

GT *he* Gathering

Connecting Through Faith

Women making a difference

*Classic Sugar
Cookie Recipe*

The Reason
for the Season

diy

Christmas

decor

Symbols of Christmas



As the **angels** shouted the glorious news of the Savior's birth, we need to share the good news with others.



The Bethlehem **star** was the sign of promises long ago. God promised to send a Savior to deliver the world.

The **candle** symbolizes that Jesus, God's Son, is the light of the world.



The **evergreen tree** declares that Jesus is the everlasting hope of mankind. Pointing heavenward, declaring our prayers always reach God.



The **wreath** symbolizes God's never ending love.



The **candy cane** represents the crook on the shepherd's staff, rescuing sheep who have strayed from the flock. God never gives up on people who wander from Him.



The best **gift** of all is Jesus. God's most precious gift, His only Son. The Wise men presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Baby Jesus, this is why we give gifts to each other at Christmas.

Glad Tidings Church Women's Ministry

email / thegathering@gtchurch.ca

phone / (604) 873-3621

Facebook / [GT Women's Ministry](#)

Reach out to us, we are here for you! Connecting through faith.

Photo Credits



[Unsplash](#) (Jose Aragones, Angelica Echeverry, Connor Betts, Joel Muniz, Johnathan Borba, Artem Maltsev)
Jon Rising
Samantha Chisholm - *cookie photos*
Lorna Webb - *DIY ornament wreath*
Nicole Cortez - *personal photos*
clipartkey.com
pngwing.com
pinclipart.com

When It Snows

Proverbs 31:21

Written by Pastor Lynfelice Calvin

Last week I jumped in my car and was shocked by my cold car seats. I immediately turned on the seat warmer and was so thankful for the person who invented heated seats. I don't worry about getting into my car because I know the heat option is there and I'm prepared.

Proverbs 31:21 reads, "She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet."

The contrast of cold, white snow, against the deep rich color of scarlet creates a poetic visual image. Scarlet is a color and not a texture of fabric, yet it conveys the image of warmth. Cold snowy days can bring hazards and challenges, and the woman described in Proverbs 31 is prepared with the appropriate clothing to keep her family safe and warm. She is not afraid because she

is prepared and knows she has warm garments ready when she needs them. The verse does not say she has to go get the garments or make them when the cold comes. She already has them. She is prepared for that season, so she does not have to be afraid. God gave her the wisdom to prepare.

This verse reminds us of the benefit of being ready when challenges come. When life sends you coldness, tribulations, or lack, you must be ready, and God helps in that preparation. God helps you by giving you a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Seeking God by spending time in prayer, Bible reading, and worship helps you grow that faith. Just as you can put on warm clothes in the snow, you can be clothed in Christ to build your faith. Then you will be ready to cloth your household with faith, prayer, and the word of God. So, when the snow comes your way, your household is clothed and protected.

Lynfelice Calvin with her husband **Darren Calvin** are the senior Pastors of [Life Change Church](#) in Seattle, Washington



The Reason for the Season

by Pastor Jodiann Schott

Read the Christmas story this holiday. Provided below is a simplified version of the Christmas Story, taken from the Holy Scriptures Luke 2:1-20.

2000 years ago a miracle happened in the ancient land of Judea. God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary who was engaged to Joseph. The angel Gabriel said, "Don't be afraid, God has been very kind to you" Mary was very surprised and wondered what the angel meant. "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God". Mary was afraid but she



said, "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Caesar Augustus made a law, it required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. All went to their home towns to be counted. Bethlehem was Joseph's home town because he belonged to the family line of David. Mary went with him. Joseph and Mary stayed in a stable cave for there was no room in the Inn. Soon the time came for Jesus to be born. Mary wrapped him in large strips of cloth, and placed him in a manger.

An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flocks at night and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They were praising God. "Glory to God in the highest! After the angels went into heaven. The shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem!" So they hurried off. They found Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in a manger. Later, Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child born king of the Jews? We have followed his star from the east and have come to worship him."The star stopped over the house. The Wise Men saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh.

Classic Sugar Cookie

Ta-da! Presenting, Betty Crocker's classic sugar cookie recipe—the kind your grandma or even great-grandma would recognize. This original cookie recipe is the perfect starting point to inspire sweet and cherished memories for generations of bakers.

Ingredients: Sugar Cookie

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 egg
- 2 1/2 cups Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Frosting

- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 3 to 5 tablespoons milk
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- Food colors, if desired
- Colored sugar or candy sprinkles, if desired

Steps

1. In large bowl, beat 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, the softened butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla, the almond extract and egg with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon, until well blended. Stir in flour, baking soda and cream of tartar. Divide dough in half; shape dough into 2 disks, and wrap in plastic wrap. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.
2. Heat oven to 375°F.
3. Roll each disk on lightly floured surface until 1/4 inch thick. Cut with 2- to 2 1/2-inch cookie cutters into desired shapes. On ungreased cookie sheets, place cutouts at least 2 inches apart.
4. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until edges are light brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Cool completely.
5. In medium bowl, beat 3 cups powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons milk and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla with spoon until smooth and spreadable. If frosting is too stiff to spread, add additional milk, 1 teaspoon at a time. Tint with food color. Spread frosting on cooled cookies. Decorate as desired with colored sugar or candy sprinkles. Let stand about 4 hours or until frosting is set. Store covered in airtight container at room temperature with waxed paper between layers





Glad Tidings Gets a New Children's Ministry Director

by Nicole Cortez

Nicole Anne Calizo Cortez. Of all the blessings she recounts throughout her years, she claims Glad Tidings Church as her most cherished. There, she was dedicated to the Lord by her parents Novelyn and Nicolas. And there she learned of God's immense providence and love for those who seek Him. Having traveled to France, Hawaii, and the Philippines, she claims, "there's no other place she'd rather be than Glad Tidings, serving the Lord".

During a global pandemic where limitations and restrictions abound, Nicole says, "it can sometimes feel like swimming blindfolded". Nonetheless, she proclaims that God is good all the time and has given her creative ways to minister to the children of Glad Tidings. During COVID-19 she uses in-pew clipboards that correlate with the Sunday

sermons providing hand-crafted worksheets, crafts and treats.

Another way Nicole ministers to the children of Glad Tidings is by sending out weekly kids cards by email. These emails contain encouraging stories, interactive games and color sheets to teach of God's goodness with the goal of helping kids feel more connected. Bringing God's love and encouragement to the the kids and their families.

Senior Pastors Vince and Jodiann Schott say of Nicole, "we see that she is very dedicated to God and His hand is on her. She has love and great enthusiasm, which we believe are essential for the children of Glad Tidings Church".

With endless gratitude, Nicole acknowledges her parents for their unconditional love, for her church aunts and uncles, and all the young ones who consider her their own older sister. With a hopeful heart she looks to the New Year as a spring board for building the next generation.





Women in History *by Jon Rising*

Huldah a 17-year-old pastor's daughter whose grandfather, F. R. Maddaford, founded Glad Tidings in 1928 had a determination to never live overseas after living in Japan for five years when her parents were missionaries there.

That all changed when her father, Pastor Alex Munroe, invited a young evangelist named Mark Buntain to preach at Glad Tidings in 1943. Mark was, as Pastor Munroe once noted in a news paper ad, "a live wire evangelist". This evangelist swept Huldah off her feet, and the couple married in 1944. Then proceeded to have an historic ministry in India.

Glenn Gohr wrote in Assembly of God News in March 2018 about the Buntains' ministry in that country, which began in 1954. Quote: "Calcutta Mercy Ministries operates a hospital that serves people free of charge, over 900 churches have been established in North India, there are around 100 schools to educate thousands of students, and a clinic in the red-light district helps individuals involved in sexual trafficking who are as young as 12 years old.

Mark and Huldah are possibly best known for the feeding ministry they established, which continues to serve thousands." In their book, *Sons of His Purpose*, Hugh and Audrey Layzell recall a Glad Tiding service when Mark Buntain (who had been associate pastor at Glad Tidings prior to Reg Layzell's arrival) requested prayer. "As we laid hands on Mark and his wife, [Huldah], they were manifestly anointed of the Spirit and prophecies came forth which confirmed to Mark that this was real. Through prophetic utterance, the Lord revealed their ministry and gifts and indicated that they would be led to a foreign field," the Layzells wrote.

We will never know the total amount of Indian lives that were changed because Huldah acquiesced to her Lord's will.

Mark Buntain went to be with the Lord in 1989, and Huldah, now 94, remains a member of the board of directors for Calcutta Mercy.



DIY Christmas Decor

by Pastor Jodiann Schott



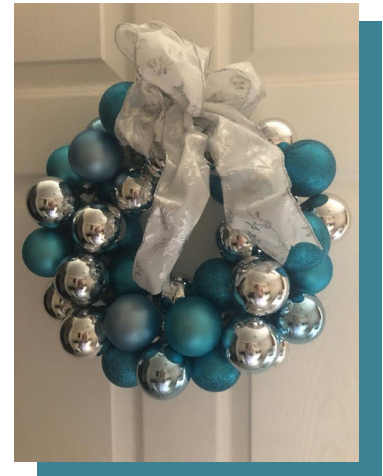
As we consider all of the upcoming demands of the Christmas season, this year more than ever, it is important for us to keep traditions going. Especially in a time when a sense of merry and peace is really needed.

No matter if you traditionally decorate every room in your home or put up a simple Christmas tree, holiday decorating is good for the soul. It creates that nostalgic joyful experience. Focus on the positive; the Christ child and all the good things He has done.

We hope to inspire your Christmas decorating with these ideas that we found. They are beautiful and

simple to do. You probably could scrounge around and discover you already have most of the items you need to create these awesome designs.

Check out this Christmas ornament wreath made by Lorna Webb:



[Click Here](#) ←
for more inspiration on all
your Christmas ball DIYs

Our Gift to You!

Gospel Gift Tags (free)

We have created our very own Gospel-themed gift tags. It is our gift to you this Christmas. The following page has six gift tags for you to print. We felt they work best on card stock or full sheet label paper to make them adhesive.

Nicole printed them on cardstock, used a hole-punch, and laminated them just for fun, as you can see to the right.

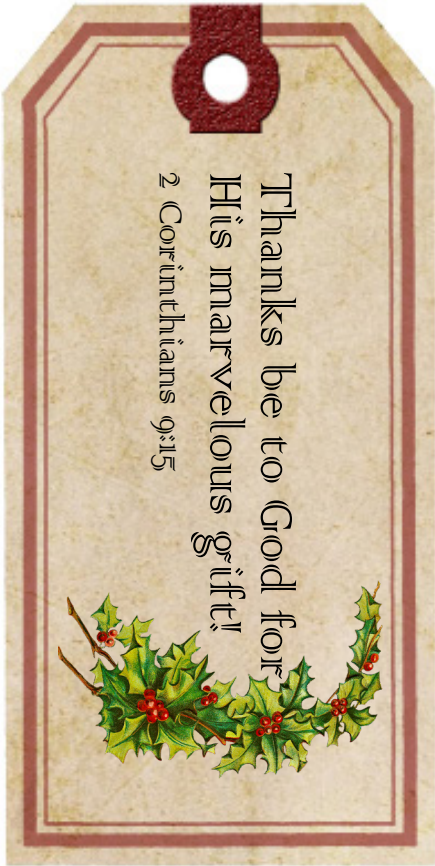
I wonder what's inside!



Wings of Whimsy - Vintage Package Tags



...and they will call
him Emmanuel
Matthew 1:23




Thanks be to God for
His marvellous gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15



Children are a
blessing and
a gift from
the Lord
Psalm 127:3



above all keep
loving one another
earnestly...
1 Peter 4:8



Suddenly, there was a multitude
of heavenly hosts praising God.
Luke 2:13



a friend loves
at all times
Proverbs 17:17