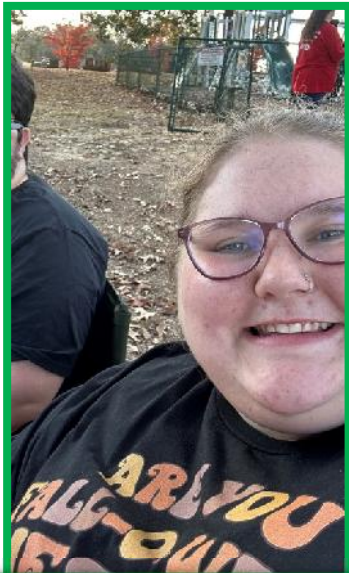


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Deep Creek Friends Meeting



A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face. Proverbs 15:13

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, 2024

Deadline for news – December 31

Send Information and Materials to:

e-mail: wshore@yadtel.net

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Phone: 336 679 8466

Shelby Shore

Published at Shore House, Ink

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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