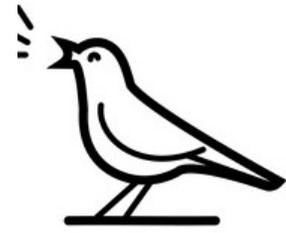




*Tryon
Church
Chatter*



December, 2022

Bob Grant, Pastor

Lorna Dever, Editor

828-817-1544 (Call or Text) lornanewsinfo@gmail.com

Pastor Bob's Blog

In realizing the season soon to be upon us we should really consider the gift. Yes, God gave His Son and no gift can compare. But what gifts can you give that would be of great blessing to others, is the question that arises for us each. Just a little list to get your thought processes working and hopefully your season will change the lives of others in ways that will be long lasting. Why not try one out each day from now till the new year? And continue on from there?

Mend a quarrel
Seek out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion.
Write a long overdue caring note.
Hug someone one tightly and whisper, "I love you."
Forgive an enemy.
Be gentle and patient with an angry person.
Express appreciation.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Find the time to keep a promise.
Make or bake something for someone else, anonymously.
Release a grudge.
Listen, carefully.
Speak kindly to a stranger.
Enter into another's sorrow.
Smile. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
Take a walk with a friend.
Kneel down and pet a dog.
Read a poem or two to your mate or a friend.
Lessen your demands on others.
Play some beautiful music during supper.
Apologize if you're wrong.
Talk together with television and cell phones off.
Treat someone to an ice cream cone.
Do the dishes for the family.
Pray for someone who helps you when you hurt.
Fix breakfast for someone on Sunday morning.
Give a soft answer even though you feel strongly.
Encourage an older person.
Point out one thing you appreciate most about someone you work with or live near.
Offer to babysit for a weary mother.
Give your teacher a break, be cooperative.

Let's make Christmas one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. Unselfishly without announcement, obligation, reservation, or hypocrisy. That's Christmas. ~ Pastor Grant

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	Offering: STB/Local Budget 9:15am - SS & Church
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Patinaider Ice Skating 10am - Thrift Store Open 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	8am - Church Office Open 8am - MC: Mother's Prayer Group 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch 7pm - School Christmas Program	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch 1:30pm - MC: Thrift Store	School Christmas Program for 9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship Luncheon @ 1:30pm - WINGS Meeting 5pm - Pathfinder Christmas Party
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160) 4pm - MC: Church Christmas	8am - Church Office Open 8am - MC: Mother's Prayer Group 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch 6pm - Finance Committee 7pm - Church Board Meeting	Church Office Closed 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study	8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 11am - MC: School Lunch	MC: Kitchen (all day) 8am - Church Office Open 9am - Thrift Store Open 12pm - School Ends at noon	Offering: Local Budget Private Event: MC 9:15am - SS & Church
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Private Event: MC Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	Church Office Closed Church School Christmas Break 9am - Thrift Store Open	9am - Thrift Store Open	9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study	9am - Thrift Store Open	10am - Thrift Store Open	9:15am - SS & Church 12:15pm - Fellowship Lunch
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Thrift Store Closed 12pm - Voice of Prophecy (1160)	Church Office Closed Church School Christmas Break Thrift Store Closed	9am - Thrift Store Open	9am - Thrift Store Open 7pm - A/V and Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Bible Study	9am - Thrift Store Open	9am - Thrift Store Open	Offering: Carolina Youth 9:15am - SS & Church

Nature Nugget -- A Special Kind of Star

(with excerpts from <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature>)

Wanangwa Hartwell

At this time of year, we often think of stars. The clear winter skies make the stars seem so much brighter. And of course, we're reminded of the Star of Bethlehem. It's amazing to me how many places in nature God put stars -- as if He wants to remind us of this all year long. There are starfish, stars on sand dollars, starflowers, and even "hidden" stars, like the star inside an apple when you cut it open or the star of a tomato's leaves.

One of the most unusual creatures God made is a star-nosed mole. It is a tiny animal, only about 6-8 inches long. It is nearly blind, as it lives almost entirely underground, but it has a special way of getting around. On its nose, it has 22 fleshy pink tentacles that form an odd little star. These give it a very high sense of touch, perhaps the best of any mammal in the world. It lives in the wetlands and marshes of the eastern U.S. so you might even get a chance to see one if you're lucky. And if you do, be sure to thank God for such an amazing creation and awesome opportunity.



- 1 Emma Zjaci
- 3 Ericka Sizemore
- 4 Sally Rhyneerson
- 8 Odila Oliver
- 14 Ramona Grant
- 15 Gavin Eckmann
Jonathan Wolff
- 16 Tim Grindley
- 17 Richard Watson
- 18 Myrna Esh
- 19 Hannah Busch
Greyson Eckmann
Gerald Tary
- 24 Michael Wolff
- 26 M Commins
- 27 Dick Bayley
- 28 Tara Eckmann
Tonya Kim
- 29 Judah Kim
- 30 Lynn Bayley
- 31 Brenda Brittain



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Deb's Sewing and Alterations

From buttons to wedding dress bustles give me a call at 828-817-7015.

Single?

For our singles: There will be a singles potluck at the Fletcher SDA Church on the first Sabbath of every month. Thank you, Kathy Lynch



Wes and Lila Peterson

Wesley Robert Peterson (Wes) and Lila Valeri-Ann Peterson (Lila) have known each other for 21 years but married for nine of those years. They are each other's best friend as they believe it is a good thing to be friends first even before thinking about marriage.

Wes attended & graduated from Fletcher Academy and went on to school to receive his General Contractor's license to be a builder. He wasn't able to fully finish that schooling due to the State changing its tuition. However, he has been talking about getting his surveying degree online or becoming a Tech fulltime. Lila graduated from Nathan Hale in Tulsa and went onto Northeastern State University where she received her arts/psychology degree. She continued on to get her degree in child psychology, but as life would have it, didn't fully get that degree because of an emergency situation with her sister.

The Petersons formerly lived in Tulsa, OK, before moving to NC in November 2014. Thus, they have lived in NC for eight years now. They were married on July 2, 2013 and very soon afterwards they both kept having a sense from God that He wanted them to move to NC. They had no idea why, though. Most of Lila's family were in OK, but Wes had most of his family in NC where he grew up. So, they just kept praying for God's guidance asking Him to give them a definite sign that He would want them to move.

In August/September 2014 they visited family in NC. During their visit, Wes went down to Vaughn & Melton Surveying Company with his stepdad, Mike, to see if he could get hired on, but knew he could not start working until November 10. They went back home to OK with no expectations of Wes getting a job, but within a few days after they returned home, they received a call from Ms. Jeanie who said they wanted to hire him. Wes knew Ms. Jeanie since he was a child. She further said the company had never held a job for anyone before even though Wes could not work there for another two months. Ms. Jeanie set up a background and drug check on Wes in Tulsa. They had no idea at this point how they would get the money to move or where they would even live. In the end, they rented the biggest U-Haul they could get and Wes' parents came to Tulsa to help them move to NC. They lived with them for two years while selling their home in Tulsa; then they looked for a home to buy in NC. They came to NC knowing Wes had a job waiting for him, but they had no idea what hourly salary he would be making.

Once they arrived in NC, Wes went to the company to find out what he was going to be making and it was \$5 per hour less than his job in Tulsa. They never had insurance with his Tulsa job and were going to have to pay for health insurance on top of making less money. So they said, "Okay, God, we have faith that You will provide somehow." God did provide in a big way! Because there was no way that making so much less money and the added health insurance, could they ever have been able to pay all their bills – but for Jesus!

Getting their house two years later is another miracle as well. They now realized why Jesus wanted them here and it was because they needed to get to know Him better. They had to learn patience, hard lessons, to trust in God, and to wait on Him for answers.

Their favorite place to live is here in NC as it is absolutely beautiful with all the mountains and greenery. They love Idaho too, although Lila has never lived there. Wes did live there for a very short time. They recently visited there.

Both the Petersons are pretty crafty people, more of a hobby for Wes but for Lila, her business. She builds the smaller type of things like home décor items. She crochets as well. She does not have an online business, but has thought many times of doing one. She sells her items locally and ships only to family. Wes, however, builds the big stuff. Currently, he is building a new porch with a permanent roof as well as a dog run. He is also building something smaller, his model wooden ship. It's been in progress for the last ten years. He also wants to make knives in the future and epoxy resin tables.

When asked what a typical day is at their house, Wes gets up at 4 a.m. for work between 5-5:30 a.m. Before he leaves, they pray together and have devotion time. He works until about 5 – 6 p.m., sometimes 7 p.m. Lila starts her work at 6 or 7 a.m. and stops by 5 or 6 p.m. to cook supper. During her job hours, she tries to take care of daily chores and run errands. She is adamant about completing & stopping all the work before Wes gets home so they can spend time together and with the Lord – and with their new puppy, Loki (six months old). They also head our church's AV Dept going on four years now. They usually get to church by 8:30 a.m. and most Sabbaths don't get back home until usually somewhere between 2 – 4 p.m.. It has been a long, uphill battle to try and update the AV Dept, but a lot has been done in that regard. They are still updating.

Their special and very best friends are Marty & Wendy Logue who live only four minutes from them. They have helped Wes & Lila in so many ways and they feel blessed to have them in their lives. They are Loki's (new puppy) Godparents. They have fond memories of a trip to Falls Park in Greenville, SC, where they walked around and shopped. They ate at Chuy's Mexican restaurant and look forward to treating the Logues hopefully soon.

Their favorite food would probably be the new plant-based crab cakes that Gardein has out. Lila makes her own spicy dipping sauce for them. Their favorite Bible verse is in the KJV, Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" We need to be reminded where our strength comes from and that it isn't from ourselves but only from God and God alone.

What a blessing to have the Petersons and all of their many skills to bless us here at our Tryon SDA Church.



Making a difference in people's lives and impacting them for eternity

Hello again! Isn't God good? He has blessed us with so many things this season. At Share Thy Bread, we have gone from being tight financially to overflowing. We received a grant of \$10,000 from the Dogwood Health Trust and another \$3,500 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation, all to be used for purchasing food.

We are especially excited about our most recent grant. We received \$5,000 from the WNC Bridge Foundation toward a holiday food drive. We will be providing fresh produce and other items for our community neighbors to have healthy options for their Christmas dinner. If you would like to give toward this food drive, please mark your tithe envelope "Share Thy Bread." If you prefer to give specific items, please talk with Lorna about what would be helpful to provide. Or you can speak with her about volunteering your time -- to unload and shelve items, to wrap boxes or to deliver some of the holiday goodies.

If you're having trouble making ends meet right now, please come by and take some for yourself and your family. We will be passing out the holiday food drive items on December 13 to 15 and December 20 to 22. Or come anytime during our open hours of Monday through Thursday, 10am to 2:30pm, or Friday, 10am to 12:30pm. Of our regular hours, Share Thy Bread and the Thrift Store will only be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2.

Please remember, things like homelessness, poverty and food insecurity don't go away on December 26. As you make your plans for the new year, please prayerfully consider giving of your time and resources to make a difference in someone's life in 2023. Thank you!



Lila & Wes Peterson



Adventurer/
Pathfinder
Workbee
Tamara Medina



(Pictures from the workbee are scattered throughout the Newsletter.)

Some of the pictures show the Pathfinder Works bee at Mrs. Oliver's house.

Other pictures are from Pathfinders and adventure can collect. We collected 257 nonperishable items. Thanks to the church for always supporting us!!





Merry early Christmas! I hope you have a wonderful holiday season. Please don't forget to take care of yourself and make time for the three R's -- rest, relaxation, and reading!

We have a growing cookbook collection in the church library for those of you looking for good plant-based recipes and I've just added a couple more. There are also some new DVDs, including one of my personal favorites -- The Book of Daniel. Another favorite is Amazing Grace, which tells the story of William Wilberforce, the man who helped end the slave trade in England. His pastor was John Newton himself!

There are some new music CDs as well, a book of stories for dads, and other great new additions. If you're looking for a specific title, remember you can go on the church website to the library page and search by title, author, or category. And if you really love something, consider writing up a short review and giving it to me for the next newsletter. Best wishes, Wanangwa

Take God a Thanksgiving Basket

Terry Robinson

(Editor's Note: This was submitted for the November Newsletter and got overlooked. Sorry)

We usually equate singing with being happy and joyful. Giving God praise and thanksgiving is a wonderful part of worshiping Him, but when we usually tend to give thanks and shout "hallelujah" is when something good has happened to US! It's another story to be able to do that when something "not so good" is happening in our lives!

We can read in the New Testament about the Apostle Paul and his friend, Silas, being beaten and put in jail under maximum security, with their feet chained. You may be sure they were not hollering and yelling, "Hey --- somebody get us out of here!" No, they started praying, which is quite understandable. Then, they began to sing and praise God! What were they praising God for? They were in prison; their backs were raw and bleeding; their feet were pinched in locks, making it impossible for them to even move around! No, they were having a PRAISE service, because they belonged to the family of God, and they were secure in whom they believed!

God sometimes allows us to have disappointments and frustrations because He wants us to understand that our true joy and thankfulness is in the fact that we have a RELATIONSHIP with Him.

Praise is not for what God does. That's called "thanksgiving."

Praise is for WHO GOD IS!!!

Random Acts of Kindness ~ Sabbath, November 19

Wanangwa Hartwell

Grayson and Gavin Rowe were seen helping entertain little Matthew Kwon during church. Their mom, Hannah, helped a lot too!

Kelley Edney and Richard Goodman were seen sitting with Grandma Oliver to keep her company.

A big thank you to Milka, Osmond, Jason and Stella for providing us with beautiful music!





Diabetes Reversal Explained January 9 - February 27

Monday's ONLY ~ 6:15 - about 8:30 p.m.

Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church
Morgan Center

\$45 (Includes all materials)
Subsidy available if needed

RSVP, 704-692-6667
Bev Cook, Facilitator



For
Diabetics
Pre-diabetics
to
Reverse
or
Improve Diabetes.

The Message of the Ring

Dick Bayley

The advertisement for a prestigious New York department store offers a breathtaking array of rings for all kinds of tastes, though not for every budget. After all, these are not costume jewelry, but the real thing, the genuine article. Take the “Bee Goddess” for example, with rose gold, diamonds and a large tourmaline, price \$12,900. The one that really caught my eye was very simple, just a very large brilliant cut diamond mounted on platinum, by the famous De Beers Group, and priced at \$30,000.

Who buys these things, and why? The Brusi jewelry company in Italy offered some answers in the brusinewsletter. weebly.com, 28/4/2017. One reason is to say “I love you,” in which case we want to say that our beloved is just as precious to us as the gift we have chosen. A De Beers ad states that diamonds “symbolize our most powerful emotions and connections.” That a ring of this sort must be extremely high quality goes without saying. Jewelry like this is hand made, over a period of days or even weeks, destined to become a family heirloom.

Some simply want to make a big, ostentatious show, like Russian oligarch Aleksei Shapovalov, who gave his bride-to-be a 70-carat diamond engagement ring, valued at \$10.5 million according to the British newspaper, Daily Mail. He said he wanted a ring that would stand out.

One ring that is, shall we say, more “affordable” (!) is

the one by Daniel Webb Co., assembled from yellow gold, platinum, black enamel, diamonds, and a carved emerald, going for \$62,000! Reacting to a recent increase in sales of high-end jewelry, Marta Nowakowski, a V.P. at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, commented: “Colored gemstones have the ability to make people happy, so it makes sense that they are so popular right now. *Plus, there is nothing better than looking at a fabulous ring on your finger when you’re working from home.*” [emphasis added]

The Brusi Co. newsletter states, “People have always been attracted to jewels, and always will be. [Stated] simply, they’re beautiful and we’re attracted to beautiful things because they give us pleasure,” a pleasure akin to some of nature’s best, a rose in the garden sparkling with the morning dew for example (hymn 487), though there is a vital distinction. God gives us His inimitable natural beauties, while man-made objects don’t begin to compare.

Although we can accept the archeologists’ conclusion that the first jewelry was produced in north Africa, and was made of iridescent snail shells, we can’t accept the notion that this took place 150,000 years ago, as they claim. One of their conclusions does seem to jibe with our own experience though, namely that people naturally seek to communicate something about their identity by means of their clothing and adornment (ARTnews, 11-22-21). And in our case, this instinct will be heavily influenced by our devotion to Christ. Thinking of hymn 290 now, “...the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.”



13 Benefits I Received by Actually Reading the Bible Through in a Month

David Armstrong (Cousin of Wanangwa Hartwell)

The first time I heard the idea I thought it was a little extreme. Our cousin mentioned it to us during our visit to North Carolina. She incorporated it into her life after listening to an old interview of H.M.S. Richards, Sr, who said he did it every year.

The question immediately came to mind, “What could I possibly gain by going through it that fast?” I’ve always preferred slow, meditative reading and couldn’t fathom such an endeavor. Nevertheless, I couldn’t shake being intrigued by the idea and its potential benefits. I wondered again, “What could I possibly gain?” So I determined to give it a shot.

Now I admit, my first attempt took eleven months. I was so acclimatized to slow reading that it seemed impossible for me. Nothing wrong with that, of course! But I really wanted to hit that one-month goal. What led to my success this January [2018?] was that I determined to read forty chapters a day (1189 Bible chapters/thirty days=39.6). Here are my results:

1. The Big Picture: My melancholy perfectionist soul often sacrifices the forest to zero-in on the trees, but this trip through really helped me see the powerful big picture for myself.

2. It made the prominent Bible themes pop out: I couldn’t help but notice what got mentioned again and again and in a variety of ways. These made a much deeper impression on my mind and heart. Related to this would be connections. By reading fast, I could see clearer connections between different stories, books, and even both testaments, because it was all still fresh in my mind. For instance, this time through I was able to connect the seven trumpets in the felling of the strong city of Jericho with the seven trumpets of Revelation (after which it says, “Babylon is fallen...that great city...”).

3. My large reading goal squeezed out less-edifying things/media from my life: Because I had so much to read, I couldn’t afford to spend much of my leisure moments on Facebook, YouTube, or even online news. It was an excellent soul re-charge!



4. It intensified my thirst and determination for deeper Bible study: I honestly can’t wait to look at all those books again more closely!

5. It led me to develop a study plan to cover the whole Bible more thoroughly: Just knowing that I had this plan helped me to quell the many impulses to hover over passages. Besides, I was still able to glean major messages my heart needed even though I was reading fast.

6. It helped me find an efficient study schedule, one that didn’t disrupt or conflict with my daily work and family responsibilities.

7. It helped me use those spare moments throughout the day, usually while riding the bus or during waiting times.

8. It sparked tremendous personal revival, hope, and more determination to grow in Christ: Amen.

9. I grew closer to my family: In spite of the fact that I was spending more time alone reading, I actually witnessed my relationships with my wife and son strengthen.

10. It led me to make sure I had access to a Bible anytime, anywhere--a small version in my backpack and an audio version on my phone.

11. It helped me decide on a favorite KJV audio Bible narrator: Dan Wagner (Note from Wanangwa: My personal favorites are Alexander Scourby and H.M.S., Sr., himself!)

12. It initiated a tradition I fully intend on doing again next January: I wonder what I’ll glean next time around!

13. It gave me a tremendous sense of personal achievement reading that last verse Jan. 31: It always feels good to cross the finish line!

I still plan to do my more thorough studies of Bible books, topics, and stories, but I can definitely appreciate blending the macro approach along with the micro. As Peter Gregory put it, “The macro helps us understand the micro, and the micro gives meaning to the macro.”

Does any of this resonate with your experience?



Christmas Bells

Story excerpted from the Gettysburg Compiler, 12/23/2015

(Submitted by Wanangwa Hartwell)

Beginning in 1861, the Civil War shook the nation. Many families worried about their children. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was one of these worried parents, for his oldest son Charles Appleton left for D.C. and enlisted in the 1st Massachusetts Artillery without notifying his father of his decision.

Amidst this all-consuming war, Longfellow was grieving over the death of his beloved wife Fanny who died in 1861. While melting wax to preserve a few locks of her daughter's hair in an envelope, hot wax fell onto her dress, catching it afire. Longfellow attempted to extinguish the flames with a rug and then his body, but despite his efforts, she died the next morning. Following her death, Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays" and six months later wrote, "I can make no record of these days. Better leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps someday God will give me peace." He worried the extent of his grief would lead to him enter an asylum. The sorrow in his life was drowning out the peace that the carols reflected he should feel. "A merry Christmas say the children, but that is no more for me."

On December 1, 1863, Longfellow received a telegram which notified him that his son Charles was shot and wounded in the left shoulder in battle during the Mine Run Campaign. With the tragic death of his wife and the wounding of his son in a war of which he did not approve, how could he believe that there was peace on earth? He saw the broken world filled with pain and death and momentarily believed that hate would always outweigh the good in the world, for it seemed to have done so during his recent sorrowful years.

Yet, Longfellow, a devout Christian, regained hope. Though at the moment his world was filled with grief, his despair was alleviated as he realized that God was alive and his power existed on earth, if not physically then within the hearts of humankind. God was there with him during the war and would reign sovereign in the days to come. With this faith in his heart, he wrote the following words:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

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."

Recommended Reading for the Season

Wanangwa Hartwell

Looking for something to put you in the spirit of Christmas? Want to spend time reading to your kids or need a boost for your devotions? Here are some of my favorite Christmas reads. Most are available free online or you can get them at your local library.

* *The Desire of Ages: Every Christmas / Advent season*, I read the first four chapters of this classic on the life of Christ. Of course, you can read as far into it as you want!

* *The Gift of the Magi*: This short story by O. Henry is a wonderful testament to the true spirit of Christmas.

* *A Christmas Carol*: Charles Dickens' novella is one of the best known Christmas stories but many people are only familiar with the movie versions. While these are excellent in their own right, the book has much to offer the thoughtful reader.

* *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*: C.S. Lewis once said that a children's book which is only good for children isn't really good for anyone. This book proves that by sharing how people can touch each other and make a difference.

* *The Third Gift*: This beautiful story by Linda Sue Park shares an important Bible story from a very unique viewpoint. It usually brings me to tears of joy.

God bless you as you draw closer to Him at this beautiful time of year.



Christmas Movies Galore

Wanangwa Hartwell

Don't you just love Christmas movies? I could watch them all year but for those of you who are looking for some fresh ideas this season, here are some of our favorites!

* *Christmas Lodge*: During a weekend trip to the mountains, Mary finds herself at the now run-down lodge where she spent the holidays with her family growing up. This wonderful Christmas story is all about family and faith in God.

* *Christmas in Canaan*: A clash between two classmates - one a tough farm boy, and the other a bright, bookish black boy - evolves into an unlikely friendship. Starring country music singer Billy Ray Cyrus, this powerful movie begins in the 1960s in Texas and teaches the importance of love, respect and understanding.

* *A Christmas Carol* (any version you feel comfortable with)...or read the book...or both! Charles Dickens' classic will warm your heart and make you want to share the Christmas spirit all year long.

* *The Christmas Train*: A cynical journalist decides to take a train from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles for Christmas to get inspiration for a story in honor of his late father. If you think all Hallmark movies are the same, get ready for an unexpected twist!

* *Crown for Christmas*: After getting fired from her job as a maid at a New York City hotel, Allie reluctantly accepts a temporary gig as the governess to a young girl who is part of a powerful family in Europe. Better than average modern fairy tale -- and the actress, Danica McKellar, is an incredible lady in real life, who loves math and likes to teach it to kids, even in her movies (watch for it).

If you want more suggestions, feel free to hunt me up! Chances are, I'll be curled up with another favorite Christmas movie!





Greetings! Please remember to come support our kids at the school Christmas program on Thursday, December 8, at 6pm. The bells will also be playing for church on Sabbath, December 10, and we hope you can join us either in person or on Zoom. Each Sabbath, we take up the Lamb's Offering for the Worthy Student Fund and I hope you are able to give generously. If you wish to also support the handbell program directly, please mark your tithing envelope "Handbells." We will also be taking up a love offering for the handbells after the December 10 worship service. Thank you for your love and support and prayers for our kids, both school kids and homeschoolers alike!



Barbara's Chai Tea Latte Recipe (Decaffeinate)

- 1½ cups Instant Tea (decaf)
- 1½ cups Sugar
- 1 cup Non-fat Milk Powder
(Substitute Coconut Milk for non-dairy)
- 1 cup Powdered Creamer (non-dairy)
Use Vanilla or Plain
- 2 tsp Ground Cinnamon
- 2 tsp Ground Ginger
- 1 tsp Ground Cardamon
- 1 tsp Ground Cloves
- 1/2 tsp Ground Nutmeg

Blend all together in blender. Use 2 Tbs in 6 - 8 oz boiling water. Sometimes I add 1/2 tsp Allspice. Such spices as Star Anise and Fennel also work well. Make it according to your own taste. ENJOY!

Devotionals and Literature

Wanangwa Hartwell

I hope you have been enjoying the free books table in the church lobby. It will return in January but in the meantime, we hope you will sign up for the devotionals for next year. Both personal and family devotions are vital to our spiritual health. Family worship in particular need not be a tedious process. There are devotional books for all ages and a short reading combined with time for prayer and song can be uplifting for all members of the family.

I encourage you to get deep into your Bibles in the coming year. Find a reading plan that works for you, whether it's straight through the Bible, combines Old and New Testaments, or aims to present the story more chronologically. Find a good translation or even a paraphrase that speaks to your heart and go deeper with Jesus in 2023 than ever before.

Many years ago I heard an interview of H.M.S. Richards, Sr., one of our great preachers, by Wayne Hooper. "The Chief," as he was known, told Wayne that one of the things he did every January was read through the Bible. He called it his "airplane view of the Bible." It's challenging -- 40 chapters, or about 2 hours of reading, per day -- but very fulfilling. I've chosen to include in this newsletter an article written on Facebook by my cousin, David Armstrong, about the blessings he found while doing this challenge.

If there ever was a time when every house [should] be made sacred with the morning and evening sacrifice, it is now. Like the patriarchs of old, we should see in every home those who claim to live for God [presenting] the morning and evening sacrifice wherever they pitch their tent. The Lord of heaven will not pass that tent by and not leave a blessing.
Ellen White, MS 199, 1903

