

# THE BENNETT BANNER

Published Monthly By The Students of Bennett College  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Ten Cents a Copy

\$1.00 Per Subscription

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## Christmas Spirit

Christmas is not a day but a season of the year which is characterized by a spirit of festivity and happiness. It is a spirit of giving and contributing to the joy of others. The Christmas spirit in our country is evident chiefly by a spirit of giving. Christmas, for most people, means an exchange of gifts. We are quite sure that students in economics would agree that billions of dollars flow each year into business enterprises because of our Christmas custom of exchanging greetings and gifts. There is, however, a bit of controversy concerning the meaning of Christmas. Many people, particularly those who are deeply religious, insist that this is not the true meaning or spirit of Christmas. Christmas should have a religious significance. There can be no argument that will defeat the principle that with Christmas comes a spiritual meaning.

In spite of all, we have to face up to facts. Since the exchange of greetings and gifts has been adopted as our regular custom, we should at least learn that it is not the gift itself but the spirit in which it is given that counts.

Some people are like a sponge—soft and good-natured. People like this enter with reluctance into the true spirit of Christmas. Then we have the active "bee." The bee does not have to be forced to contribute his sweetness. Instead, its actions originate from an inner drive that stimulates it to go about building a durable honeycomb. It represents the true spirit of giving. It is the spirit of giving without the thought of return. It is a completely unselfish spirit. We can make life better for those around us through the Christmas custom of exchanging greetings, gifts, and by keeping, so to speak, the "Christ" in Christmas.

We are sure that all students and people from every walk of life look forward to this particular season of the year when we can concentrate on the giving at Christmas time. It is true in America that Christmas is a holiday. Nevertheless, let us strive to carry over the meaning of Christmas to the other months in the year after Christmas comes and goes.

## ARE YOU READY?



## Inquiring Reporter

What does Christmas mean to you? This question was asked of members of each class.



Yvonne Harris, freshman science major: "As Christmas approaches, I think of returning home, reuniting with my family, and friends. It is a special occasion that brings with it the opportunity to give others the happiness that God has bestowed upon us."

"Some people think of Christmas as being the season for fabulous decorations and the coming of Santa Claus. But to me Christmas signifies the birth of a Saviour; a Saviour who came to the world to bring peace to all men."

"The manifestation of our Christmas spirit is exemplified in our participation in Christmas Sister Week activities. As God gave us his only son 1959 years ago, so do we here at Bennett attempt to bestow a feeling of the Christmas spirit upon the hearts of mankind."

"As you celebrate the holidays, don't forget the real significance of Christmas and the birth of Jesus."

## The Essence of Christmas Sister Week

Sometime before Christmas, we sat still while we pulled secretly the sister we would cherish for one week. Our minds were immediately figuring out the time in which she would be out of her room; time in which we could slip in to make her bed, hang up her pajamas, slip an apple under her pillow, or press that long wrinkled blouse.

Right then, the beauty of giving had become a practical part of our lives. Which meant that we had gotten into the swing and feeling of Christmas. WE were constantly looking for ways to make the week last longer, for here was time in which we gave unboastfully of our time, efforts, and love.

Yes, for many of us, this was an expression of the essence of Christmas sister week. But I ask each of you who feel likewise, is it? Why is it that for only one week we become persons that no one ever dreamed we could be? Why is it that this time of exalted love and sisterhood lasts for only one week? What then is the very essence of this week we have designated as Christmas sister week?

To answer such a question, we must look beyond our Christmas season into our every activity in every season of which we live together and call ourselves sisters on this campus. For many of us, the significance and fundamental nature of the ideal of sisterhood



Patricia Williams, sophomore, Sociology major: "Since childhood we have been told the story of the first Christmas which is the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This story has meant a great deal to me in that it has enlightened me to the extent that there is more to this day, Dec. 25th, than giving presents and being gay. When I say being gay, I mean to the extreme, or to the extent we forget the purpose."

"Christmas should be regarded as would the Sabbath because it is the one big day of the year that we actually acknowledge the birth of Jesus as our Saviour."

"I think that if we would realize that Christmas is the birthday of Jesus, the one responsible for our being here, there would not be the extensive flow of parties, and things of festivity on this day."

has been lost. Surely, we sing of it in our Alma Mater, and in our sister song. We speak of it in our chapel, our classrooms, our student union, and our dormitories. We even say that we maintain it when we keep fresh the grave of Idle Gossip. But is this Ideal for all of us a reality?

The undergirding thought of the ideal of sisterhood gendered here on our campus is Love. Love in its entirety. So it is with our Christmas sister week. To take the duties, trial, and personal relationships of life up into the atmosphere of love, so that what we do and how we react toward each other becomes the resultant, not of the outward situation and our natural appetites and passions, but of the outward situation and the love within our hearts always—This is the essence of the week we call Christmas sister week.

And when expressed and observed in every degree, it reaches beyond the time limit of one week into each day in which we live together as a human family. Then as it becomes a definite part of our very beings, there become no logical reasons for one to misuse the kindness of another, to misplace or remove another's belongings, or to spread malicious rumors about each other. What a worthy end in which all of our energies may be concentrated.

So the essence of Christmas Sister Week is the same as the essence of our ideal of sisterhood gendered every day on our campus. The only difference is that it has been placed in the realm and in the atmosphere of the Christmas season to remind us in a loving and high sort of a way of the true meaning of Christmas and, above all, sisterhood.

... "The crest and crowning of all good, And life's final star is Sisterhood."

By Gloria Jean Mcknight



Carolyn Bennett, junior, mathematics major: "We are now in the season where practically everyone appears joyous. This is how it should be, for this is the Christmas season, a season in which we celebrate the most profound blessing ever given to man, the birth of Jesus."

"When we stop to think of the true meaning of Christmas, our thoughts always return to the 'Child' in the manger. This Child to me symbolizes the great gift to man of love, peace and renewed hope. Because of this great love that was given to man through the birth of Jesus, we in turn express our love for Him who gave by remembering others."

"Christmas, to me is a time of love and as was sung by the angels on that glorious day, a time of 'peace on earth and good will to all men.'"



Betty Jean Shropshire, senior sociology major: "What Christmas means to me, can be summed up in one word 'GIVING'. By this I mean giving of one's self to God and his fellowmen. A true example was set for us centuries ago in a little town called Bethlehem when God gave to the world his only begotten Son."

## Miss Demo

While strolling the campus on a misty evening, I beheld such daring mortals. Oh, how brave they stand in destruction. Where doth thou get this profound power that leadeth thee to destroy? My voice grows faint as I struggle to cry out once again, stop using the outside of the Student Union for a lobby!!!

The beauty of the Nativity Scene in front of the Student Union each year during the Christmas season reminds one of the real or true meaning of the birth of Christ.

Let us remember as we leave for the holidays that "A safe holiday is a merry holiday."

The Christmas season is doing much to cure my ulcers. For this relief I am glad. I wish for each and every one a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year! SEE YOU AROUND IN '60!