

December, 2021
Issue #18

- The Candy Cane Story
- God's Strength to Persevere
- Is There Meaning Behind the 12 Days of Christmas?
- Don't Just Say You Are My Sister – Be My Sister!
- You are Never Alone
- Upcoming KWM Virtual Fellowships
- Call to Prayer
- A Godly Momma Knows Best
- Christmas Concert
- Recipe of the Month
- Live Laugh Love
- KWM Leadership Committee

Ministry Purpose:

To equip, inform and inspire to nobler services as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation.

Ministry Mission Statement:

Kingdom Women vigorously seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. This requires earnest endeavor and diligent faith, spiritual warfare that includes the will to resist satan and sin; and to hunger and thirst for the Word of God. Together, we will intercede through fasting and prayer for the lost, the family and the community. We serve God with whole hearts and willing hands, performing good deeds that please the Father. We will walk in love and protect the spirit of unity through the bond of peace among the sisters as we follow Christ Jesus.

Foundational Scripture:

Esther 4:14-17

Sister to Sister News



Fort Foote Baptist Church
8310 Fort Foote Road,
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301/839-1343
Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Lyles, Pastor
Mrs. Sheila M. Lyles, First Lady

2021 KWM Theme:
Lift Your Sisters and Become One
John 13:34-35 & 17:21-22

THE CANDY CANE STORY – AN OBJECT LESSON



Hold up a candy cane or give one to each child in your family or class. Have them describe it to you. As they share their observations, tell them how each says something about Jesus Christ:

“the white” – Jesus was pure and holy; He was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15: *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”*

The white is also a picture of how God washes our sins away and makes us white as snow when we trust in Jesus as Savior.

Isaiah 1:18: *“‘Come now, let us reason together,’ says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.’”*

“the red stripes” – The red, of course, is a picture of the blood Jesus shed for each of us; the red stripes depict the stripes on His back as He was beaten.

Isaiah 53:5: *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

“the hardness of the candy” – The hardness represents Jesus as our “Rock”: if we build our lives upon Him, they will be secure and lasting.

Luke 6:38: *“He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it because it was well built.”*

Ephesians 2:20: *“Built on the foundations of apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”*

1 Peter 2:6: *“For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’”*

“the candy cane’s shape” – The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd’s staff; the Bible calls Jesus our Good Shepherd who watches over us and cares for us; we are called the sheep of His pasture.

John 10:11: *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

Psalm 100:3: *“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”*

“upside down candy cane” – If you turn the candy cane upside now, it makes a J for Jesus!

Matthew 1:21: *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”*

You may be interested in these children’s books that tell the story of the candy cane and other Christmas symbols:

- ❖ *The Legend of the Candy Cane, Newly Illustrated Edition: The Inspirational Story of Our Favorite Christmas Candy* by Lori Walburg
- ❖ *All the Colors of Christmas* by Matthew Paul Turner
- ❖ *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski
- ❖ *The Legend of the Poinsettia* by Tomie dePaola

ENJOY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sources: www.creativebiblestudy.com and Amazon.com (for books)
Submitted by Shirley J. McKenzie



“God’s Strength to Persevere”



Tears and driving don’t mix, so I talked to God. I need to lean into His strength . . . and His compassion. I drove home the other day almost in tears. No reason really. Just. Life. You know those days? You’re handling what comes your way without upset, taking the unexpected issues in stride, keeping up with the schedule, and then . . . you hit the point when you realize just how tired you are, physically, emotionally, even spiritually. Yep, that was me. Tears and driving don’t mix, so I talked to God. And one word was His only answer.

PERSEVERE

It was His gentle reminder. Persevere is my **One Word** for this year, but I haven’t been thinking about it much. Just trying to do it. Now I can’t stop thinking about it in very specific ways.

- ❖ **Persevere**—through the tough days that string together for too long.
- ❖ **Persevere**—in holding on to hope, when it seems others have given up.
- ❖ **Persevere**—in following Jesus, especially when I know I’m under spiritual attack.
- ❖ **Persevere**—when it feels like it would be easier to quit.

“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” James 5:11 (NIV)

In God’s reminder to persevere I felt comforted. And strengthened. I realized that it’s not enough to keep going on my own.

I need to lean into His strength...and His compassion!



*Written by Laura Rath
Submitted by Carolyn Pinckney & Roslyn Murphy*

Is There a Meaning Behind “The 12 Days of Christmas”?



There has been much written about the meaning of the holiday classic, “The 12 days of Christmas.” This article does not claim to answer the question definitively; however, it does present one researcher’s findings which seem creditable.

“The 12 Days of Christmas” may not be as beloved as some other favorite Christmas carols but ask anyone what their true love gave/sent them on the first day of Christmas, and they’d probably be able to sing right back to you, “A partridge in a pear tree!”

The following are facts determined by the *Good Housekeeping* writer identified below. Consider the fact that not much of the song makes sense from a modern perspective. Like most old tales, you have to first understand the context of when they were written.

First, what are the 12 days of Christmas? The twelve days over which the song takes place is a reference to Christianity. “The 12 Days of Christmas” historically does not reference the days leading up to Christmas but rather the 12 days following, known as Twelvetide. The period begins with the birth of Christ on December 25th and ends with the coming of the three wise men on January 6th, known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. The weeks before Christmas are known as Advent, ending on December 24th.

The lyrics to “The 12 Days of Christmas” were originally different. Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first printed appearance of the song was in the English children’s book *Mirth Without Mischief*. In the original lyrics, the “four calling birds” were actually “four colly birds.” The term “colly” is Old English slang for birds dark as coal, a.k.a. blackbirds. In other versions of the song, the partridge is replaced with a “very pretty peacock upon a pear tree.” If you think that’s weird, consider a Scottish version that gifts “an Arabian baboon.” It wasn’t until 1909 that British composer Frederic Austin penned the version of the lyrics that we are all familiar with today.

The song originated as a game. Most historians believe that the Christmas carol started out as a “memory-and-forfeit” game in 1800s England. These types of games were played by British school children, and the rules were simple: When it’s your turn, you repeat all the previously sung lyrics and add the next one. If you can’t remember a verse, you owe your opponent a “forfeit,” which was usually a kiss or piece of candy.

The song doesn’t have a hidden biblical meaning. You may have seen this theory floating around via chain emails and message boards. In a nutshell, the theory claims that during a time when Christians were punished for worshiping openly, “The 12 Days of Christmas” song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. Per this theory, each gift symbolizes a different aspect of the Christian faith:

- ❖ The Partridge in a Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The 2 Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ The 3 French Hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.
- ❖ The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels or the four evangelists.
- ❖ The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch.
- ❖ The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.



- ❖ The 7 Swans A-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- ❖ The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- ❖ The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- ❖ The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles (Judas not counted).
- ❖ The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Snopes, a factchecking/myth debunking site, breaks down the many historical and logistical errors in the “hidden meanings” theory as follows: If Christians were living in fear of even mentioning the basic tenant of Christianity, how were they able to sing a song that mentions the word “Christmas” in every lyric?

Wherever one researches the meaning of “The 12 Days of Christmas, many versions will be found. My family enjoys singing this song, and we’re not going to worry about the meaning unless we find something that is immoral or illegal. Since Christmas is fast-approaching, I must tune up for my part – 5 Golden Rings. Unfortunately, my cousin, who sang this part of the song with me, transitioned in October of this year. So, if the song has no other meaning for me, it will remind me of my cousin and the fun we had singing, “Five Golden Rings.



*Source: Good Housekeeping, Katie Bourque
Commentary and Submitted by Shirley J. McKenzie*



Don't Just Say You Are My Sister REALLY BE MY SISTER!

Psalm 133:1-3: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalm 133 is one of the shortest chapters in the Book of Psalms. It is believed that David may have composed this Psalm after he was unanimously crowned as king by the united tribes of Israel, or after his son Absalom's revolt was put down and the tribes hurried to show their loyalty to David. This Psalm may also be viewed as prophetic, referring to the reunion of the tribes after the Babylonian captivity, to the unity of the Christians at the time of the Gospels, or to the Messianic Age.

What I find so profound about Psalms 133 is that in three short Bible verses we learn that:

1. ***It is God's desire for us to live in unity & it is our responsibility to work together in harmony. - How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!***
2. ***There is individual benefit in our obedience to God's desire for us to live in unity. It provides a total covering of blessing flowing down our head and face and over our shoulders. - It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.***

3. **When we work together in harmony there is life long benefit to our family, our Ministry, our Church and to our Community.** - *It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

So why does it seem that no matter what you are involved in – family, ministry, work - God always blesses you with one very special person who not only drives you totally bonkers but who also seems to have the uncanny ability to bring out the worst in you? I think I may have figured it out . . . God has a very interesting sense of humor because God's Unity is a precious gift, a prize that can't be totally appreciated without considerable effort and sacrifice. God's Unity is a state of the heart, an internal commitment that only comes with spiritual maturity and growth which probably also has a whole lot to do with long suffering!

So how do we get to the point where the importance of being unified, especially when we are about God's business, takes priority over what we all suffer from - our will, our pride and our selfishness? When does being obedient to God's desire for us to get along trump our immediate reaction to an imagined slight or offence intentional or not? What will it take when pulling off our earrings and kicking off our shoes isn't our first response to hurt feelings? When will reconciliation become our personal and spiritual 1st priority? When will saying I'm sorry become genuinely as easy as breathing, and humility becomes a badge of honor we all strive for?

Don't worry, I'm not quite there yet either . . . but I am really working on it, because all Believers will one day come to a crossroad where desiring to please God becomes more important than being right and having your way. Imagine if we took all the negative energy hurt feelings create and turned it into a passion and commitment to stay unified no matter what – just imagine all that we could accomplish . . . imagine the benefit we together could create within our families, our church and our community!

So during this Holiday Season and New Year beginnings, let us all strive to be better and do better by each other and instead of knocking a sister's crown to the ground, be the sister that straightens it instead, and let's all work together so God's desire for unity becomes our priority as well as our combined norm.

*Written/Submitted by:
Elizabeth LaGrange Smith*



“You Are Never Alone”

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

A common issue many people face is a feeling of loneliness. Whether they are physically isolated or socially isolated, many find themselves in a pit of deep despair. I too, have experienced this in a very real and raw way. Grinding through life, wrestling with difficult circumstances, and wondering if I was the only one struggling. Unfortunately, many times when we find ourselves in these circumstances we begin to believe the lie that God is not a loving God if he allows us to go down these lonely roads. Do not fall into this trap. Christ’s gift to us at Calvary paid the price for our sins, but did not guarantee us a pain-free or worry-free life. We often face challenges that are meant to draw us closer to him or help others through similar experiences. If you are experiencing loneliness, try to appreciate the lonely path Christ walked to pay the ultimate price for your deliverance, and attempt to discover the many ways you can comfort others in their time of need, which ultimately brings glory to God.

One of the most beautiful and impactful fictional illustrations of God’s presence never leaving us is portrayed in episode 2 of season 2 of the television drama **“Chosen”**. (*The Chosen is a television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth and is the highest grossing crowd-funded TV series or film project of all times.*) In this episode, Nathaniel is introduced as an architect who designs buildings; but after a project he is developing collapses and severely injures several workers, his dreams are shattered, and he feels abandoned, let down, and all alone. Eventually, he finds himself sitting all alone under a fig tree and in a moment of desperation sets fire to his architectural plans representing his life’s work and cries out to God, pleading for help (*Psalms 145:18*). At the end of the episode, Philip introduces Nathaniel to Jesus who says, ***“I was there with you under the fig tree. I saw your face.”*** It is a climactic moment in the episode as Nathaniel immediately recognizes that he is in the presence of the Messiah. It is a reminder that Jesus is always with us, even at our weakest and loneliest moments, reassuring us that ***“he will never leave us or forsake us.”***



Almighty God, thank you for granting us the courage to trust you in our times of loneliness. Give us the strength and confidence to know that you will never leave us. Fill us with your presence, teach us from your loving Word and let us live lives that bring glory to you, so that we too can comfort others in need. Amen.

Whenever you feel lonely, alone, or in need, remember that God himself lives in you by his Spirit and is offering you all the comfort, companionship, strength, and faith you need to persevere.

*Written By Julie Lairsey
Submitted by Carolyn Pinckney & Roslyn Murphy*



Upcoming Virtual Fellowship Events

Date:	Fellowship:
January 8, 2022	Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast
February 12, 2022	Spreading Love & Kindness (Beyond the Walls)
March 12, 2022	Spring Revival Topics: Preserve, Self-Love, etc.
April 9, 2022	Coffee & Conversation
May 14, 2022	Mother's Day Celebration
June 11, 2022	Cooking Health Demonstration
July 9, 2022	Leadership Team/Planning Retreat
August 13, 2022	No Fellowship This Month
September 10, 2022	Forgiveness (Part 2)
October 15-16, 2022	Women's Day Weekend Celebration
November 12, 2022	Mission/Giving to Women's Shelters & Homeless Women
December 10, 2022	Market Day

CALL TO PRAYER

Kingdom Women Ministry Weekly Prayer Call

Every Thursday 7:14 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Dial Teleconference

Call Number - 425-436-6357 - Access Code -543895#

Prayer Requests can be Submitted via The Prayer Room

Fort Foote Baptist Church - Fort Washington, MD: Kingdom Women Ministry: KW Prayer/Praise Request
(fortfootebc.org)



A GODLY MOMMA KNOWS BEST

Proverbs 9:10 reads:

“Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.”

“A GODLY MOMMA KNOWS BEST” is based on the nurturing love and care of a **Godly Sister/Friend** that wants you to know that you are never alone in this journey of life.

“A Godly Momma/Sister/Friend Knows Best” is an opportunity for women of all ages to submit questions anonymously about sensitive or intimate subjects and receive wise and godly counsel at (<http://www.fortfootebc.org/kwm>).

Responses to your submissions will be answered by our team. The Team consists of **“Sister Wisdom,” “Sister Knowledge,” “Sister Understanding, with the Almighty Insight,”** and let’s not forget **“Sister Girrrrl, I’ve Been There Before, and He Brought Me Out!”**

Let’s continue to share with and to support one another by being led by the Holy Spirit to direct our conversations and responses to our sisters in need.

A Godly Momma Knows Best Submission Form can be found on our new **Kingdom Women Ministry Web Channel** at <http://www.fortfootebc.org/kwm>. If your need or concern is beyond the expertise or authority of the **A Godly Momma Knows Best Team**, it will be referred to the Church for assistance.

Submitted by The Godly Momma Knows Best Team



Christmas Concert

Cece Winans – It's Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGA4HDc6DWA>

Yolanda Adams – Joy to the World Medley

<https://youtu.be/5CVJy06tm0o>

Tasha Cobbs – Oh Come All Ye Faithful

<https://youtu.be/Q1C8B1-GcH8>

Tamela Mann – Now Behold the Lamb

https://youtu.be/5y2VrDl_4bY

Kierra Sheard & Marcus Cole - This Christmas

<https://youtu.be/0YWpD1GYvHE>



Toasted Pecan Snowballs

🕒 Prep Time: 45 minutes 🕒 Cook Time: 15 minutes
🕒 Total Time: 1 hour 🍴 Yield: 36 cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup (230g) **unsalted butter**, softened to room temperature
- 2 cups (240g) **confectioners' sugar**, divided
- 2 teaspoons **pure vanilla extract***
- 2 and 1/4 cups (281g) **all-purpose flour** (spoon & leveled)
- 1 cup (125g) finely chopped and toasted **pecans***
- **optional:** 2/3 cup (127g) sprinkles

Instructions

1. In a large bowl using a hand-held mixer or stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter for 1 minute on medium speed until completely smooth and creamy. Add 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and beat on medium high speed until combined and creamy-looking. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Next, beat in the vanilla extract on medium-high speed until combined. Switch to low speed and slowly add the flour. The dough will look dry and you may not think the flour will fully combine. Once all of the flour is added, turn the mixer up to high speed. The dough will come together. Finally, beat in the pecans. At this point, you can beat in the sprinkles as well.
2. Cover the cookie dough tightly and chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes and up to 3 days. (If chilling for 3+ hours, make sure you let the cookie dough sit at room temperature for at least 30 minutes before rolling into balls. The cookie dough will be very stiff after being in the fridge that long.)
3. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. (Always recommended for cookies.) Set aside. Pour the remaining confectioners' sugar into a shallow bowl.
4. Scoop or roll 1 Tablespoon of cookie dough per cookie. Roll into a ball and place on the baking sheets, at least 2 inches apart. Bake the cookies until golden brown on the bottom edges and just barely browned on top, about 15 minutes.
5. Allow the cookies to cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet, then very gently roll them in the confectioners' sugar to coat completely. Place the cookies on wire racks to cool completely. Once completely cooled, roll in confectioners' sugar again. This is when the sugar will really stick!



Live Laugh Love

Christmas Word Search

GQCELVESZLIGHTS
DCZLFJSRVNULBZB
CELEBRATEWMJEYF
QFDCWGNREINDEER
PFZEHTJTGCOOKIES
GRANCRAIRIWBHIC
OMEMNOIUKS FVAZA
RIISINRSNDOHJDN
NMMSELEATECQBWD
AGZDTNYCTMJCPRY
MIIILULTTWIABTEC
EVHNZWESSQOSBAA
NIENAOQTFTPNJTN
TNGEPQICOPYZSHE
DGARJWDEQEYPEBS

Decorations
Celebrations
Lights
Giving
Candy Canes
Ornaments
Presents
Dinner
Christmas
Reindeer
Family
Wealth
Mistletoe
Cookies
Elves
Santa



CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

1. dnorewadnl _____
2. escrogo _____
3. asnat lacsu _____
4. teesrnsp _____
5. uhrdplo _____
6. ejssu _____
7. mashcrist eert _____
8. bwos _____
9. enol _____
10. wnmosan _____
11. rwehta _____
12. ndyca ance _____
13. yollh _____
14. ftgis _____
15. nirgch _____
16. emryr _____
17. ngtsoikc _____
18. gnwraipp _____
19. tooeicadrsn _____
20. eblls _____



PrintableParadise.com

OK! YES! I WENT TO MY OLD
GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE LAST NIGHT!
IT'S MY JOB!



I thought they
just swabbed
your nose.



soccer ball
tank
yacht

drummer drumming (2)
boule (5)
rubber duck

teddy bear
jet plane
clarinet

candy cane (3)
elephant
mistletoe

HINTS

2021 Kingdom Women Ministry Leadership Committee

Name	Phone	Email
Sheila M. Lyles, <i>First Lady, Ministry Overseer</i>	N/A	smlyles@comcast.net
Roslyn Murphy, <i>Chair & New Member Outreach Committee Lead</i>	301-509-0702	rozpatty@hotmail.com
DaNita Bowe, <i>1st Vice Chair, Acting Treasurer & Hospitality Committee-Food Lead</i>	301-741-6709	dboweone@yahoo.com
Peggy Minor, <i>2nd Vice Chair & Praise & Worship Lead</i>	301-577-0750	pminor2@verizon.net
Rev. Brenda Allen, <i>Spiritual Advisor</i>	301-526-6612	Minbren14@gmail.com
Deaconess Beverly Inman, <i>Deaconess Liaison</i>	202-486-7907	beverlyinman1122@gmail.com
Lisa Walker, <i>Secretary, Archives & Registration Committee Lead</i>	301-908-8646	Elsieb99@gmail.com
Brenda Dawson, <i>Healthy Lifestyles Committee Lead</i>	240-298-1586	Brenda_gatling@yahoo.com
Delores Price, <i>Hospitality Food Committee Member</i>	240-353-3629	Delores.price2@aol.com
Elizabeth LaGrange Smith, <i>Publishing & Communications Committee Lead</i>	301-254-5239	elagrangesmith@gmail.com
Deaconess Gwen Wooten, <i>Sunshine Committee Member</i>	301-922-7254	gwenwooten00@comcast.net
Princess Martin, <i>Youth/Young Adult Committee Lead</i>	202-380-5586	Plmartin01@gmail.com
Rose Carter Melson, <i>Sunshine Committee Lead</i>	301-567-0657	rcartermelson@yahoo.com
Tracy Thomas, <i>Prayer Committee Lead</i>	301-928-8916	teethomas45@outlook.com
Vicki Lewis, <i>Hospitality Committee-Decorations Lead</i>	301-283-1316	vickyvlewis@outlook.com



Sisters of Fort Foote Baptist Church

We hope you enjoyed **YOUR** Kingdom Women Ministry Monthly Newsletter.

Please be encouraged to submit topics you would like to see in future newsletters or suggestions for Newsletter improvements. If you would like to join the KWM Newsletter Team, please contact:

elagrangesmith@gmail.com

Your Continued Support is Greatly Appreciated!