



the OAKS

Newsletter

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President: Donna Joplin
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Hi Everyone!

As hard as it is to believe, we've actually made it to December of this crazy, unpredictable year! I hope and pray that this season finds you all in good health –in body, in mind, and in spirit!

Last spring, as a “happy” for my parents who, along with the rest of us, were sheltering in place, I started recording a hymn a day to send to them and, hopefully, brighten their day. Word got around, and the Hymn of the Day became a “thing”.

I was asked if I would consider doing a Christmas version of the Hymn of the Day, so, beginning November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, and running through January 6, Epiphany, I will be emailing a Christmas song a day to anyone who wishes to receive it. All you have to do is email me at nuffkids5@cableone.net and let me know you want it. I'll be glad to add you to my mailing list.

I know that you, along with myself (and everyone else!) are ready to start meeting again in person! I believe that we are all missing that face-to-face fellowship! Until then, as long as we're having to stay in touch via newsletters, if there's anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email me at any time! I look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Jane

Thought for the Day



My cousin, Danny Myrick, is a songwriter in Nashville, TN. (If you are into country music, you might be familiar with some of his hits: I Love This Life, She's Country, International Harvester – just to name a few.) Anyway, the other day he posted some thoughts I thought were worth sharing this Christmas season:

I just returned home from my last trip of the year. I had put off “preparing for the holidays” until I finished that trip. I woke up this morning to a sense of stress and anxiety about all the things I need to do to get read: the shopping, the family logistics, etc. of the holidays and also just a realization of the busyness and stress of my year. In the middle of this stress (which is of course a normal part of the annual holiday process) I found myself thinking about stillness. Quiet. Hearing the words of the beautiful Christmas hymn Silent Night in my head: “Silent night, holy night. All is calm. All is bright.” I began wondering to myself how much effort I really put in to “stillness” especially at the holidays. To quiet and calmness. I mean, I wake up, reach for my phone, check messages, turn the tv on to whichever sports show I prefer, settle into my day of noise, music, etc., check my phone 100 times throughout the day for important (SO important) messages, emails, and of course Insta notifications. I do everything on my phone: write lyrics, search rhymes, order food, use map apps for the quickest route to a write or back home, Then I come home, turn on the tv, scroll socials, compare my life to yours, google gifts & order them on my phone. Anyway, you get the point. All until I crash, usually with a tv on in the background. And then I wonder why I don't sense “stillness”. Maybe because stillness isn't accidental. It is purposeful. It is a mindset, a spiritual practice. And it allows our spirit to slow down and listen. So now that I am home for the holidays, I am going to post this and then sign out of social media for a couple of weeks to just enjoy Christmas. I'm going to choose to be still, and to listen more than speak. I am going to be intentional about not making this the “best Christmas ever” re gifts and activities, but to lead my family in experiencing a season of “silent night”. I pray that you and your family will seek and find the true Joy of Christmas and that Peace will fill your hearts and households in the midst of the beautiful madness of this season. Merry Christmas!



If you have a Thought for the Day you would like to share, you can get it to me any of the following ways:

- Email it to me at nuffkids5@cableone.net
- Text it to me at (228) 806-1865
- Print it out and mail it to me at
26012 Pecan Road



PRAY FOR

Becky and Jim Collins
 Bill and Penny Denmark
 Sharon and Shorty Haulk
 Alice Krass
 Bubba Murray



December Birthdays

Dec 06: Yvonne Lutenbacher
 Dec 07: Arlene Meyers
 Dec 15: Karen Samuelson
 Dec 18: Bill Gay
 Dec 19: Marlene McGlinch

RECIPE SWAP

CRAWFISH BISQUE

Submitted by Donna Joplin

- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 can cream of shrimp soup
- 1 can cheddar cheese soup
- 1 (16 oz.) half & half
- 1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk
- 1 can diced Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1 can corn
- 1 t garlic powder
- ¼ t celery salt
- ¼ t seasoned salt
- ¼ t black pepper
- 1 T parsley flakes
- Dash of Tabasco
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ lb. crawfish tails

- Sautee chopped green onion in margarine until softened.
- In large pot, add sauteed onions and the next 13 items. Stir constantly over medium heat until it bubbles.
- Turn heat to low and add crawfish.
- Cook until it thickens (approx.. 30 minutes). If too thick, add milk or water to thin. Serve with toasted garlic bread.



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Kids say the darndest things ...

At a nativity play our young granddaughter Charlotte watched the three kings deliver gold, frankincense and myrrh and asked: "Is the Franky Scents like aftershave?"

A friend's two little girls were looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary holding Baby Jesus. "That's Mary," said the older girl, "and that's her baby Jesus in her arms." "Where's Jesus's dad then?" asked her little sister. "Oh he is the one taking the picture," replied her sister.

At my grandson's nativity play, the third wise man was hilarious when he marched up to the manger and bellowed: "Frank sent this!"

My daughter was playing Mary and forgot her lines so she adlibbed, telling Joseph: 'I'm having a baby - oh, and it's not yours...'

My four-year-old granddaughter was telling me all about the gifts given to baby Jesus by the Wise Men. I asked what the shepherds took. She thought for a bit then asked: "Was it pies?"

Christmas carols you won't find in the hymnal:

- You Don't Hear What I Hear
- Hark, Hear Uncle Harold Sing
- While Shepherds Washed Their Socks So Bright
- The First Noel (Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel)
- Joy to the World! (The Lord has gum)
- Get Dressed, Ye Merry Gentlemen

