

NOVEMBER 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!

deepcreekfriends.com

We are excited to share this
Christmas Experience with
you!

Taking Our Thoughts Captive

RANDY QUATE - PASTOR

Several weeks ago, I was loading some clothes in my van. It was dusk, and the interior light drew several different bugs in. The next day I got the insects out of the vehicle, or so I thought. When I later removed the clothes, I took out a suit and noticed a white speck on the shoulder of the jacket. I flicked it off, but it did not flick. I rubbed it, but it was still there. It was not a speck or lint; it was a hole. Two holes actually. One the size of a pinhead and the other twice that size. It was then I thought back to that dusky night when the insects flew in, and I remembered that one of them was a moth. That moth had stayed undetected and was quietly feasting on my suit.

The Bible sometimes speaks of our Christian life as a garment. Colossians 3:12 states: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...and beyond all these things put on love..". Consistently, what the New Testament conveys is that the spiritual outer garments of the Christian are the marks of Christlike living with others. We are clothed with the outward behavior that issues from our inward state with Christ. These outer "clothes" are the expressions of Christ's heart within us that the church and the world can see.

But what if a damaging thought starts to eat away at that outward testimony. Sometimes something small slips into our mind or attitude that seems so insignificant that we ignore it. It could be the feeling that we have been slighted or mistreated by another. It could be a disposition that has rubbed off on us from a hostile and selfish world. In this day where negativity, fear, and anger are festering, it is easy for these attitudes to slowly begin to chew on the Christlike virtues that others can see. To me, that old moth represents the sometimes-random things that happen to us that are unpleasant and frustrating. Those experiences can begin to foster harmful thoughts about others that can affect how we relate to them. Suspicious and defensive thoughts can eat into our ability and willingness to be humble, kind, compassionate, and patient with others. I must say that this election cycle is giving us a lot to become negative about if we allow it to. What "eats" at us can become destructive and even irreparable to our relationships like that suit that could not be mended. It fits that the Hebrew word for moth is "ash" which means death.

One of the most potent deterrents to these "mothy" threats is gratitude. As we yield our thoughts, and focus our prayers, on God's graciousness in our lives, we find our loving expressions of Christlikeness kept intact and even expanding. This is why scripture teaches us to "take our thoughts captive". Grateful hearts are more immune to the slow nibble of a negative influence. If we keep focusing on the glorious privilege to be "God's chosen", who are "holy and dearly loved" we will not be diminished in our compassionate witness to the world. So, let's not let those harmful thoughts flutter into this glorious life we have in Christ!

Letter from our Clerk

GINGER HOLT

I know we have all heard the expression, “Be careful what you wish for, you might get it”. I think it applies to prayer as well. Be careful what you pray for, you might get it. I had first hand experience with this when I was in high school. It was proof to me that God has a sense of humor.

There was a girl in the chorus who did not like me. We sang different voice parts, so I did not sit near her in class. I had no idea why she disliked me, but another girl (a “friend” of mine) took great pleasure in reporting the things she said about me. I was a person who wanted everyone to like me, so this bothered me, a lot.

Sometime during this ordeal, my pastor preached a sermon on praying for our enemies and turning the other cheek. So, I thought I would try praying for the girl who apparently couldn’t stand me. So, each night when I said my bedtime prayers, I included her. I did not know what to say really, so I just asked God to be with her. I thought I would just have to have faith that God knew the problem and would work it out. But, to be honest, I am not sure I had true faith that He would do anything.

About a week or so later, our chorus teacher decided that we needed assigned seats. She wanted to mix things up a bit for sound quality of the group and to combat some behavior issues. To my horror, she put me beside the girl I had been praying for, the girl who did not like me! She put me on the edge of the Sopranos, and her on the edge of the Altos, and there we were, right beside each other. I couldn’t believe it. I thought “Really, God! This is Your solution! You have got to be kidding me!” I am sure that girl felt the same way.

At first, we did not really speak to each other. It was awkward, I am not going to lie. But, over time, we said a few words, which became a few sentences, which eventually led to us having to be called down for talking too much (I know you are surprised). We became classroom friends. Prayer answered and problem solved.

God hears our prayers. He cares, and works things out for our good. However, the answer may not always come in the form we envision.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Ephesians 6:18

Kids and Youth

KIDS MINISTRY

This month we have started a study on the Parables of Jesus entitled “Story Time with Jesus”. The kids are learning the importance of the parables and how Jesus would teach lessons through stories. We will continue this lesson sequence through the month of November. In October we also visited The Farm in Dobson and there we learned about God Sightings! We have several upcoming events, you can see the calendar for the regular schedule of events. We will start Christmas Play practice on Sunday **November 17**, Friends of Jesus will meet for devotion and practice. All kids will attend practice on **November 24**.



MINISTRY LEADER EMAIL ADDRESSES

Children's: kidsministry.dcf@gmail.com

Youth: youthministry.dcf@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

For the last few weeks we have been doing a small series of lessons on “hurry sickness” – this might sound strange, but I feel like this has been a great topic to hit on and has generated some wonderful discussion. Hurry sickness is something that we all face, whether that be because we feel like we may miss out on opportunities or just because we don't want people to do things without us. By slowing down and striving for a relationship that focuses on God we aren't missing out on anything, but instead are given opportunities that will help us to be more like Him.

As we continue the year, we pray that our Youth and DOGS know the value of slowing down and being present, especially with the upcoming holiday season. We are looking forward to what the next month will bring, both with our events and our lessons, and are excited to continue to learn and grow.

Announcements & Happenings

A LEG FOR FELIX

On my 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. The cost was originally \$1,600 but was reduced to around \$1,100. If you would like to contribute to this cause you can send a check and make it out to Deep Creek Friends Church. Please note "A Leg for Felix" on the check and be sure to send your mailing address. We hope to post a picture someday soon with Felix standing on his own!



WALK FOR HUNGER 2024

Thank you to everyone who participated or donated to the Walk for Hunger in memory of Susan Steelman. Thanks to Anointed by Grace for the beautiful music. Seventeen churches participated and the total raised so far in support of Yadkin Christian Ministries is \$16,495.



FEEDING THE FOOTBALL TEAMS

We have had the chance to feed the Starmount and Forbush Football teams.



YOUNG ADULTS



We had several Young Adults go to the fair again this year. This has become a beloved pastime of this group! The Young Adults will be having a **Friendsgiving dinner on Saturday, November 16th. See Angie for details**

NOV

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Looking Ahead to December: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 1 - Hanging of the Green Dec. 5 - Senior Christmas Lunch Dec. 8 - Experience Christmas Dec. 29 - Generation Excellent 																																	
3 Friend Day Pot Luck Meal 3p - Choir Rehearsal 4p - FOJ / DOGS 5p - Youth 5:30p - Parent Meeting	4																																
10																																	
17 5p - Youth 8:15 - CE Meeting Monthly Meeting 4p - Play Practice 5p - Youth																																	
24 4p - Play Practice 5p - Youth																																	

**NEWSLETTER
CONTENT DUE**
NOVEMBER 17

GREETERS

Charlene Taylor
Don Steelman

**NURSERY:
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- 03 - Donna Raines
- 10 - Cathy Shore
- 17 - Priscilla Shore
- 24 - Jean Hutchins

**NURSERY:
WORSHIP**

- 03 - Jean Hutchins
- 10 - Sarah Ray
- 17 - Ginger Holt
- 24 - Priscilla Shore

MUSIC

- 03 - Cathy Shore
- 10 - Choir
- 17 - Ginger Holt
- 24 - Choir

FOOD for YOUTH

- 03 - Diane & Tracy
- 17 - Kristy & Sarah
- 24 - Angie