



**BETHLEHEM LIONS DONATE TO SCHOOL** — The Bethlehem Lions Club recently made a monetary donation to Bethlehem Elementary School Benevolence Fund. Pictured above, left to right: Assistant Principal Susan Dyson, Lion Sherry Lackey, Principal Jill Peek, and Lion Tom Panella.



**BETHLEHEM LIONS MAKE DONATIONS** — The Bethlehem Lions Club recently made donations to the Christian Crisis Center and Santa Cops of Alexander County (amounts not disclosed). Santa Cops assists families of those incarcerated during Christmas. Pictured above, left to right: Christian Crisis Center Executive Director Debbi Hollingsworth, Lion Tom Panella, Alexander County Sheriff Chris Bowman, Alexander County Detention Center Director Phillip Starnes, and Lion Sherry Lackey.



**IN SUPPORT OF ANGEL TREE** — Recently, the Bethlehem Lions Club donated to the local Angel Tree Program, which provides gifts for less fortunate children. It is being led by the Taylorsville Lions Club this year. The county schools have identified 800 students that need help this Christmas. Pictured at the left, left to right: Bethlehem Lion Tom Panella, Taylorsville Lions Club President Andrew Ferguson, and Bethlehem Lion Sherry Lackey. The Bethlehem Lions also sent a donation to the Foster Parents Association of Alexander County.

**Wreath-making workshop planned on Dec. 18**

Deck the halls, windows, and door with a few simple touches this holiday.

“The holidays are a busy time of the year and it seems that each year we have more to do and less time to do accomplish the task. If you’re like me, decorating is usually at the bottom of my to-do list after shopping for Christmas and preparing for guests, but decorating does not have to be another chore. There are simple and affordable ways to add a little Christmas festivities around the house,” said Der Holcomb, Family & Consumer Science Agent with the Alexander County Extension Office.

holiday spirit.

- Use greenery from outdoors to make a centerpiece for your table. Mix up different greens, fruits, and berries, such as nandina, apple, and cedar, to have a cheap and festive table piece. Think beyond garlands by adorning your home in wreaths. Making your own wreaths is fun and makes a perfect gift.

Don’t know how to make a wreath? Join the Extension staff on Monday, December 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Extension Learning Center to learn how to make a Christmas Wreath and a burlap wreath. Cost of the program is \$30

and registration must be paid in advance to attend. Contact our office at 828-632-3125 for more information or to register.

“Decorating for Christmas should be more of a fun activity rather than a chore,” said Holcomb. “For more tips and tricks to decorating or for other household questions, please visit the website at ces.ncsu.edu or call the Extension office.”

The Extension Office and Learning Center are located at 376 1st Ave SW in Taylorsville, between the Alexander County Health Department and First Baptist Church.

**Pairings announced for 31st Annual Dicks Sporting Goods Classic Tourn.**

Holiday event planned for December 27-29 at CVCC



The Hickory Metro Sports Commission has announced the pairings for the 31st Annual Dick’s Sporting Goods Classic Tournament scheduled for Wednesday, December 27th thru Friday, December 29th, 2017. The tournament will feature the men’s and women’s teams from eight area high schools competing in the three day event.

In the Men’s bracket, Hickory High will be the #1 Seed. Maiden will be #2 and St. Stephens is #3. The #4 Seed will be Alexander Central followed by #5 Bunker Hill, #6 S. Caldwell, #7 Fred T. Foard and #8 Newton-Conover. The first men’s game is scheduled to tip-off at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 27th between #2 Maiden and #7 Fred T. Foard.

On the Women’s side, Maiden will be the #1 Seed. St. Stephens will be #2 and S. Caldwell is #3. The #4 Seed will be Newton-Conover followed by #5 Alexander Central, #6 Bunker Hill, #7 Hickory High and #8 Fred T. Foard. The first women’s contest will tip-off at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 27th between #2 St. Stephens and #7 Hickory High.

The Dick’s Sporting Goods Classic has been well known throughout the region and the state of North Carolina as the premier holiday high school event for over 30 years. The Hickory Metro Sports Commission serves as the host organization for the event and distributes the gate receipts among the participating schools. Following the 2016 event, each participating high school received a donation of more than \$3,000 for their athletic programs.

For more information about the Sports Commission visit: <http://www.hickorymetrosports.com/index.html>

**Mt. Bethel UMC plans holiday events**

The church will be sponsoring the following activities and we invite everyone in the community to come and join us.

- Saturday, Dec. 16 -- Church-wide Christmas Caroling 5:00 p.m. Congregation will return to the church for Hot Chocolate and a Cookie Exchange. Anyone in the community is invited to come and join us!
- Sunday, Dec. 17 -- Church Wide Breakfast 8:00-9:30 a.m., sponsored by the UMW. Sunday, December 17 Children’s Community Christmas Party 3:00-5:00PM. Come join us for an afternoon with Santa, Christmas Crafts, Games and Refreshments. This event is an outreach/ministry of Mt. Bethel to ALL the children of our community.
- Friday, Dec. 22 -- Mt Bethel’s Child Development Center Christmas Play 4:00 p.m. Come see the little ones as they play the parts of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.

Everyone is invited to come out and join in any of the above events. The church worship schedule is 8:30 a.m. Coffee Social, 9:00AM Sunday School, and 10:00AM Worship. Upcoming events for all ages can be found online at [www.mtbethelumc.org](http://www.mtbethelumc.org).

Mt. Bethel is located on Hwy. 127, ½ mile north of Lowe’s Foods grocery in Bethlehem.

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Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR  
from our house to yours!



May your faith be renewed and your spirits lifted as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. With best wishes to you and yours for a truly memorable holiday season.

Gary Jennings  
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*Merry Christmas*

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