

2022 Bethlehem Star Donation

Our goal to replenish the Star Fund is \$3,500. To meet this goal, we encourage donations of more than \$20.00 especially from businesses. Additional ornaments may be purchased at \$20.00 each. Single ornaments may be placed in unpadded envelopes for mailing for 84 cents; thus, this would be a nice Christmas gift for out-of-town recipients.

Name or Business _____
 Mailing Address _____

 Telephone Number _____

Donation Amount

Business: ___ \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 ___ Other
 Individual: ___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other

How to receive ornament

___ Pick up at Lighting ___ Mail (\$3.00 additional)

Purchase of additional ornaments at \$20

Number requested: _____ Total _____
 Total Money Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church Star Fund. Mailing address: 9379 NC Highway 127, Hickory, NC 28601. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mike at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church or Warren Hollar at (828) 446-5400.

2022 Bethlehem Star Lighting Funding Campaign

We are reaching out to Bethlehem Star supporters in gratitude for past faithfulness in helping to keep the Bethlehem Star lit. This star has meant more to the community these past two years than ever in its 45-year history. With the challenges of Covid, the Ukrainian War, and a strained economy, we have been blessed by the reminder of our Lord's light and love even in seemingly dark times.

This year we have a marvelous worship time planned for the Star lighting as we thank God for His faithfulness. The community participation from churches, high school musical groups, law enforcement, firefighters, scouts, and others is a vital part of this special night.

It has been since 2018 that we have asked for donations to help with the expenses of this special

night and the maintenance of the Star. This year we ask for your generous help once again. We would like to gift you a wooden, carved, and engraved Christmas gift ornament as a thank you for a donation of \$20.00 or more. You may either pick up the ornament on the star lighting night or have it mailed to your address. 10% of all donations will go toward the Bethlehem Ministerial Benevolence Fund.

Thank you in advance for your faithful generosity. Keeping this special Star shining is a blessing to us all. Being part of the Bethlehem Community is something we never want to take for granted. Thanks for being such a vital part of keeping His light shining here.

—Pastor Mike Stone, The Bethlehem Ministerial and Star Lighting Committee

December activities set at Bethlehem Branch Library

The little branch of the library in Bethlehem has several fun activities planned for the Christmas season. On Thursday, December 1, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., they will host a Christmas social with free refreshments and music provided by the "New Horizons String Quartet."

Young adults (YA) are invited to a Christmas Bingo night on Tuesday, December 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This night is designated for teens. Free snacks,

as well as coffee or hot chocolate, will be provided.

Their monthly movie night will feature "The Santa Clause" with Tim Allen. This begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8. As with all of their movie nights, free drinks and popcorn will be provided.

Preschool Storytimers will meet every Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. and can get particularly excited for a special visitor who is coming on the 19th. He will be dressed in red and white and they can share their Christmas wishes with him.

Even with all of the holiday activities, the library is still maintaining their regular activities, including Coffee Breaks on Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m., Yoga classes on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., and their book club will meet on Thursday, December 15, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The featured book this month is *My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Craighead George.

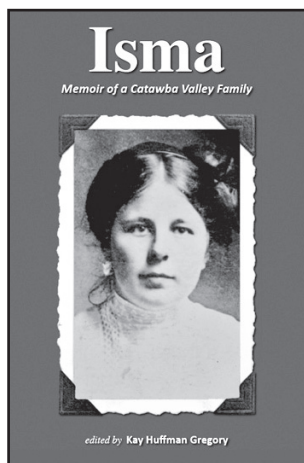
The library will be closed December 23-27 for the Christmas holiday.

N.C. Society of Historians recognizes book by local author

On Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, the North Carolina Society of Historians (NCSH) met for their annual meeting and awards ceremony at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. Historic documents from across the state were honored at the meeting, including the book *Isma: Memoir of a Catawba Valley Family* edited by local author Kay Huffman Gregory.

NCSH President Maxine McCall described the merits of various publications as she recognized the winners with the North Carolina Society of Historians Award of Excellence. This award is "in recognition of invaluable contributions toward the preservation and perpetuation of North Carolina History." McCall noted Gregory's preservation of her grandmother's autobiography as well as her addition of well-chosen historic family photographs to illustrate the text. She also mentioned Gregory's addition of an entirely new section of the book called "Generation Three."

Events recounted in this expansive family memoir begin with the 1895 birth of Gregory's grandmother, Isma Salome Moretz in the Bethlehem Community of Alexander County. The "Generation One" section recounts Isma's childhood years lived on a small farm bordering the Middle Little River. Isma's father, Alonzo Moretz, died at age thirty-three of tuberculosis. His wife Mary Teague Moretz worked the small farm and raised their four children on her own. Details of daily farm life, such as planting and harvesting crops as well as washing clothes with spring water heated in a huge iron pot, are



described through the eyes of the young Isma. From the time she was eight, one of her weekly jobs was to "battle" the laundry with a paddle and a battle bench.

"Generation Two" is set just across the Catawba River in the northwest side of Hickory where Isma marries Arthur Huffman, and over the next sixty-one years, they raise a family of seven children. Isma shares the joys and travails of living through two World Wars and the Great Depression. She depicts a lifestyle without modern conveniences, a way of life unknown to many of us in the early 21st Century.

Read *Isma: Memoir of a Catawba Valley Family*, and you will likely recognize your own family history as well. Editor Kay Huffman Gregory stresses, "The more deeply personal the story, the more honestly it reflects not just the history of one family, but the daily lifestyle lived by most in this region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

For additional information on this book and to schedule book club presentations, contact Kay Huffman Gregory at Isma.Info21@gmail.com. The book is available on Amazon.

Owens to debut 18th book at Dec. 13 Poetry Hickory event

Hickory poet and founder of Poetry Hickory, Scott Owens, will debut his 18th collection of poetry, "Prepositional," at the December 13th Poetry Hickory event to be held at Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse in downtown Hickory starting at 6:30.

"Prepositional" consists of new work and selected poems from Owens' previous collections. Fellow poet and editor, Ami Kaye, writes that "In 'Prepositional' Scott Owens highlights the preposition as a metaphor for shared humanity, and with an engaging playfulness, he explores human relationships and the world at large, drawing upon a rich mosaic of life experiences." Four of the poems from the collection have been nominated for Pushcart prizes this year, and the collection as a whole has been nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award.

Owens' previous work has received awards from the Academy of American Poets, the Pushcart Prize Anthology, the NC Poetry Society, and others. He has published more than 1000 poems and 500 essays on poetry in journals, newspapers, blogs, and anthologies across the country. He started Poetry Hickory more than 15 years ago and has since facilitated 200 readings, bringing poets from around the Southeast to Hickory, and giving local writers a place to share their work.

Owens' reading will be followed by an Open Mic. For questions or to register for the Open Mic, contact Scott Owens at 828-234-4266 or asowens1@yahoo.com.

Registration is open now: Painting Party fun for all ages

The Hiddenite Arts & Heritage Center has many Painting Parties coming up.

The Center's Outreach Artist Abby Moretz of the Bethlehem Community will lead participants in creating their own 11x14" masterpieces while each having loads of fun and making new friends. All materials will be provided.

Visit hiddenitearts.org to access the online registration link or call 828-632-6966 to register by phone. To book private painting parties with Abby Moretz, call 828-632-6966 or email info@hiddenitearts.org. Minimum of eight painters within a 20 mile radius of the Center.

• Adult Painting Party at The Vault, Monday, November 14, 7p-10p, 11x14" canvas, \$25 Friend, \$30 non-member. Held at The Vault in Bethlehem, 9541 NC-127, Hickory, NC.

• Pre-K Paint Class, Tuesday, November 15, 10am - noon, ages 4-6 (with parent), 8x10" canvas, \$20 Friend, \$25 non-member. Held at the Hiddenite Center's Educational Complex 70 Hiddenite Church Road, Hiddenite.

• Adult Painting At Brushy Mtn. Brews, Thursday, January 5, 7p-10p, 11x14" canvas, \$25 Friend, \$30 non-member. Held at Brushy Mountain Brews in Taylorsville, 42 W. Main Avenue, Taylorsville.

• Tween & Young Teen Painting Party, Saturday, January 14, 10am-1pm, 11x14" canvas, \$20 Friend, \$25 non-member. Held at the Hiddenite Center's Educational Complex, 70 Hiddenite Church Rd., Hiddenite.

For more information, call 828-632-6966, or email info@hiddenitearts.org, or visit hiddenitearts.org.



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