



Serving students at Gardner-Webb University for more than 60 years



photo by Katie Bryant

A freshly lit Christmas tree beams on the GWU campus during the Festival of Lights held on Dec. 1. The campus was filled with students, faculty and staff who came to enjoy the lights.

'Let there be light' at GWU

Ronda Carpenter
Pilot staff writer

The annual Festival of Lights celebration of Christmas was held on Dec. 1 in Dover Theatre. Gardner-Webb University's chorale, concert choir and a trombone trio performed in the festival and brought forth an enjoyable and unforgettable night of music and worship.

Tracy Jessup, minister to the university, read sev-

eral scriptures throughout the choral concert and enjoyed taking part in the event.

"This has been a tradition that has taken place as far as I'm aware on the campus of Gardner-Webb since the fall of 1986," said Jessup. "It's always been a tradition that involves the community. It is in some way Gardner-Webb's Christmas gift to the community, and not just the university community, but the

See **FESTIVAL** page 9

'Tis not the season for sick days

Washing hands frequently and drinking orange juice may prevent colds

Cherish Wilson
Pilot Staff

It is cold and flu season and I think Jon Stewart summarized it best.

Across the nation, thousands of people are lining up in hospital waiting rooms, out the doors, down the steps, around the corners, and behind the hedges, waiting for their inoculations.

Here's another idea for avoiding the flu: DON'T stand outside in the cold for hours around lots of other people.

In reality, preventing the spread of infections and viruses is a little more-lengthy, but not very complex.

1. Wash your hands! A lot. Use

soap. Scrub. Make it count.

2. When you sneeze or cough practice some proper etiquette. Most of us probably grew up sneezing into our hands thinking we had done our job of being polite and sanitary. Truth is, the germs that spray out of your body end up on your hands. Your hands end up touching doorknobs, counters, pens, and phones—leaving a trail of germs. It's better to actually cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm.

3. Drink orange juice. Eat oranges. Sleep with an orange under your pillow. (Okay, I was kidding about that last one.) Oranges, citrus-fruits in general, are loaded with vitamins and nutrients that help your body fight off bacteria

and viruses.

4. Taking vitamins isn't a bad idea either. A good multi-vitamin, like the One-a-Day brand, is usually sufficient. Again, it keeps your body ready to fight off sickness.

5. Get enough rest. Or try, at least. Or, when you're up at 4 a.m. pulling an all-nighter, drink some orange juice.

At a university, especially in residence halls, communal living can take its toll.

By preventing the spread of sickness, not only are you helping yourself, you're helping your fellow students.

And you won't have to hear someone down the hall coughing up a lung in the middle of the night, a definite bonus.

Christmas, white or not, is coming

And GWU students say they're ready for a holiday break at home

Christie Barlow
Pilot Copy Editor

Dashing through the snow with Jack Frost nipping at your nose on a foggy Christmas eve, what does this remind you of?

Whether Santa is working at the North Pole, or Rudolf is sliding off of icy rooftops, with the season of Christmas comes snow. But what about for those at GWU? Are students seeing white this Christmas?

"There's nothing better than snow at Christmas," said Steve Poolton from Rochester, N.Y. "I love Christmas at home because we get tons of snow. I can't picture what Christmas would be like without snow; it wouldn't seem like Christmas to me."

Lots of fluffy white flakes falling from the sky and people bundled up in their warmest clothes is all it takes to remind Jenny Thomas of home.

"I always think of having to put on layers of clothing when my family goes to pick our Christmas tree each year," said Thomas a freshman from Cleveland, Ohio. "It doesn't really feel like Christmas until we get the tree up. I just couldn't imagine having a Christmas where I could go to the beach or something like that. If not snow, cold weather seems to go hand-in-hand with Christmas."

What Thomas can't even fathom is a reality for many of Gardner-Webb University students. A large number of the GWU population comes from the Southeast and many have never experienced a white Christmas.

"I grew up in Alabama so I never had a white Christmas," said Matt Brownback, a senior education major from Murphy, N.C. "I would love to have one, it'd be really cool."

According to Brownback, his family always spent the day opening gifts and then watching football on television.

"It was nice to have a warm Christmas because we weren't stuck in the house. We could get outside and play football or basketball or something. But I'd still like to have a white Christmas, just so I could say I've experienced it at least once," said Brownback.

Brownback is in good company at GWU. Classmate Erin Moore has yet to experience a white Christmas herself.

"Apparently, we had one when I was little," said Moore, a senior from Wiggins, Miss. "But I don't remember that, so it doesn't count. My Christmas traditions have consisted of breakfast, presents, and then, if the weather is decent, we go swimming."

Unlike Brownback, Moore has no desire to experience a white Christmas.

"I'm perfectly happy with my family's traditions. Besides, it's not about what kind of weather you have. Christmas is about family and remembering the real reason we celebrate," said Moore.

That seems to be one thing that students could agree about on this holiday season.

"It's about being together and spending time with the people you love and care about the most, and as a reminder that Jesus was born," said Brownback. "The weather isn't what's important, it's just nice to have."

GWU makes Christmas a time of ministry and giving

Sarah James
Pilot Web Editor

Campus Ministries at Gardner-Webb University is participating in many different Christmas events this holiday season, and students can get involved in a number of different ways.

GWU reached its goal by collected 51 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Students and staff gathered many different items to put into shoe boxes to send to children around the world.

"Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism ministry headed by Franklin Graham," said Julie Lineberger, a senior religious studies major from Shelby. "Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest international children's Christmas project."

In the boxes are different items ranging from toiletry items to toys and clothes. Operation Christmas Child encourages not only children but adults to participate.

"This project encourages children, families, churches and groups to fill empty shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, photos and personal letters, then hand-delivers them to children worldwide suffering from poverty, war, disease, natural disaster and terrorism," said Lineberger.

Even though GWU has already sent in the boxes, students can still get involved, according to Lineberger.

"Students can be involved in this very easy project," she said. "It is not expensive, and the entire box can be filled in one trip to Wal-Mart."

Filling a shoe box might seem like a little task but the impact is great.

"The impact of this project has been well documented for many years, from the simple letters received from the children who get the boxes, to the innumerable stories of hope and changed lives

See **CHRISTMAS** page 4

The Fall 2005 exam schedule is on page 2.

On the Inside

Dogs defeat Gophers in close game ... page 3

A look into the new and popular world of Facebook ... page 6

Two photographers proceed with "caution" in exploring music on campus ... pages 5 and 8

Special photos of Festival of Lights and Carl Cartee in the Pilot's Christmas C-Section ... pages 9 through 12

News	page 2
Sports	page 3
Life	page 4
A&E	page 6
Photos	pages 5, 8 to 12