

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

DEAR FRIENDS,

PERFORMING HIS WILL:

In January, I shared the vision God had given me for Up River in 2016. As we close this year I am astounded at how powerfully our God has brought this vision to fruition. I have not blatantly hit you over the head with this vision, but I have kept the vision before your eyes. For nearly fifty-two weeks you have seen this verse flash before you: *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!* (Isaiah 52:7). You have seen this over and over because this was the vision God gave me at the end of last year, for 2016.

I intentionally stepped back from this vision because I wanted to see God use each of us bring His vision into reality. All I did was provide the reminding and the cheerleading. This article is about how **you** have achieved His vision in 2016. **I am so very proud of each of you.** You truly have *beautiful feet*.

We began the year with a kick-off party for the new Up River Youth Group. *How beautiful are the feet* of those who initiated and continued to facilitate youth meetings until God provided us with a youth pastor. Your efforts in teaching, providing nourishment (both physically and spiritually), and building relationships with our youth will be treasured in the hearts of many for the remainder of their lifetimes. To all who have helped, and continue to help, your feet are beautiful because you have brought, and continue to bring *the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns*.

From out of the genesis of youth, birth, Jr. youth. Sometimes God closes one door to open another door, but sometimes He opens a door so we can discover another door He desires to open for us; thus, the case with Jr. youth. By mid-year, we had an established Jr. youth program, and by fall had performed two outings. *How beautiful are the feet* of those who continue to open the doors He places before us.

While I began our Wednesday night children's ministry, Building Blocks, in 2015, it was not until this year Building Blocks had enough support to become a continual Wednesday night outreach for children. *How beautiful are the feet* of those who provide our children with *the good news of peace and salvation*.

This year we witnessed the nativity of our Children's Praise and Worship. Children's Praise and Worship meets before Sunday School. *How beautiful are the feet* of those who are teaching our children the importance of worship through prayer, giving, and music. Thank you for setting the example that *our God reigns*.

This year has also marked the makeover of our Children's Sunday School and the creation of the children's wing at Up River. *How beautiful are the feet* of those who have begun this work, which will continue in the new year.

With the beginning of so many new ministry outreaches, the need became much more apparent for a full-time staff pastor to manage the ministry and coordinate the volunteers. God called someone from inside the gates, who also has education and experience with children and youth ministries. Caroline Sweeney takes her call seriously. She is very much about bringing *the good news of peace and salvation* to our children and youth.

There have been many expressions of care for God's people this year within our gates. Long lasting light bulbs have been installed in the Family Life Center. It is vital that we have the best light possible as we share The Light with all who enter our gates. An up-to-date first aid kit has been donated, a defibrillator installed, and we have been trained in when, and when not to use the defibrillator. These are important tools to provide care and safety as we *bring the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns—how beautiful are the feet* of those who help us provide care for others.

Inside the gates, we have seen several new members come into the fold. There are also others who are contemplating joining this great work because they too desire to *share the good news of peace and salvation* with this community and our world—*how beautiful are your feet*.

Our *feet* have not only been *beautiful* inside our gates. God has provided us opportunities outside the gates of this Meeting (and literally *on the mountain*). This year several of our men put together a mission trip to Roanoke, Virginia to perform clean-up after the storms. They were able to bring with them *the good news of peace and salvation* through their expressions of love and care.

Many went outside the gates this spring to help build a wheelchair ramp for one of our sick and shut-in. Many of our youth worked and planted a flower garden on the job site. Together, we demonstrated that our *God reigns*.

Outside the gates, we supported the Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center & Clinic. We raised over four-thousand dollars to help mothers, fathers, and children hear *the good news of peace and salvation*. We also supported Operation Smile, and many of you have shared with me how you have individually helped this worthwhile organization.

Partly because I became vice-president of the Perquimans Chapter of the Mobile Food Pantry, you have helped me help others in this area have nourishing meals. Through our combined efforts, we have collected grocery bags and provided funding for the Mobile Food Pantry. After Hurricane Matthew, you help 662 individuals have groceries and clean drinking water. More importantly, we were outside the gates bringing *the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns*.

With growth and expansion comes a need for transportation. This year we approved the acquisition of a bus. This bus will enable us to continue to share *the good news of peace and salvation* as we travel in our community and abroad.

This year we have had new and different ways to share *the good news of peace and salvation*. One way was through the launch of the Up River website (upriverfriends.org). Without leaving our gates, we are now able to share, around the world, *the good news of peace and salvation*. Coupled with this new vehicle of ministry, we have been able to launch our audio and video ministry. Many of our sermons are available for listening and downloading online. In addition, the video of several of our Praise and Worship services are available for viewing (<http://www.upriverfriends.org/media>) along with my weekly five-minute blog “Worship Outside Walls.” On the World Wide Web, we are proclaiming *the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns*.

Late in the year, we introduced “online giving.” This resource has become very popular (<http://www.upriverfriends.org/giving>). It provides an additional way you can proclaim *the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns*.

Perhaps the most exciting ministry, we are supporting a home missionary to a foreign field. Jacque Pagels will be leaving for Ramallah, a Palestinian city in the central West Bank located north of Jerusalem. Jacque has such *beautiful feet* because she will be *proclaiming the good news of peace and salvation* in a part of the world that is often anything but peaceful. You *have beautiful feet* because you are supporting her with your prayers, encouragement, and finances. Together, we are *proclaiming the good news of peace and salvation, the news that our God reigns*.

God has given me a beautiful vision for 2017, it is different from 2016, but, in a way that only God can orchestrate, His vision for 2016 merges beautifully with His vision for 2017. So much of what He has begun in 2016 will continue to evolve into what He is planning, but what He has sown me for 2017 is amazing, and I hope you are excited as I see His dreams come to pass. *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel (our God) reigns!*

BLESSINGS, Chuck

UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING’S MISSION STATEMENT:

To know Christ and to make Him known.

CONGRATULATIONS – To Joshua and Gabby on the arrival of Zadie Evelyn Lassiter on November 10th.

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES

10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 Nursery and Junior Church
 * * * * *

05th 7:00 pm Ministry & Counsel Meeting
 07th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth - 3rd - 5th grade
 7:30 pm Building Blocks -K- 2nd grade

08th Mobile Food Pantry - Hertford
 10th 5:00 pm Annual Christmas Program
 11th 6:30 pm Live Nativity @ Up River
 14th 12:30 pm Elizabeth White Luncheon
 14th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children & Youth

18th Love Offering for our Pastor
 25th -11:00 am Morning Worship-**MERRY CHRISTMAS**
 30th Homeless Feeding in Elizabeth City
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YOUTH - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

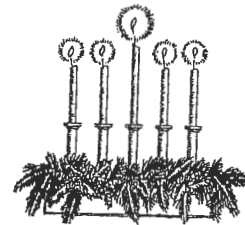
03rd 2:00 pm **Christmas Parade**
 10th 5:00 pm Christmas Program
 11th 6:30 pm Live Nativity @ Up River
 14th Caroling around the neighborhood
 16th 5:30 - 7:30 Christmas Party @ David & Ashley's
 18th Live Nativity @ Center Hill Baptist Church
 25th 11:00 am Christmas Morning Worship
 * * * * *

PRAYER REQUESTS; World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders and leadership of our meeting, Carolyn & Lester Baker, Tommy Stallings, Jimmy Rhodes, Preston Morgan, Archie Creed, Amy Berryman, Rick Morris & family, Kay Boyce, Faye Lassiter, Sid Stallings, Gail Smith, C. J. Stallings, Baby Cash and family, Dale Hunter, Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Baby Carter, Carlton Rountree, Jason Warren, Tanner Sprague (Billy & Janice Winslow's grandson), Lacy Bunch, Cecil & Ann Brown (friends of Jacque in Kernersville), Melody L. White, Riki McGee, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Jackie Wiley, Tommy Chappell, Kathy Turner, Reby Stallings, Linda Givens, Anna Spivey's son-in-law Everett Egan, Jean Pressley (Sonya's mother), Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Alan Corprew, Sid Stallings, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Talynn Gurganus, Lois Faye, Paul White and family, Mary Frances Twiddy, Chad Winslow, Quincy Riddick, Lewis Stallings, Karen & Freddie Boblit, Beulah Phthisic, Anna Wrae Smith, C. F. Stallings, Abby Baker, Anna Spivey, Carey Guyer and her best friend Erica, Bill Jones, the families of Eldon Winslow, Jack Evans, Betty White, James Anderson and Mr. Halsey, our care-givers, youth, and missionaries. If you know of anyone who needs to be added to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Chuck or Catherine. Thank you.
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BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

01st **TOMMY & LONA STALLINGS**
 02nd Doris Myers
 Landon Michael Rhodes
 03rd Nicholas Rawlings, Blake Thompson
 04th Erica Davenport
 06th Russell Lassiter
 07th Joshua Owens
 10th Pierce Russell Caldwell
 12th **MIKE & JAMIE SALVATORE**
 11th Sandra Parks, Trevor Lee
 16th Susan Armstrong
 17th Kenny Watts
 20th **EDWARD & JEWEL WINSLOW**
 21st Adelyn Harris
 22nd Jack Cartland Lassiter
 23rd Chris Baker
 25th **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS**
 Grady Allen Sweeney
 27th **STEVE & BETH SANDERS**
 Carolyn L. Baker, Jennie Upton
 Paul White, Justin Richardson
 28th **LYNDON & ELOISE WHITE**
 29th **THOMAS & ANGELA CRAIN**
 Donna Shockley

FLOWERS: Advent Wreath



UPCOMING and PAST EVENTS: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Come and join Up River Friends Meeting as the congregation and guests present the annual Christmas pageant on Saturday, **Dec. 10 at 5 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Relive Christ's birth as a grandmother shares the story with her granddaughters as we watch Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem and welcome their son, while vocalists bring the message in song. The evening will end with a complimentary catered meal for all. Come and enjoy!

UP RIVER MISSIONARY CIRCLE:

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle met on Thursday, **November 10th** at 9:45 AM to begin our *annual Community Visitation to our shut-ins*. We were warmly welcomed in three homes where we enjoyed the visits. At times memories from the past was shared bringing laughter and renewing our memories. Most peoples' lives are full with their own "to do list" however our members were blest by sharing a little time with those who find it difficult to venture from their homes. We enjoyed our fellowship luncheon, compliments of one of our members, at the Nicholson House with two additional members joining us. Our December meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 on Wed. the 14th.

LOVE OFFERING FOR OUR PASTOR: On Sunday, **December 18th**, we will be receiving an offering of love for our pastor and his wife.

HOMELESS FEEDING: Up River will be serving the evening meal to the homeless in Elizabeth City on Friday, December 30th. Additional information will be coming later.

THE LORD'S TABLE- at Hertford United Methodist Church:

A reception was held in appreciation to those who faithfully serve the luncheons on Wednesdays to those who come. The reception was held on Sunday afternoon the 13th by Hertford United Methodist Church members. Most groups that serve were represented and received a Certificate of Appreciation. Since the inception on February 25, 2015, and as of October 2016; 3,453 meals have been served at the Lord's Table. There are 17 different groups serving once every four months with the accumulation of 646 volunteer hours served. Present and receiving the certificate were three members from Up River.

SHARING WITH OTHERS:

On Saturday, Nov. 19th and Sunday, Nov. 20th, Lynn Lassiter arranged with Caroline and Pastor Chuck to take the Children, Youth, and Jr. Youth on two meaningful outings. This was the first time an excursion had been made with second grade through high school students; and what a glorious time was had.

Saturday, cookies, and visits were brought to many of the sick and shut-in population at Up River. All the young people seemed to enjoy the time, and it was a great eye-opening experience of why visitation is such a vital part of any healthy ministry. Seven individuals were visited, and in the early afternoon, the group returned to the Youth Room at Up River to enjoy a spaghetti lunch.

Sunday, a smaller group of Youth and Jr. Youth helped distribute over 500 pounds of grocery items to some of Up River's sick and shut-in populace, but, they also distributed these items to several families in the community with real physical needs. Sunday was an eye-opening experience of why Christians share their bounty and blessings, especially with those outside the faith community.

As the team arrived at a home of one such family, the thought that was verbalized: "*why do these people live in a barnyard?*" The scene resembled that of a third world country, not our nation of plenty. At another home, the young people encountered someone making poor choices, which revealed the reason why Christians pray for others, not merely themselves. It also later opened dialogue why some prayer concerns should remain confidential. Finally, the young people determined next time, when grocery items are distributed, there needs to be an inclusion of pet food. Our Youth and Jr. Youth also witnessed pets with physical needs. This was a great eye-opener –if there is one area of need in a family it trickles down to all members, including domestic animals.

Thank you to all who provided grocery items; thank you to all who helped facilitate these outings; and thank you, young people, for your willingness to faithfully serve others and look for new and different ways to provide services in the future. As the psalmist recorded, "*I will magnify God!*" Each of you has magnified God by your actions, outreach, and expressions of care.

Membership update

After a year of prayerful consideration and listening to input from many Friends, Ministry & Counsel presented a statement on membership to the Monthly Meeting on October 12 which was approved by Friends present. The statement reads:

Any person who feels led of the Spirit to become a member of Up River Friends meeting may come forward at any meeting for worship to be welcomed into the fellowship. A person may also speak with the pastor or youth pastor, clerk of the Monthly Meeting, an elder or any member of Up River Friends Meeting at any time and share the leading.

The person may come before any subsequent meeting for worship and be welcomed into the fellowship. Those who seek membership will come before the next Monthly Meeting to be recorded in the minutes and entered onto the membership roll.

Parents who would like for their children to be members may take the same action on behalf of their children.

Anyone who feels led of the Spirit to have his/her name removed from the membership may share in any meeting for worship or make the request to the body in writing. The matter will be brought before the next scheduled Monthly Meeting to be recorded in the minutes.

Prior to September, there were categories of membership. Upon the recommendation of Ministry & Counsel and approval by the Monthly Meeting in September, there is now one membership list. That list follows. If there is a person who should appear on this list and does not, or if there is a person on this list whose name should not appear, please let Pastor Chuck, Stan Winslow, Catherine Winslow or Susan Harris know so that the membership roll can be complete and correct. Our sincere apologies if there are any errors. This list came from several that were combined, so there is a possibility mistakes could have been made. The important thing is to get them corrected so we know we have a good list moving forward.

ALEXANDER, KEVIN
ARMSTRONG, SUSAN RIDDICK
BAKER, CARISSA LYNN
BAKER, CARLTON ELLIOTT
BAKER, CHARLES JULIAN
BAKER, CHRISTOPHER

BAKER, CLARK DUANE
BAKER, CONNIE BUNDY
BAKER, JULIAN ELLIOTT
BAKER, KIM BOYD
BAKER, LESTER JULIAN
BAKER, MARK LANE
BAKER, MARY LYNETTE TRUEBLOOD
BAKER, REGINALD FRANCIS
BAKER, TABATHA
BANKS, SYDNI BAKER
BARTON, NICOLE BAKER
BELCHER, BRANDON
BELCHER, JULANE
BOYCE, KAY WINSLOW
CALDWELL, JENNA LASSITER
COLLINS, ASHLEY ROUNTREE
COLSON, CRYSTAL KIRBY
COLSON, DAYNE ROLLINS
COPLEY, CAYCE AUTUMN
CROWDER, DON
DAGGER, MARIE RAWLINGS
DAIL, LOIS R
FORBES, DANIEL
FORBES EULA MAE S
FORBES, HEATHER
HALL, EURA
HALL, LINDA
HARRELL, SHELBY
HARRIS, ANDREW
HARRIS, KIMBERLY
HARRIS, LARY
HARRIS SUSAN ROGERSON
HARTMAN, CHUCK
HARTMAN, SONYA
HOWE, PHILLIP
HUNTER, KATHY R
HUTTO STACIE JONES
HUTTO, TRAVIS GRANT
JETHRO, ASHLEY WINSLOW
JETHRO, DAVID
JETHRO, ELIZA GRACE
JONES, CHRISTOPHER DAVID
JONES, JUDY
KLINGER, ALYSSA
KLINGER, LISA WINSLOW
LANE, BETTY LOIS
LASSITER, ADAM LARN
LASSITER, BRENDA P
LASSITER, FAYE W
LASSITER, HOLLY
LASSITER, JACK CARTLAND
LASSITER, JADA ELM
LASSITER, JOHN RUSSELL
LASSITER, JOSHUA
LASSITER, KYLLI
LASSITER, LYNN U

LASSITER, RANDY
LASSITER RANDY C JR
LASSITER, RODNEY
LASSITER, RUSSELL
LOTHIAN, PAM
MCCLAREN, SEAN THOMAS
MCCLAREN, TOM
MIZE, DIANNE BAKER
MYERS, DORIS LANE
OWENS, KIM R
OWENS, MARSHALL RICHARD III
PAGELS, CHARLES
PAGELS, JACQUE S
PARSONS, JUDY
PRICE, BRANDON
PRICE, KELLI LASSITER
PRICE, MATTHEW K
PRICE, SARAH ROUNTREE
RAWLINGS, CLAUDIA WINSLOW
RAWLINGS, NICHOLAS
RHODES, TIFFANY WHITE
RIDDICK, AUDREY
RIDDICK, EARLINE
RIDDICK, JAMES ROBERT
RIDDICK, MARVIN
RIDDICK, QUINCY
RIDDICK, ROSE
RIDDICK, STEVEN O'NEAL
RIDDICK, THOMAS LINDSEY
ROUNTREE, BRITTANI
ROUNTREE, CARLTON
ROUNTREE, JAMES KEITH
ROUNTREE, JAY
ROUNTREE ROUNTREE, JESSE
ROUNTREE, VERONICA
SALVATORE, JAMIE LASSITER
SANDERS, ANNA ELIZABETH WINSLOW
SANDERS, STEVEN O'NEAL
SAVARIA, BENITA S
SAVARIA, ERIC
SAVARIA, EVAN
SAVARIA, EVELYN
STALLINGS, LONA DAVENPORT
STALLINGS, REBY WINSLOW
STALLINGS, TOMMY
SWEENEY, CAROLINE
SWEENEY, GRADY ALLEN
SWEENEY, JASON
TWIDDY, MARY FRANCES
WAMPOLE, JUNE LANE
WARD, JOVAN STALLINGS
WARD, MATTHEW EDWARD
WARD, WESLEY DOUGLAS
WHITE, ARCHIE LYNDON

WHITE, BRIANNA PAGE
WHITE, CHAY
WHITE, CHERYL S
WHITE, ELOISE
WHITE, JAMES O'NEAL
WHITE, JO ANNE SMITH
WHITE, LOIS FAYE B
WHITE, LYNDON
WHITE, MATTHEW ROBERT
WHITE, MIKE
WHITE, PAUL LANIER
WHITE, ROBERT PRESTON
WHITE, STUART VICTOR
WHITE, VICTORIA JEAN
WILLIAMS, HERBERT
WILLIAMS, JESSIE MAE
WILLIAMS, KELVIN
WINSLOW, ALLEN VIRGIL
WINSLOW, AMANDA N
WINSLOW, ARBA CLAIR
WINSLOW, ARLAND
WINSLOW, AUSTIN JAY
WINSLOW, BRIAN KEITH
WINSLOW, CARTER
WINSLOW, CATHERINE G
WINSLOW, CONLEY KATHLEEN
WINSLOW, DIANNE B
WINSLOW, HANNAH,
WINSLOW, HELEN
WINSLOW, JEFFREY
WINSLOW, JETT CAGLE
WINSLOW, JUSTIN RAY
WINSLOW, KELLI BAKER
WINSLOW, LILY MATTISON
WINSLOW, LORI
WINSLOW, LOU ANN C
WINSLOW, LYNWOOD C III
WINSLOW, MATT
WINSLOW, MILLARD T
WINSLOW, NANCY L
WINSLOW, NICHOLAS JAMES
WINSLOW, PERCY LANCELOT
WINSLOW, REGINALD S
WINSLOW, ROBERT
WINSLOW, ROBERT LANE
WINSLOW, ROBIN
WINSLOW, SANDRA WHITE
WINSLOW, SHERREE M
WINSLOW, STAN
WINSLOW, VIVIAN S
WINSLOW, WAYNE RAY
WINSLOW, WINFRED SCOTT
WINSLOW, ZACHARY H
WISSMAN, GLORIA

VAN SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Several months ago, a van was brought to our attention that was exactly what we were searching for and would meet the needs of our Meeting. Along the way to prepare to go and take a test drive we received a call that there was a problem with the engine. Thus the company made the proper repairs. It was brought back to N.C. We received word that they needed to take it back to Ohio again. Long story short, the van is on its way back to NC and will have a newly rebuilt engine in it which is to our advantage because we had a price quoted to us before all the problems surfaced. We are excited that this deal may soon be finalized. Within the next week we will be going to test drive it and God willing purchase it.

Thank you all for your prayer throughout this process. God's blessings.

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MISSION'S SUNDAY:

Sunday January 1st will be our Mission's Sunday. This is the day we pray for Jacque and finish the Faith Promise Project. If you have not made your Faith Promise Project contribution they can be fulfilled on that Sunday. If you would like to before years end, there is a special designation on the online giving page for Jacque's Faith Promise Project. There will be a fellowship meal following service with the Meeting providing the meat, and our cooks providing sides and desserts.

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ALBEMARLE CHORALE: The Albemarle Chorale will present its annual Christmas concerts Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm, Edenton United Methodist Church; and Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm, First Methodist Church of Elizabeth City. The program is entitled "A Silent Night" and will include six different settings of the familiar carol "Silent Night". This one song serves as a link between the various carols from different nations and cultures which will be sung. Admission is free for the concerts, and donations will be appreciated.

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LOOKING BACK – *(In one of our newsletters we shared highlights from our 150th ANNIVERSARY. Several members shared with us at that time; and from that newsletter until the last thoughts have been shared, you will be able to read what was shared. Also, many thanks to Jacque Pagels and Lynn Lassiter in obtaining this information and pulling it together. The first one was Mark Baker and the second one was from one of our young Friends, Carlton Baker. This month we are sharing memories from Vivian S. Winslow, one of our senior members.*

Vivian Winslow joined the Up River community and the Meeting when she married *Wink* (W.S. Winslow). She found the people in the community welcoming and the Meeting House a center for the community. Vivian says she was impressed by Lizzie White who held the pulpit, especially Lizzie's love for all. Vivian recalls Missionary Sunday when the children would go forward and put money in the offering plate. One Sunday Lucille Lane called Reggie over and gave him a little money to put in the plate. The money was to be given to Lizzie White as she was not a salaried preacher. It seems to Vivian that during service in those early days, more time was allowed for Open Worship.

Up River joined with Piney Woods for revivals and many other activities during her early day in the community. The women in the community would host a meal for the visiting revival pastor. She remembers having Lizzie White and Pastor Rahenkamp with his wife for lunch. Pastor Rahenkamp was later hired as the first paid pastor for the Meeting.

* * * * *

THE QUERIES: *Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both spiritually and numerically.* **RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS:** Are you aware of the necessity of harmonious relations with your fellow members as a basis for the most effective service to the Church? Do you as leaders in the meeting earnestly try to win men to Christ and to strengthen the faith and loyalty of fellow Christians?

* * * * *

*To each of you who contributed to this newsletter, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!*** (page 5)

QUERIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:

(Prepared by New England Junior Yearly Meeting)

Do you work hard to be cheerful, unselfish and cooperative in your home, your school and your playground, so that every day you can put into practice some of the lessons that Christ taught?

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

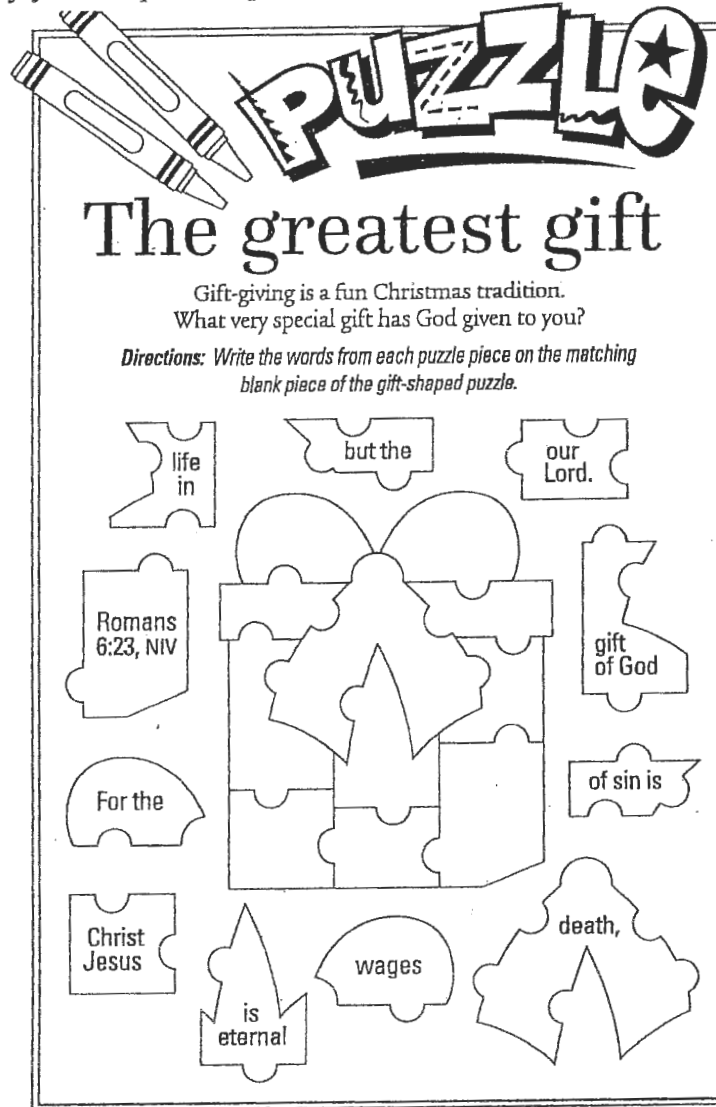


What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV



LAMPLIGHTER

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