Kids Klub News KIDS ZONE

2022 Calendars

Joyfully Christmas

On Wednesday, December 1 Mark Daniel laughed with us, read books to us, introduced us to new friends, and also brought some Christmas magic. We even had snow! The Belles line danced for us. And a special guest came to visit with the Kids — Santa Claus!





























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Members

Becky Boone Family of Buddy Boone

Linda Brooks Carol Bullins

Dora Clodfelter

Jackie & Pat Cole

Ava Grace Fogleman-surgery this week

Harry Hudson

Family of Clay Hunt

Family of Jim Lanier

Carolyn Neely

Fred Ownsbey

Lois Richardson

Barbara West

Danny West

Jan Winslow

Hospitals & Nursing Homes

Brookdale:

Bryan Bowman

Pat Rutherford Friends Homes:

Billy Britt

Sandy Ridge Memory Care:

Linda Moody

Westwood Health & Rehab:

Peggy Joyce (Tim's mother)

Law Enforcement & Services

Jeremy Callicutt Evan Underwood Stephen Vaughn Asheboro Police Department

Asheboro Fire Department

Randolph County Sheriff's Office

Missions

Stephen & Jenna Arnold & baby Yael **Chosen People Ministries** Gideon Ministries Nikki Holland—Belize Shawn & Katrina McConaughey Neighbors Helping Neighbors CUOC

The Friends Center MOWA Jonathan Spainhour

Ministers & Staff

David Millikan Susan Coltrane **Rusty Parsons David Peters** Twyla Little

Mike Wall



Friends

Family of Todd Asbill

Alice Beasley

Joan Brewer

Larry Byrd

Ethan Clarke (cancer) Family of Billie Coleman

Betty Cox

Dublin Cox (Edna's great grandson)

Kenneth Cox

Gwen Davis

Terry Davis

Ruby Gainey Treva Gallimore

Doris Hinshaw

Frank Horton

Lewis Keefe

Family of Mel Kennedy

Family of Neil Kiser

Ted Lanier

Alex Lyons

Edward Mavhew

Family of Sheila McCain

Libby McNeil

David Mills

Jeremy Moore

Tony Norris

Baby Jack Phelps (heart surgery)

Dixie Lovell Pritchard

Melody Reynolds

Family of Tonja Robbins

Fave Saunders

Betsy Skeen Jim & Wanda Tatum

Curtis Thornburg

Dwight & Nancy Walker

Pastor Michael White

Dolan Williams Barbara Winslow

Cheryl Winslow

Our World & victims of disasters

Asheboro Friends Meeting Kids Klub

Friends Church of NC Friends Disaster Service

The COVID-19 Pandemic All Our Elected Officials

Unspoken Requests Unsaved Family & Friends

Please submit additions to our prayer list: Email: asheborofriends@yahoo.com Phone: (336) 625-3803 or (336) 689-4275





December Prayer Focus: Friends Church Peace Team

Born out of Kenyan Quakers' response to Kenyan election violence in 2007, Friends Church Peace Team (FCPT) works to reduce violence and conflict in Kenya, whatever the causes may be. FCPT volunteers and staff have trained thousands of Kenyans in Alternatives to Violence, Healing and Rebuilding our Communities, trauma healing, non-violence for social change, transformative mediation, and more. The Peace Team's efforts were central to the quelling of



violence between the 2007 and 2013 elections. They enabled displaced persons to move back to their homes. They worked to rebuild connections between neighbors of rival communities. The ongoing work done through this ministry literally removes the causes of war.

In the 2017 Kenyan election, FCPT lobbied with Quakers around the world in a campaign that resulted in, among other achievements, a letter from the United States government to Kenyan political leaders warning them to respect human rights and ensure a credible and transparent election. That letter had enormous impact on the political temperature within Kenya. And even with a second presidential election called, the country was calm and people negotiated.

Kenya is set to hold a general election on 9 August 2022, which will see changes for all elected positions within the government, including members of parliament, senators, and the presidency. Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto currently disagree on a number of issues. The ruling Jubilee Party is also being pulled in different directions, with many members openly supporting candidates from other parties. These tensions, along with other factors, put the country in a fragile position.

While democratic elections are usually promising, Kenya has established a consistent pattern of electoral violence since the rebirth of pluralist democratic politics. Despite once being seen as a beacon of peace in Africa, during the 1992, 1997, 2007, and 2017 general elections the country experienced violence that killed many people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. While conflict triggers are multi-dimensional and include historical, structural, institutional, legal, and cultural factors, they have also always reflected tensions between ethnic identities. This is because the foundation of pluralistic democratic politics in the country was anchored on political party structures that originally segmented the country along ethnic lines.

In the 2022 election, many of the same underlying risk factors that led to violence in previous elections continue to be present, while new risk factors have appeared. These include the following considerations:

- **Public expectations of violence**—These expectations may become self-fulfilling if the various political actors do not address the root causes of violence and reduce the high level of political polarization.
- Shifting political alliances and divisions—The ongoing presidential succession debate has created new alliances between former adversaries and enmity between former allies.
- Exploitation of socio-economic grievances—The 2022 election may become a class-based contest along the lines of narratives about the "haves and have-nots," also known in Kenya as the "dynasties and hustlers."
- **Prevalence of misinformation**—There is established precedent of rumours and misinformation (including disinformation that malicious actors deliberately spread) exacerbating political and inter-communal tensions in Kenya.
- Covid-19 impact—The Covid-19 pandemic has severely damaged major economic sectors in Kenya, disrupted Kenyan society, and worsened the country's debt burden, events which have forced an estimated two million more Kenyans into poverty. This will almost certainly morph into an election issue as more Kenyans continue to be faced with the widening socio-economic gaps in their society.

Please pray with us:

- As we make plans to actively prevent violence and to also be prepared for the very likely possibility of violence both before and after the election. Both activities may feel contradictory but necessary.
- In terms of prevention, we are already working on peacebuilding activities and civic education at the local levels. Pray that local churches and communities will be receptive.
- In terms of preparation, we are working on setting up a "front lines hotline" number to engage citizens in monitoring, verifying, and countering the spread of harmful rumors and serve as an early warning system for potentially dangerous situations.
- Overall, please pray for peace in the government and in the hearts and communities of Kenya. And pray for strength, stamina, and wisdom for our Peace Team facilitators.

In 1957 Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, born in 1917 to missionary parents in Japan, began by trying to imagine herself in the shoes of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She asked, "How would Mary celebrate Jesus' birthday?" The answer from our culture and time period would be to have a cake with candles and his name on it. Mrs. Spencer then looked upon the traditional Christmas tree as a cake and placed on the tree the name Jesus and his title Christ. Instead of using the name and title in English, however, she used Greek monograms. Thus the letters in Greek, "Chi Rho," became one of the earliest Chrismons because they are the monogram for *Christos*, the Greek word for Christ. The word chrismon itself is a combination of the words Christ and Monogram.

What was begun by Frances Kipps Spencer in a small Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, has been called the most significant contribution to Christian symbolism in the twentieth century. Throughout the creation and development of Chrismons, Mrs. Spencer has never personally profited from them monetarily. Certainly the acceptance and sharing of the idea was a source of great gratitude to her. There is no question that the ornaments were a help and an inspiration to Christians all over the world, and that was the only compensation that Mrs. Spencer ever desired.