



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday decorations, including stockings, are seen at the Vice President's residence, Dec. 6, in Washington.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

Pence and family theme holiday season

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON
Christmas at Vice President Mike Pence's official residence literally jumps out of the pages of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Every room on the main floor of the Naval Observatory represents a verse from the poem by Clement Clarke Moore, officially titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Pence has a family tradition of reading the holiday classic to his three children every Christmas Eve even though they're adults now and the gang includes a daughter-in-law.

Stockings hung by the chimney with care? Nine red ones hang from the fireplace mantle in the dining room: Six for the Pences and three for pets Hazel, Harley and Marlon.

Instead of visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads,

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Karen Pence poses for a photograph holding the family copy of "The Night Before Christmas," as she gives a tour of the holiday decorations at the Vice President's residence, Dec. 6, in Washington.

Meditation

Reflect the love of Christ this Christmas

BY REV. DAVID E. ROBERTS II
Morning Star First Baptist Church

Hello all. Well, we are still in the Advent season, or for me, the coming of my lord and savior Jesus the Christ. Next week all Christian nations will celebrate Christmas, our lord's set aside birthday.

Kids are excited about Santa. Deep Christians in their minds are determined to make sure the rest of us not truly saved folks know that it's all about Jesus (and truly it is). Hanukkah and Kwanzaa will also be celebrated, just a fiesta time all week.

However, Jesus Christ came to set us free. In our world then as well as now was/is a deep falling away from the lord and genuine worship while religion was/is rising to an all time high with the devil's agendas at the forefront..

Here is a thought. John 3:17&18 "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whosoever believes in him is not condemned, but whosoever does not believe stands condemned already because

he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

He came to give us the gift of the spirit and it's the spirit that keeps us humble and in the spirit of Christ. Galatians 5:16-18, 22 "So I say, live by the spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under law. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Let's give the gift that God sent through his son to us.

We say peace on earth and good will towards all men, Santa says be good for goodness sake, and the gift from God is the spirit; Therefore, this Christmas let us love one another, forgive one another, be kind to each other, be patient with each other, really show the love of Christ. Just a thought for Christmas. Hmhmhm.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shown are the members of Rotary Club of Hickory's board of directors, all of whom have achieved Paul Harris recognition.

Rotary Club of Hickory begins celebration

HICKORY — The Rotary Club of Hickory was chartered in 1921. The club began the celebration of its centennial on Nov. 29 by announcing an initiative to increase its support for the Rotary International Foundation.

The foundation of Rotary International was started in 1917 and spends about \$300 million each year in promoting peace; fighting disease; providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene; saving mothers and children; supporting education; and growing local economies. About half of the RIF funding goes to its campaign, along with the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and others, to eradicate polio worldwide. That goal is almost accomplished with only 27 cases of "wild" polio reported in 2018 through November 20. In 1988 about 1,000 children in the world contracted polio every day.

The Rotary Foundation is funded by grants and gifts, largely from its members. An individual who is credited with \$1,000 in total contributions, personally or by

others, is recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, an honor named after the leader of the four Chicago businessmen who founded Rotary in 1905.

The Rotary Club of Hickory's goal is to become a 100 percent Paul Harris Fellow club by its centennial. At the Nov. 29 meeting, eight new Paul Harris Fellows were recognized, all benefitting by transfer of recognition points accumulated by members of the current year officers and directors, bringing the total number of Paul Harris Fellow club members to 82, or 75 percent of total club membership.

Newly named Paul Harris Fellows are Andy Cote, Leslie Ferrell, Bonita Ferretti, Kelly Farr, Gerry Knox, Rick Seay, David Williams and Kathy Wood. Foundation Chair, John Bates, also announced the club's board of directors and officers had all achieved Paul Harris Fellowship recognition. Additional centennial projects will be announced over the next few months. Linda Lutz is the current president of the Rotary Club of Hickory and John Bates is club Rotary Foundation Chair.

ELKS LODGE HELPS CHILDREN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hickory Elks Lodge 1654, through a grant it received from the North Carolina State Elks Charitable Trust, was able to provide more than 30 pairs of athletic shoes to area children. Elks is a nationwide community-service organization with more than a million members. For more information about Hickory Elks Lodge, contact Carole Anderson, president, at caroleanderson@charter.net.