

DECEMBER 2024

THE ENCOURAGER

Deep Creek Friends

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Deep Creek Friends

Experience Christmas

Join us for an interactive
Christmas Experience led by the
Youth and Children filled with
holiday cheer and fellowship.

12/08/2024 6:00PM

FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

EXPERIENCE THE CHRISTMAS
STORY IN A BRAND NEW WAY
WITH US!

THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW!

Spread the Joy!

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'Tis the season for **JOY, HOPE,
LOVE, and LIGHT!**

We Need a Little Christmas

RANDY QUATE - PASTOR

So, I'm thinking of a line from a Christmas song that would be appropriate for this year. Obviously, we could pull from the great Christmas carols of the church. Lyrics like: *"O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant", or "Joy to the world, the Lord has come"*, etc. These hymns are all appropriate and anointed, but I'm drawn to a secular Christmas song right now. A song that has a lot of frivolity about Santa, candles, and fruitcake, yet there is a stanza that seems to have a message for Christmas 2024.

It goes: ***"For I've grown a little leaner, Grown a little colder, Grown a little sadder, Grown a little older, And I need a little angel, Sitting on my shoulder, I Need a little Christmas now"*** Can't you hear Johnny Mathis in your head?

Why this song? Well, I have never lived during a time of greater division and anger in our country as we are experiencing now. It is an age of rage. I wasn't alive during the battles of the civil war, and too young to remember the conflict over civil rights. However, in many ways the hostile divisions we see now could be just as threatening to the future of our nation. And now it's Christmas.

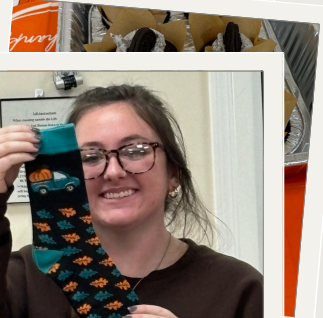
Christmas must be more than a welcomed distraction from the incessant burden we feel around us. **Christmas can be a fresh awakening to the vibrant joy that is only found in our Savior.** We should hunger for a season of awareness and newfound trust in our God who is real. We need Christmas because what Christmas offers us is what we are starving for!

First, Christmas grounds us in truth. The miracle of Christ's birth is confirmed through a Covenant bloodline God promised to Abraham that culminated in a Bethlehem manger. It is a bloodline that was threaded through an imperfect people, and maintained in spite of slavery, wilderness, corrupt leadership, occupying empires, attempted genocides, exile and more. The evidence for the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is overwhelming, and it's better than any other worldview to explain where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. We need the truth right now.

Christmas also beckons us to our mission. We don't need Christmas to charm us but to change us. We need Christmas to re-embrace the invitation to take the Gospel in with every waking breath, and the calling to share it in every way we can. Christmas reminds us that we are not led to withdraw from the chaos, but like the shepherds, to proclaim the message in spite of the risks. To not be ashamed of the Gospel, but to live it remembering Emmanuel, God with us. We need to be inflamed for our mission right now.

Finally, Christmas equips us with hope. Christmas reminds us that what we see, hear, and experience in this life is not all there is. One of the best Christmas books is Ecclesiastes. It reveals the incessant futility of a fallen world and reminds us that much of what we see is "meaningless". We need Christmas to move us from being complainers to becoming explainers of the reason we have joy. We need this hope right now!

Be honest, has 2024 left you *"a little colder, a little sadder, a little older"*? Then join me in praying that Christmas will anchor us more securely in the truth, mission, and hope found in Christ as we face a world on fire.



Young Adult Friendsgiving

The young adults gathered on a Saturday evening where everyone brought a dish to share and we enjoyed a bountiful array of food. We created a paper chain where we each wrote something we were thankful for, as you do for Thanksgiving, but we also wrote down things that are sometimes difficult to be thankful for.

This came from 1 Thessalonians 5:18; *“be thankful in all circumstances for this God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”*

So while we may not be thankful FOR some of the things in our life we can still be thankful IN those circumstances because our hope is rooted in Christ.



Ministry Updates

KIDS MINISTRY

This month we have been continuing our study of “Story time with Jesus”. In this lesson sequence we are learning about the parables that Jesus taught. Looking forward we are preparing our hearts for Christmas!

We have a lot going on in December. Christmas play practice on the 1st at 4pm. With our Experience Christmas event on the 8th at 6pm.

Our Friends of Jesus Christmas party will be on December 20th at 6pm in the Fellowship hall.

YOUTH MINISTRY

This month our DOGS and Youth group finished up a series on “hurry sickness” which has been an eye-opener for me, and it seemed to be a good series of lessons based on the feedback from the kids! Our DOGS group enjoyed a day out for ice cream and our Youth took a trip to eat supper together, which were both days filled with lots of laughter and fellowship. Coming up, we will be talking through ways to find certainty in times of uncertainty.

Looking ahead, our DOGS group will meet on December 29th to go to the Cypress Trail lights in Elkin, and our Youth group will have a New Years Eve gathering. To be with these groups of kids is a great experience, and I’m extremely thankful to be going through the upcoming holiday season with them!

MINISTRY LEADER EMAIL ADDRESSES

Children’s: kidsministry.dcf@gmail.com

Youth: youthministry.dcf@gmail.com

QUAKER WOMEN

Christmas Mailbox: The Deep Creek Quaker Women will sponsor the Christmas mailbox again this year. A donation of 25 cents per card is appreciated to support our missions. The mailbox will be located in the front foyer Dec 1 – Dec 29, 2024.

Senior Christmas Lunch: Quaker Women will also host a Christmas lunch for seniors on Thursday, Dec 5th at 12:30. Please join us for food, fellowship and a game of Bingo.

Christmas Caroling: The choir and Quaker Women will go Christmas caroling on Friday, Dec 13th. If you would like for us to come sing to you, please call Janet Robbins – 336-971-1212. We plan to leave the church at 5:00pm.

Announcements & Happenings

UPDATE: A LEG FOR FELIX

We have an exciting update about this opportunity, as of November 19th, there has been over **\$2,500** raised!

Our mission committee will be looking at other opportunities to utilize the overage to bless others who are in need.

On Randy's mission trip to Guatemala we visited Felix and Maria in their home. Felix is an amputee. He lost his leg while on a bicycle after being targeted by someone in a car over 15 years ago. He became a Christian after the accident. Major life change from the life he was living. He makes \$160 a month raising plants. He is trying to raise money for a prosthesis.

We want to help him receive a prosthesis. We hope to post a picture someday soon with Felix standing on his own!



BOB AND HOPE CARTER

In January 2025 they will have served 40 years as missionaries in Africa. They continue to serve in Kenya mainly through Moffat Bible College. They have seen the provision of God even through many challenges.

One of their main ministry areas over the past 5 years has been developing and expanding the Community Health and Development department of Moffat Bible College where they are training the next generation of church leaders to better address some of the practical needs of their communities. They conduct classes to help students apply biblical truths to contemporary situations such as HIV, disability and other health challenges as well as set a foundation for Kingdom of God-based community development.

Two Moffat student ministry groups have been formed. One is a youth focused program called HeCkima (meaning wisdom of Christ) to provide a monthly youth forum offering an opportunity for 250-350 teens to gather and discuss a pertinent topic of interest from a Biblical perspective. Although this is not an evangelistic effort, a few teens each month openly give their lives to Christ. 84 have confessed Christ for the first time.



Pastors are recognizing their need for further training to address health issues as Christ would have them minister to build community through grace and compassion. To help, Bob is developing a course on community health for pastors and Christian leaders. Hope is developing a course on Disability and the Church using materials from Joni and Friends. In December 2024, Bob and Hope plan to go to Belize and then travel to Kenya to teach these 2 new courses for the first time in January of 2025 at Moffat. Donations can be sent to:

SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273 (Bob and Hope's SIM # is 09892) or: www.simusa.org/get-involved/give (type in Bob and select from the list)

The Moffat Community Health and Development project also needs support #KE 92163



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1140 Deep Creek Church Road
Yadkinville, NC 27055

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Newsletter Content due: December 15

newsletter.dcf@gmail.com

Pastor: Randy Quate

Children's Director: Sydney Matthews

Youth and Junior Youth Director: Destiny Ray