



Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street, Eden, NC 27288
December 15, 2021



Doug Diamond, Pastor
(304) 283-1042
diamond_doug@hotmail.com

I've got blood on my mind this week. As I type that, I wonder if I should stick with that opening or not in light of tragic events in our society, but I am going to go ahead. Thinking about blood because of our blood drive coming up on Friday. At this point, our schedule is almost full. That excites me knowing the potential that we have to save so many lives. I go through this every two months as the drive approaches.

That causes me to think of Mary and Joseph on their trek to Bethlehem. Mary knows, Joseph knows... They are about to rear the long-expected Savior. Can you imagine the excitement that they are undergoing? Sure, Mary is probably miserable on this long, difficult journey. It's hard enough to travel pregnant today. How difficult must it have been 2000 years ago? I imagine them passing the hours talking about what it will mean to raise the Son of God. They had to have been excited about the potential that their part in the story would have on saving so many lives.

Lives saved for eternity, but also lives saved in this life. How many lives have been transformed in this world because of the Jesus they would raise? Drunks and womanizers have become good fathers and lovers of their wives. Prostitutes have become evangelists. Liars and cheats have become dedicated helpers to the poor.

So many lives saved. Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem was surely filled with anticipation. They would be amazed by what they would see and feel honored to play a part. You, too, can play a part by sharing Jesus with others. (by donating blood, too.)

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:30-33

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

Office phone: (336) 627-7063 - Email: eden1stcob@gmail.com

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

Frankie Wilson

District Prayer Request

Pray for every individual whose life is changed, endangered, or lost by acts of violence, hatred, and war. Let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, whose birth brings the hope, the means, and the ministry of reconciliation for those who follow him.



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.

The perfect gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday - or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends - the people who seem to have everything - and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you - your time, your talent and your treasure - used in service to others."



Upcoming Birthdays

December 19: Steven Trant

December 22: Ron Bradford

Upcoming Events

December 17: 12 pm – 5 pm

American Red Cross Blood Drive

December 19: Christmas Cantata

December 24: 6pm - Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

