



*It's a Merry Christmas  
Edition of...*

*Women of Grace  
Connect'*



Welcome to the very first edition of our monthly ladies magazine! Our goal is to encourage, uplift and build each others faith. As well as to get to know each other better and share the goodness of God! Please take time to read each page and be blessed! ♥

**Proverbs 31:25-31**

**25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.**

**26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.**

**27 She looketh well to the ways\* of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.**

**28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praisether.**

**29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.**

**30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.**

**31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.**



For such a time as this



# What Christmas Is All About

Why not start a new Christmas Bible reading tradition? Make it an annual memory to share with family! 📖

**Beginning on Dec 1st, read one chapter of Luke each evening. There are 24. By Christmas Eve you will have read the entire account of Jesus's life and wake up Christmas morning knowing Who & Why we celebrate this day!**

**Luke 2:11**

**“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**



# Favorite Christmas Memories



♪ Precious memories,  
how they linger...♪

## Christmas Memory (Sis Michelle McManus)

Years ago when my brother and I were just young, we had a habit of feeling and shaking our gifts that mom n dad would put under the tree, and my brothet was really good at guessing what his gifts were ( I was ok at it but he was better lol ) so one yr he couldn't figure out any of his gifts at all and we figured we weren't getting anything we had asked for.. mom kept saying We have a surprise for you both Christmas morning .. well come dec 25.. we get up to open our gifts and our parents say so, all the gifts with derrick on them are Michelle's and vice versa! Lol of course she could only do that one time but it worked awesome for that year!! 😊❤

## Christmas Memory (Sis Connie McManus)

Christmas of 58, I was looking in a closet in Mom's room and found dolls, one for me and one for Bonnie. We took them out, played with them, put them back and never said a word. Another one a few years later, one night I couldn't sleep and everyone was suppose to be asleep but while laying there I heard my parents talking and one said to the other, "I sure hope Connie likes her watch". Never let on I heard but I was thrilled. 😊

## Christmas Memory ( Sis Crystal Ingraham)

One Christmas memory I had was when my Sister was three and I was seven my father had passed away in May and all of a sudden it was Christmas time and in our minds we thought we thought we weren't going to get anything for Christmas because we knew our mom didn't have much money because besides having my sister and I she had two boys with muscular dystrophy one in a wheel chair and one bedridden and when we awoke on Christmas morning the tree was full. The oromocto fire department and the lions club had made sure our Christmas was awesome

## Christmas Memories ( Sis Yvonne Knox)

When I was around 5yrs old it had been a very hard yr financially for my mom and dad. So they had explain to us kids there wouldn't be much for Christmas. We felt bad but we knew they had always done what they could for us kids to have a good Christmas but what we didn't know was what they were whipping up in the background. Christmas morning came and there was hardly anything under the tree as we were told... My dad spent a-lot of time in the shed & mom was busy after we went to sleep. When we had opened our very few things they said they had a surprize for us but we'd have to find it, We were excited to hear that so we started looking. Me and my 3 older sisters. What we found was all kinds of kids furniture, a little table and chairs, a little stove and several things for us to play house with, we had got a doll and mom had made some clothes for it. It was all hand made with love and was the best Christmas us kids had ever had .

# Christmas Memories Continued...



*♪ Precious memories, how they linger... ♪*

## **Christmas Memories (Sis Yvonne Knox)**

Another thing I remember was when I was a kid, Mom would start baking early and cook she did! All kinds of sweets, diff kinds of fudge and on Christmas Eve she would fix up several boxes with all the goodies and after supper dad would deliver them to people that we re struggling although we were too at times, Well while we waited for dad to come back we'd sit by the Christmas tree and play Christmas records and sing along with it. We were waiting for him to come back so we could have a piece of rabbit pie and we loved molasses on it. Yes rabbit pie lol we ate a lot of rabbit in those days. Another memory was getting to listen to the church in Minto chiming Christmas carols while we was sliding down the hill by our house. They started probably about two weeks before Christmas. Sometimes there was snow falling softly was so beautiful. My dad also built many wooden Christmas themed things and wrapped Christmas lights around them. They'd place them outside. He made Santa and reindeer. My mom would draw it on wood and dad would cut it out then she would paint it all. Then dad would put the lights on them and place them on the roof. We loved Christmas. Also every Christmas mom would get dad to help her get cardboard and build a fireplace out of it. Then she'd paint it up to look so real. She'd draw flames in it and add lights. We always loved that. And also when we were young mom played the mouth organ and button accordion together, my dad played guitar. There was always lots of music in our home and singing. Lots of company with singing and playing. Oh and I forgot to mention, mom always made a snowman or a Santa cake she made a nut cake then turned it into frosty or Santa.



# Christmas Memories

*Continued...*

*♪ Precious memories, how  
they linger... ♪*

## Christmas Memory of 1982

**(Sis Becky McGillan about Bro James McGillan)**

Growing up as a child my brother and I always looked forward to opening our gifts up Christmas Eve which was a family tradition for us. Not sure how this tradition got started however, we never questioned it. And why would we?? We got to open our gifts earlier than all the other kids who had to wait for Christmas morning!!

Our parents always spoiled us with pretty well anything and everything we wanted within reason and they were always very upfront with the fact that Santa was not the source of the gifts. I guess they wanted the credit. lol No, but really, they did not feel comfortable playing along with the fable. My husband was raised much the same and Santa was not a part of their family tradition either. Then came the Christmas of 1982!

My husband was 9 years old and was at the Fredericton mall with his mother during the Christmas season. The mall was filled with people going about with the hustle and bustle of the season. Many families were lined up with their kids waiting for the opportunity to sit on the lap of Santa so they could deliver their wish list in person. There stood my little blonde haired, browned eyed, husband pining to go and sit on Santa's lap like the rest of the kids. He of course knew that his mother wasn't the biggest fan of Santa, but that didn't matter. He just knew he needed to sit on the old guy's lap and let him know just what he needed this Christmas. He of course approached his mother more than once and plead and begged until she let him go. Finally, she gave in and off he went. I can image the sparkle in those brown eyes as he approached the lap of Santa! Santa made his usual small talk asking his name and such and finally asked the question my husband was waiting for. "What is it you would like for Christmas this year?", Santa asked. I can just see his face, I'm sure it was lit up like a Christmas tree with anticipation! He then proceeded to tell Santa that what he really wanted this year was a violin. Santa listened carefully and took his request. Santa said his usual goodbyes and off my husband went back to his mother. Santa then motioned my husband's mother to come over for a second. She walked towards him and he whispered a few things to her so my husband could not hear exactly what was going on. And that was it. Both my husband and his mother carried on with their day and finished up what they needed to do at the mall.

# Christmas Memories Continued...

♪ Precious memories, how  
they linger... ♪

## Christmas Memory (Sis Becky about Bro James McGillan) continued...

Now, fast forward a few days to Christmas morning. My husband and his family were living in the parsonage in Chipman, NB and they all woke up early around 5:30am that morning. My husband's sister was always the first one up on Christmas and this year was no exception. She made her rounds and gathered up the whole family. They all made their way to the living room and started to open all their gifts with excitement. My husband distinctly remembers opening his gifts one by one anticipating that the next one would be what he wanted the most. Sadly, he got through all his gifts and settled with the fact that he just wasn't going to get what he had asked for. But what he didn't know was that his family had a special surprise waiting for him upstairs. Once everyone was done opening and the excitement started to die down one of his family members went upstairs and came down with something very special. They brought down an unwrapped gift in a case and handed it to him. He knew as soon as he saw it what it was! It was a violin! At last!! He was so thrilled and it absolutely made his Christmas.

You would think that the story ends here with the little boy receiving exactly what he had asked Santa for but, there is more to the story!

This was no ordinary violin; it was a very special one from a very unusual source. Remember how my husband and his mother went to the mall and he had his one and only encounter with the old guy in the red suit? As luck would have it the guy in the red suit called my husband's mother over to tell her that her son wanted a violin for Christmas. Not only did he spill the beans on the little boy's request, but told her that he himself had a violin that he was willing to give to her son. What are the chances!! I can imagine the look on her face when he told her! She graciously thanked him and had a family friend make arrangements to go the man's house in Fredericton to pick up the violin and deliver it to Chipman just in time for Christmas morning. Who would have ever thought that Santa would save the day! The story is quite a memorable one and will always stay fresh in my husband's mind I am sure! He's always quite proud to tell it! Not only was it a great story for his family but for many families as it was published in the Daily Gleaner by Santa himself! And that's the story of the Christmas of 1982.

# Favorite Christmas Recipes...

## Ginger Molasses Cookies ( Sis Becky McGillan)



### Ingredients

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter , softened (I use unsalted)  
1 cup light brown sugar , packed  
1 large egg  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup molasses  
2.25 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cloves  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon fine sea salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup granulated sugar (for rolling the cookies)

### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Combine the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Cream for one minute, Add in the egg and beat until smooth. Add in the molasses and mix until combined.  
Combine the remaining dry ing into a sifter (or whisk in a bowl), and then add to the butter mixture. Mix just until combined, do not to over mix.  
Refrigerate dough 10-15 minutes.  
Roll the cookie dough into a ball. Place the granulated sugar into a shallow bowl and roll the dough into the sugar. Place on the baking sheet, 2 inches apart, flatten the tops with the palm of your hand.  
Bake 8-10 minutes and let cool on the pan 5 minutes before moving to a cooling rack.  
Once the cookies have cooled, dip half the cookies in melted white chocolate half way and let harden.

## Chocolate Coconut Mashed Potato Candies

$\frac{3}{4}$  c mashed potatoes, real or instant  
1 lb flaked coconut, about 4 cups  
1 lb powdered sugar, sifted  
1 tsp almond extract

### CHOCOLATE COATING

6 oz semi-sweet chocolate pieces  
4 squares semi-sweet chocolate  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  bar or block of paraffin

Combine all ingredients except coating; drop by teaspoonfuls on waxed paper. Roll into balls; refrigerate 1/2-1 hour. If mixture is too soft to form balls, refrigerate first then roll into balls.

### CHOCOLATE COATING:

Combine all coating ingredients in the top of a double boiler. Melt over hot water, stirring occasionally, until ingredients are blended. While still in the double boiler dip rolled balls using tongs, candy dipper or 2 forks into chocolate, coating all sides. Place on waxed paper. Place in refrigerator to firm up. Store in tightly sealed container.

## Peanut Butter Balls (Sis Michelle McManus)

**Ingredients:**  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c Creamy peanut butter  
1 c Powdered sugar  
3 Tbsp Butter  
Semi-sweet  
1 c Chocolate chips

Mix the peanut butter and softened butter together in a mixing bowl. Gradually stir in powdered sugar until fully combined. Cover and place in the fridge for about 15 minutes to firm up.

Using your hands, shape the dough into 1-inch balls. Place the balls on a baking sheet, cover and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes (this will hold it's shape for dipping).

Melt the chocolate chips according to package instructions.

Using a fork, dip the peanut butter balls one at a time into the melted chocolate. Allow the excess chocolate to fall off. Place the chocolate balls onto wax paper, cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.



## Ginger Snaps (Sis Morin)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup molasses  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup brown sugar  
1 tsp soda or baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ginger  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour  
**method: Chill dough over night in freezer. Cut in slices and bake in oven 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes**

## Sugar Cookies Lrge batch

( Sis Vicki Olafson)

1 lb Of butter ( melted)  
2 c oil  
2 c sugar  
2 c icing sugar  
4 eggs  
mix and add vanilla

mix together  
9 c of flour, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt, 2 tsp soda, 2 tsp cream of tartar, add together and mix well, Roll into balls & press top  
bake @ 350 for 10 mins

## Whoopie Pies (Sis Vicki Olafson)

$\frac{1}{2}$  c Shortening  
1c white sugar  
2 egg yolks  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c cocoa  
1tbs butter  
2 c flour  
1tsp salt  
1 c milk  
1 tsp soda

**Filling:**  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c shortening  
2 c icing sugar  
1 egg white  
salt & vanilla

mix first 3 ing then add remaining ing well, Bake @ 350 for 10 mins



# Christmas Trivia



## The Story Behind the Christmas Carol "Joy to the World"

Since 1719, "Joy to the World" has been a Christmas staple. Its lyrics were crafted by Isaac Watts, and to date, it remains one of the most-published hymns in Northern America. However, the fun fact is, the song wasn't even intended to be a Christmas carol, as its original version had no such link with Christmas. It wasn't even supposed to be a song!

### Origin

According to church history, Isaac Watts was one of the most prolific and celebrated creators of hymns. However, his most famous creation, "Joy to the World" was born of coincidence, rather than desire. In 1719, Watts published "The Psalms of David," a collection of poems where each verse was based on a psalm. But, instead of translating the original texts of the "Old Testament," he made some subtle adjustments. His poems referred more explicitly towards the works of Jesus, thus seeking inspiration from the New Testament.

### Musical Overview

The majority of the hymns of "The Psalms of David" have now fallen into obscurity, except for the second part of "Psalm 98." Ironically, the poet had no intention of creating a Christmas carol when he composed the verse. However, in 1836, Lowell Mason composed a riveting melody for this second part and combined with its popularity in the church. "Joy to the World" started its journey into the music stratosphere.

A "sugar plum" featured in Christmas poems and songs was a type of candy with dried fruit, usually a plum, and spices rolled into a ball and coated with chocolate or hard sugar candy.

The three traditional colors used for most Christmas decorations have religious significance. Red is for the blood of Jesus Christ, green symbolizes His resurrection, and gold His status as the King of kings.

SUBSCRIBE

The account of Jesus birth, life, death, and resurrection - what is often referred to as "The Christmas Story" appears in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

## Candy Cane

Author Unknown

Look at a candy cane, what do you see? Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me! White for my Savior, Who's sinless and pure! "J" is for Jesus, My Lord that's for sure! Turn it around and a staff you will see, Jesus, my Shepherd, is coming for me!

Jesus



# A Christmas Story..

The Story of the Christmas Guest  
by Helen Steiner Rice

It happened one day at December's end  
Some neighbors called on an old-time friend.  
And they found his shop so meager and mean,  
Made gay with a thousand boughs of green.  
And old Conrad was sitting with face ashine,  
When he suddenly stopped as he stitched the twine.  
And he said, "My friends, at dawn today,  
When the cock was crowing the night away,  
The Lord appeared in a dream to me.  
And He said, 'I'm coming your guest to be.'  
So I've been busy with feet astir,  
Strewing my shop with branches of fir.  
The table is spread and the kettle is shined,  
And over the rafters the holly is twined.  
And now I'll wait for my Lord to appear;  
And listen closely so I will hear,  
His steps as he nears my humble place.  
And I'll open the door and I'll look on his face."  
Then his friends went home and left Conrad alone,  
For this was the happiest day he had known.  
For long since his family had passed away.  
And Conrad had spent many a sad Christmas Day.  
But he knew with the Lord as his Christmas guest,  
This Christmas would be the dearest and best.  
So he listened with only joy in his heart,  
And with every sound he would rise with a start,  
And look for the Lord to be at his door,  
Like the vision that he had had a few hours before.  
So he ran to the window after hearing a sound,  
But all he could see on the snow covered ground,  
Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn.  
And all his clothes were ragged and worn.  
But old Conrad was touched, and he went to the door  
And he said, "Your feet must be cold and sore.  
I have some shoes in my shop for you.  
And I have a coat to keep you warmer, too."  
So with grateful heart the man went away.  
But Conrad noticed the time of day  
And he wondered what made the dear Lord so late,  
And how much longer he'd have to wait.

Then he heard another knock, and he ran to the door,  
But it was only a stranger once more.  
A bent old lady with a shawl of black,  
And a bundle of kindling piled on her back.  
But she asked only for a place to rest,  
a place that was reserved, for Conrad's great guest.  
Her voice seemed to plead, "Don't send me away,  
Let me rest for awhile this Christmas Day."  
So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup  
And told her to sit at the table and sup.  
After she had left, he was filled with dismay,  
For he saw that the hours were slipping away  
The Lord had not come as He said He would,  
And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood.  
When out of the stillness, he heard a cry.  
"Please help me and tell me - Where am I?"  
So again he opened his friendly door,  
And stood disappointed as twice before.  
It was a child who had wandered away,  
And was lost from her family on Christmas Day.  
Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad,  
But he knew he could make this little girl glad.  
So he called her in and he wiped her tears,  
And he quieted all of her childish fears.  
Then he led her back to her home once more,  
And as he entered his own darkened door,  
He knew that the Lord was not coming today,  
For the hours of Christmas had all passed away.  
So he went to his room, and he knelt down to pray.  
And He said, "Lord, why did you delay?  
What kept You from coming to call on me?  
I wanted so much Your face to see."  
Then softly, in the silence, a voice he heard.  
"Lift up your head - I have kept My word.  
Three times my shadow crossed your floor.  
Three times I came to your lowly door.  
I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet;  
I was the woman you gave something to eat;  
I was the child on the homeless street.  
Three times I knocked, three times I came in,  
And each time I found the warmth of a friend.  
Of all the gifts, love is the best.  
I was honored to be your Christmas guest.