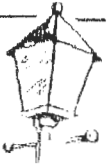

Lamplighter

Let your light so shine
before others . . .
Matthew 5:16



Up River Friends Meeting, Belvidere, NC 27919 -- Vol. XXXI No. 1

January 2017

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR -----

DEAR FRIENDS,

GIVE IT TO GOD:

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7, NLT).

Do you carry around a lot of worry and cares? If you do, you know how heavy that weight can be. Worry has a way of zapping your strength, making you feel exhausted, and robbing you of your focus from important things—important things like family, friends, and God. Peter reminds us to give our worries and cares to God.

Cares can be classed as a lot of things, but in the context of this verse, I believe the term *cares* means any unhealthy thing that burdens you. Worry and care go hand-in-head as the negative characteristics that rob us of joy, peace, and happiness. WebMD states, "Chronic worrying can affect your daily life so much that it may interfere with your appetite, lifestyle habits, relationships, sleep, and job performance. Many people who worry excessively are so anxiety-ridden that they seek relief in harmful lifestyle habits" (Physical Effects of Worrying, 2005).

The most dangerous lifestyle habit that worrying will lead to is idolatry. What? Yes, idolatry. See, anything we put before God, and our relationship with Him becomes an idol of worship. Worry and unhealthy cares steal our affection from God, and leave us feeling defeated, even though we are not defeated.

Christ has made all, who place their trust in Him, over and above victors—supervisors. Jesus not only fought for you; He won the battle for you. Perhaps this is one of the reasons Peter recommends that we give our worry and care to God because God has secured victory for Christians. God does not want us walking around defeated all the time. Why? Well, who would want a Christianity where all one ever did was worry? Not me, and hopefully not you. When the world sees us walking in joy, peace, and happiness, even in the face of some very dark things that may transpire in our lives, the world will say, "Hey, I want what you have."

There is a story of a wise woman, who, while traveling in the mountains found a precious stone. Shortly after finding this treasure, she met another traveler who was hungry. The hungry traveler asked if he could have some of the woman's food. Without hesitation, the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman if she would give him the stone instead. She did without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone would offer him security for a lifetime. Never the less, a few days later, he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious." The wise woman asked what it was the traveler desired. The traveler replied, "Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone without hesitation."

May we be quick to give God all our cares and worries, so we are at liberty in Him. May the world see us walking in joy, peace, and happiness, even in the dark times that transpire in our lives, so the world might say, "Hey, I want what you have." May we, without hesitation, share our faith with them so they too can know that God cares about them.

Physical effects of worrying. (2005). Retrieved August 16, 2016, from WebMD,
<http://www.webmd.com/balance/guide/how-worrying-affects-your-body>

BLESSINGS: Chuck

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES:

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

01st Luncheon honoring Jacque Pagels
02nd 7:00 pm Ministry & Counsel Meeting
04th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Light Meal
7:30 pm Children's program
09th 2:00 pm Elizabeth White Miss. Circle
11th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Light Meal
7:30 pm Monthly Meeting
12th Mobile Food Pantry in Hertford
18th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Light Meal
7:30 pm Children's program
25th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Light Meal
7:30 pm Children's program
29th Fifth Sunday Singspiration

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARY:

01st Rose Ann Riddick
02nd Chase Bradford Thompson
03rd Madelyn Jean (Maddie) Winslow
05th Judy Parsons
06th **BRAD & AMANDA C. THOMPSON**
07th Sarah R. Price
10th Jason Rountree
11th **ROB & LORI WINSLOW**
CHUCK & SONYA HARTMAN
12th Kelli L. Price
16th Zachary Winslow
17th Ashley Rountree Collins
19th Jada Elm Lassiter
22nd Kelvin Williams
Rick Owens
23rd Rachel Wilcox,
24th Beth W. Sanders
25th Scottie Winslow
27th Nancy B. Winslow
31st Linda Hall, Nancy L. Winslow

FLOWERS:

01st Jacque Pagels
08th Dianne Mize
15th Dianne Winslow

22nd Sherree Winslow
29th Could you have flowers this
Sunday? Let Catherine know-thanks



PRAYER REQUESTS:

World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders, children, youth and leadership of our meeting, Lester & Carolyn Baker, Vivian Winslow, Eloise White; Terry Sweeney, Ken Spivey, Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Pat & Mary Frances Twiddy, Pastor Tom Barton, (Nicole B. Barton's father in-law), Tommy Stallings, Kay Boyce, Jimmy Rhodes, Archie Creed, Rick Morris & family, Faye Lassiter, Sid Stallings, Gail Smith, C. J. Stallings, Baby Cash and family, Dale Hunter, 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, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Jackie Wiley, Tommy Chappell, Kathy Turner, Linda Givens, Anna Spivey's son-in-law Everett Egan, Jean Pressley (Sonya's mother), Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Alan Corprew, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Lois Faye, Paul White and family, 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, families of Reby Stallings, Phyllis Mansfield, Merrill Goodwin, Shelton Goodwin, 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.

UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING'S MISSION STATEMENT:

To know Christ and to make Him known.

LOOKING FORWARD TO UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIENDS DISASTER SERVICE:

As many of you know a tornado hit Evergreen, Virginia last spring and did much damage. Kevin and Kristie Harris live there along with Kevin's family. They suffered much loss of property as well as a member of Kevin's family. FDS has worked in that area previously and would like to go back and help on building a home to replace the one that was destroyed.

The plans are to leave on Sunday afternoon January 8th and return on Friday the 13th. They will be sleeping in a church, therefore, sleeping bags or cots are needed. Meals probably will be provided. If you feel that you can go in this time frame, please contact Austin Winslow either by e-mail – austin.j.winslow@monsanto.com - or call him at 919-397-6596 (cell phone). Plans at this time are for Austin to be going Monday and Tuesday. Thank you.

* * * * *

ELIZABETH WHITE MISSIONARY CIRCLE:

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle held their annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14th. After a delicious luncheon prepared by members, we were given an opportunity to listen to *HIS* still small voice in a lesson on *JOY* presented by Jacque Pagels. Much food for thought was shared with the 9 members present. As we looked back on the year 2016 and thought about the opportunity presented to each of us around *JOY*, we look forward to a new year in which we can bring *JOY* to others.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 9th at 2 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall. Our lesson at that time will focus on *Begin the Joyous Tasks* given by Affie Spivey. We welcome you to come and join us.

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UP RIVER AT A GLANCE:

What a glorious December this has been; genuinely busy, but blessed. The first weekend in December was the inaugural run of our new bus. RJ Lassiter bathed this maiden voyage in prayer; pastor Chuck drove, and the passengers watched "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The first destination was the Hertford Christmas Parade. Caroline Sweeney, Christian Ed Director & Youth Pastor, created a float that some thirty individuals from the meeting road in the parade. The float was driven by David Jethro and the trailer provided by Stan Winslow.

On Sunday, December 4th, Caroline Sweeney took a group of our children shopping. This event was not to buy for our children. Instead, this outing was for our children to buy Christmas gifts for children who might not have Christmas. Our children raised the money themselves by doing extra chores and odd jobs.

Saturday the 10th was Up River Friends' annual Christmas Play. This year's program was titled, "Grandmama Tells the Christmas Story" and featured Susan Harris as "Grandmama" with Kinley and Adelyn listening to her tell the miraculous story of Baby Jesus birth. There were lots of beautiful voices and songs to go along with the Scripture. In addition, our children made a joyous sound for our Savior.

David, Matt, Charles, Daniel, and many others from Tidewater Agronomics, along with the team from Nixon Solutions worked diligently the week prior to the Christmas play. They were working hard to assure that Up River's new video system was operational in the Family Life Center in time for the play.

Sunday evening the 11th, Jada Lassiter presented her second annual Live Nativity. Jada, along with many of Up River Friends' Children, Youth, and Jr. Youth presented the nativity in a short 10-minute drama on the front lawn of the Meetinghouse (vimeo.com/195342191).

On Tuesday, the 13th, Up River opened its doors to the Perquimans County School System for their "Winter Holiday Gathering." Pastor Chuck provided both greetings and entertainment for this event.

The following day, Up River went Christmas Caroling in the community. There were 20 plus bus riders, with Pastor Chuck driving. The group made ten stops and enjoyed making new Christmas memories.

The Youth and Jr. Youth led Praise and Worship on Sunday the 18th. A special devotional was presented by Ronni Sweeney, and Caroline brought a message and update on the spiritual well being of our children through youth (vimeo.com/195341620).

On Sunday, the 25th, Up River celebrated Christmas Day with a special cantata led by Lyn Winslow. This time of worship focused on Christ being the true Light. (pg.3)

December also witnessed a Christmas party for the Youth hosted at the home of David and Ashley Jethro, a Christmas lunch for the Elizabeth White Missionary Circle, and a special Christmas party for the Children provided by Amanda Winslow.

In addition, be sure to check out the renovations to the Youth Room. Under the direction of Amanda and Caroline, Paul White did an outstanding job giving that room a much needed “splash of color.” Also, a new flat screen has been mounted to the wall, an air-hockey table has been donated by Mark and Kim Baker, a futon from Andrew and Kim Harris, and many “flourishes” and furnishings have been added thanks to Amanda’s creative eye. Check out the new Children’s Church area in the Education Wing (being transformed into the Children’s Education Wing). There are still many changes that will continue throughout the New Year in the Children’s worship area, but the starting is coming along nicely.

On Friday, December 30th, Up River fed around 40 homeless people in Elizabeth City, many being served for the first time. Food that was left over was given to the Herrington House (even though it is closed temporarily, the ladies who run the house were going to distribute the food to the elderly and disabled population around the downtown area who were unable to make the feeding due to the cold). Other area churches are opening their doors to the homeless through January and February. Shelter is a true need for the homeless in this area.

Hopefully, nothing or no one was left out—December has been a whirlwind of a month; but, the gospel is going forth from Up River, and we are all guarding our hearts in order not to grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9). How beautiful are the feet of Up River Friends’ workers, overseers, planners, and prayers! Our mission continues: “to know Christ and to make Him known!”

Thank you, Chuck

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BUS PURCHASED:

Praise God! Through prayer, trust, and patience we have finalized the purchase of a handicapped-equipped bus to further the Word of God. Without your prayers this would not have been possible. Thank you to all who worked to bring this Godly dream to fruition. Now it is time for us to put the bus to good use for the Kingdom of God. Blessing and Peace.

* * * * *

UP-DATE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH ROOM:

Thank you to all those who took part in the Up River post office. At this time, we raised just over \$360 to go towards Jacque Pagels’ mission to Ramallah Friends school.

I wanted to take a moment to give an update on the Sunday School and Youth Room updates. First of all, thank you to all who donated funds to this undertaking, without them, the following could not have been done. Thank you to Hillary Lassiter and Jamie Salvatore for helping paint the new children’s area and the grades K-2 classes. New cabinets have been installed in the children’s church/worship room thanks to Matt and Stan Winslow as well as a new dry erase board. A new light has been installed with thanks to David Jethro. Cabinets were moved higher in the K-2 class and a larger dry erase board will go up soon. New curtains were added in both classes.

The youth room was painted by Paul White, thank you Paul. Thank you to Mark and Kim Baker for giving the youth an indoor activity with the air hockey table. To Andrew and Kim Harris for donating seating for a more comfortable gathering area and to David and Ashley Jethro for donating other furniture. Thanks to David again for running wire and hanging the TV in the youth room and soon to be installed children’s church/worship area. File cabinets donated by Stan and Lou Ann Winslow a couple years ago, were given a new color. Next will be sound panels, additional seating and other artwork in the youth room. I also want to thank Julian Baker for his treasury duties.

As funds allow, we will have the Open class painted as it is currently under leak repair and we would also like to refresh the Sunday School building hallway with new paint.

If you would like to donate funds, please earmark it as “Classroom Upgrades in Children’s Wing and other classrooms as needed”.

Thank you, Amanda ...and we thank you, Amanda for this update. (pg.4)

I'M GONNA CARD YOU:

Sometimes I get a feeling in a fast food drive-up line that I should share the gifts God has given me. I'll pay for the car behind me and ask the server to tell the folks to have a nice day! I used to stop almost every day at Hardee's on my way to work, but in an effort to try to cut down some carbs, had not been in a while. When I next visited, the server was excited to see me, "I've been waiting for you to come back!" she said. "You know when you paid for that lady behind you the last time you were here? Well, she just cried when I told her what you had done. She said that was just the nicest thing."

Of course, that made me feel good. But it also made me think: What if I had asked the clerk to give her a card, not with my name on it, but with Up River's information on which I had written, "Have a great day!" or "All are welcome" or "Join us for worship sometime." I saw this as a ministry and outreach opportunity. And that's when I decided I would bring up at Ministry & Counsel about buying cards. It was approved to go on to Monthly Meeting, where it was also approved. I, however, was very slow moving ahead and months have passed. Finally, though, I ordered 2000 cards and they are in the library just waiting for use.

How will you use them?

Will you give one out like I did today to invite someone who moved to this area about 18 months ago, but hasn't found a new church home? I just said, "Hey, we'd love to have you visit. Check out our website to get an idea of what we're about." No pressure, just a sincere invitation.

Will you ask a server to give one to someone in the car behind you or at a nearby table for whose meal you have paid, just to say, "Someone at Up River Friends
How will you use them?

Will you write your email address or phone number on the back and give it to someone who may need a friend, a listening ear?

Will you give one to someone who comes to church for the first time to say "Welcome and please come back"?

Will you pull one out to write the time of a program on to which you are inviting them?

Will we put them on candy canes and hand them out at next year's Christmas parade?

Will you give one to someone who feels alone and tell them, "Come be a part of our church family?"

However you choose to use them, do USE them! Let's make sure there is no one in our area who does not know about Up River Friends and its welcoming, loving, Christ-centered worship, praise and service opportunities for all ages.

And me? Well, I'm going to try to stop asking, "How much is the order behind me?" in a drive-up and just say, "Yes, Lord, I feel you telling me to do this and I'm going to obey without hesitation or restriction - even if the order is for someone's office party!"

May we all find ways to share Christ, to know Him better, to make Him known, to serve Him more, in 2017. Happy New Year!

Thank you, Susan

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SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF PCHS STUDENT – MADELYN MARIE BYRUM:

Recently, an organization in Hertford (The Hertford Ladies – A Red Hat Club) initiated a scholarship. The School Foundation will actually manage the scholarship which is called the **Madelyn Marie Byrum (Those Who Give Back) Scholarship**. Each year, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior at PCHS. In some way, the Hertford Ladies - A Red Hat Group hopes that creating this scholarship in Madelyn's memory will aid the family and friends as they begin to absorb such a tremendous loss. It is their hope to perpetuate the spirit and character of Madelyn and honor her life, passion for sports, scholarly studies and genuine love of life and other people.

During the October Monthly Meeting at Up River Friends Meeting, it was approved to support this cause by contributing \$250 to the scholarship. Any other individuals wishing to give to the scholarship may do so by sending to PCSF, Inc., PO Box 337, Hertford, NC 27944. (pg.5)

Madelyn was the daughter of Paul Matthew Byrum, Jr. and Carrie Bridgers Byrum. In addition to her parents, she is survived by her brother, Branson Matthew Byrum; grandparents Robin and Warren Bridgers, Deborah and Paul Byrum; and great-grandmothers, Helen Bridgers and Ruby Saunders.

* * * * *

THE QUERIES: The following comes from the Faith and Practice (Book of Discipline) of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends under the heading THE QUERIES.

Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both Spiritually and numerically.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Do you endeavor to recognize and develop your special talents and abilities for service in the Meeting and do you pray for divine guidance in their use? Do you cultivate the spiritual gifts of the members of your Meeting? Are you always ready to encourage and advise those who engage in the vocal ministry or in other Christian work?

* * * * *

QUERIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:

(Prepared by New England Junior Yearly Meeting)

Are you encouraging fair and honest games? Are you reading worthwhile books and getting acquainted with good music? When you go to entertainments, do you try to choose the good and avoid the bad?

* * * * *

*To each of you, who contributed to this newsletter, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.** If you would like to share in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to do so – just give me a call at 297-2485 or e-mail me at lcwjr@inteliport.com. Also, if you have a loved one or a friend whom you think would like to receive our newsletter – or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let me know. Thank you very much.*
Catherine G. Winslow

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