



**“Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace to men on whom  
his favor rests.”**

LUKE 2:14, NIV

**First Church of the Brethren  
730 Church Street, Eden, NC 27288**



December 1, 2021

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Wow! The first line of the last article that I wrote for the newsletter was “Pastor Doug, don’t rush things!” And here we are now, already feeling behind. There is so much to get done and so little time to do it. We put up our Christmas tree on Monday. That should have been done last week. And the outside lights... When am I going to get to that? Thanksgiving and Christmas are so close together and so and there are endless things to get squeeze into that short span.

Yesterday afternoon, Hope was working on her list for Santa. We have done a dangerous thing teaching her to write. But it requires one of us telling her which letters to write – for some reason, the kid can’t spell. After a couple items, she was getting completely stressed out! That may not be very different from how we handle Christmas. We let traditions and expectations stress us out and we don’t allow enough time to really reflect on why we are celebrating.

We closed out the evening on a busy day reading a book called “The Best Thing About Christmas.” It acknowledged that the gifts and the decorations and the food and even the time with family are all good, but that the best thing about Christmas is that Jesus came for us. Let’s slow down and enjoy the reason that we celebrate – Jesus birth – and concede that if something stresses us out too much, maybe that thing isn’t really conducive to the celebration of our Savior’s birth.

*But Mary treasured up all these things  
and pondered them in her heart.*

*Luke 2:19*

From "The Stable of Bethlehem"

'Twas not a palace proud and fair he chose for his first  
home;  
No dazzling pile of grandeur rare, with pillar'd hall and dome;  
Oh no! a stable, rude, and poor, received him at his birth;  
And thus was born, unknown, obscure, the Lord of heaven  
and earth. ...

Come to your Savior's lowly bed, ye vain and proud of heart!  
And learn with bowed and humbled head the lesson 'twill  
impart;  
'Twill teach you not to prize too high the riches vain of earth -  
But to lay up in God's bright sky treasures of truer worth. ...

-Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)

**Reminders and Dates to Remember**

**Any family who was not here for Hanging of the  
Greens who would like an Advent devotional please  
contact the office to pick one up.**

**It's time for our yearly Christmas card exchange!  
There is a box to deposit your cards in the narthex by  
the church mailboxes. Drop off your cards here and  
forget about having to mail them!**

**The choir will perform their Christmas Cantata on  
Sunday, December 19. We hope you plan to attend this  
special service as the choir uses this time to celebrate  
the birth of Jesus through song.**

# FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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## **Pray Without Ceasing**

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

## **Thinking of You**

Mark Williams

## **District Prayer Request**

Pray for Dan Radcliff, the Client Manager for Brethren Foundation Funds in Elgin, Illinois. Let us remember that every person who serves the Body of Christ is important, those parts which seem to be weaker are indispensable.



If you can't attend Sunday services you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

## **Light shines in the darkness**

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to treat poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to restore sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than \$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates "big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5).

Upcoming Birthdays

December 6: Larry Cheek

December 8: Brittini Williams

