

the CRANberry VINE



Where are we headed?

If you feel exhausted about everything that has been going on around us this year, you are not alone. The pandemic, elections and politics, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and the cherry on top of all of this, it is the Medicare enrollment season! We have been bombarded from all directions. Yes, there is reason to be exhausted! And if you follow all these noises, they for sure will depress you. The question is where do we go from here?

To tell you the truth, we don't have to despair, even if humanly speaking we don't know what tomorrow will bring. Those who trust and follow God know exactly where we are headed. We just need to take one day at a time, be patient, follow directions, and take your eyes off the things of this world and look at our Savior. He will give us peace in the midst of the storm. King David when facing all the challenges that he faced was able to say:

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:1-3, 11

Friends, it looks like the world is falling apart, and it is. Our only hope of survival is the generous offer made by God to erase our sins when we decide to believe in His son Jesus Christ. Soon there will be a thanksgiving celebration that we cannot miss. Let us continue living in this old world with the blessed hope that we have. Let us approach the year and celebrations with our eyes placed on the great future that awaits all.

God bless you and keep you safe,

Sam Leonor, Sr., President



Those who receive
The CRANberry Vine by
email, receive it in color.
Do you?

ATTENTION

**Do you have a new
phone number?**

**Or a new email or
mailing address?**

Please keep CRAN
informed so you don't
miss an issue of The
CRANberry Vine or
any important infor-
mation about CRAN.

**Call or email any
Board member
with changes.**

Thank you.



Cranberry Apple Crisp

Serves 8-10



- 1/2 cup butter or butter substitute
- 1 lb. Honeycrisp apples, peeled and cored
- 1 lb. fresh cranberries
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 3/4 cup flour

Preheat oven to 350. Grease an 8 1/2 x 12 inch baking dish. Cut butter into small cubes and place in freezer,

Slice apples and cut slices into bite-size cubes. Place apples and cranberries in baking dish. Pour water over fruit.

Combine sugars, spices, salt and flour. Remove butter from freezer and cut into flour mixture to resemble pea-size crumbs. Sprinkle over fruit and top with pecans. Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 30 minutes or until done.

We miss you!

It has been nearly a year since we were together as a group. We anxiously look forward to seeing you and spending time together as soon as we can safely do so. We would love to hear from you with your story or stories of ways you have been blessed or been a blessing to someone during this difficult time.

Call or text

Peggy Peterson at
(828) 845-5995

Or email

peggy.merle@yahoo.com

Take Time

- Take time to think—thoughts are the source of power.
- Take time to play—play is the secret of perpetual youth.
- Take time to read—reading is the fountain of wisdom.
- Take time to pray—prayer can be a rock of strength in time of trouble.
- Take time to love—loving is what makes living worthwhile.
- Take time to be friendly—friendships give life a delicious flavor.
- Take time to laugh—laughter is the music of the soul.
- Take time to give—any day of the year is too short for selfishness.
- Take time to do your work well—pride in your work, no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit.
- Take time to show appreciation—thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

- Anonymous

WHAT 'S NEXT?

We do not know what the future holds,
but we do know Who holds our future.

Christmas Program - December 9 (Virtual)

To view the program go to:
<https://www.cransda.org>

CRAN members have traditionally celebrated Christmas with two things in mind. First, a time to fellowship together. Second, a nice meal served by either Fletcher or Mount Pisgah Academy and we in turn give donations.

This year it was felt best not to meet in person but we still want to provide financial support. Mount Pisgah students will provide us an online musical program. You can **use the envelope included in this newsletter to send a donation to Mount Pisgah Academy** which will go toward their Annual Fund due to a budget shortfall this year. Please be generous as our schools struggle with the impact of COVID-19. Thank you and blessings to you this holiday season!

If you have Roku TV you'll be able to view the Christmas Program along with the Retirees Retreat on the Carolina Conference Roku TV Channel. Simply load the channel along with your other channels and view Conference programming on your TV.

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<https://www.cransda.org>

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.

- by Frank McKibben

Christmas is a time to remember the gift of God's giving nature in every area of life. He gave us the earth on which to live; fellow humans to love and with whom we can work and share; and great meaning in life—to serve others. The gift of God's Son, Jesus, gives us peace to enjoy all these other gifts as His family on earth — and to live in eternal joy. Merry Christmas to us who have received all God's gifts. Joy to the world!

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When we look into the long avenue of the future, and see the good there is for each one of us to do, we realize, after all, what a beautiful thing it is to work, and to live, and to be happy.



## The Simple Uncluttered Message

By John Coen

We were all excited to be out on our annual family Christmas-light drive through the nearby town. A light snow covering made the displays all the prettier: twinkling lights of reds, greens, blues; garlands of silver and gold; majestically decorated evergreens; beautiful Nativity scenes. The children were wide-eyed.

“Dad, pull over quick! I want to read something,” begged Whitney, our first-grader.

I pulled the car over to the side of the street for a closer look. Suddenly, we had come upon a totally different scene. There across the front of house, which was lit up with floodlights in the yard, were silhouetted letters spelling JESUS.

No blinking lights, no bright colors, no fancy display — just the name JESUS. There was a starkness and a dignity about the display that spoke louder than all the other light shows we had seen.

Whitney began to spell out each letter, “J-E-S-U-S. That spells Jesus.” And she proceeded to tell her younger sisters about Him.

On the radio, we heard, “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright . . . .” A hush filled the car as we all felt touched by the nearness of Him.

Like the wise men of old following the star that first Christmas, we had been out looking, too. And in the midst of the bright lights and glitter, we found the simple uncluttered word JESUS reminding us of God’s gift of love, born on a quiet night more than two thousand years ago.



**Carolina Retirees  
Association Northwest**

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Peggy Peterson, editor



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

