



Making Christmas Memories

The greeting cards have all been sent, the Christmas rush is through. But, I still have one question to ask, a personal one for you...what are your Christmas memories made of? Nine times out of ten, most people I know answer that question with one word - family. Many traditions you remember as a child were started with those who came before you, your parents and your grandparents. Those are probably among the Christmas traditions most dear to you today.

I recall watching Santa's sleigh on the news and wondering how close he was to bed in, as we all ran and jumped in bed in anticipation of his arrival. My brother Chip would usually wake us very early in the morning, at around 2 or 3 a.m. because he was too excited to sleep. We didn't seem to mind it much, as we were just as excited!

Christmas Eve was special to me, and still is. I've spoken about our Christmas Eve service at Polkton United Methodist Church, how we all took part in the program, sang Christmas songs, listened to Scripture readings, exchanged gifts, and left with a paper sack full of fruit, nuts and candy. My sisters and I were wearing our "Christmas dresses," made with love by Grandma Thomas. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Eve we would spend many an hour remembering our lines for the program, rehearsing and rehearsing until we each had them memorized. Even work like that was fun, as we prepared for the church event.

Afterwards we would ask mama, "Can we open our gifts?" "Just one," she would say as she handed out the gift she chose for us to open. Inside were usually new PJ's, which always seemed to be softer and warmer on that particular night and looked pretty cute in our Christmas morning photos when we remembered to make them.

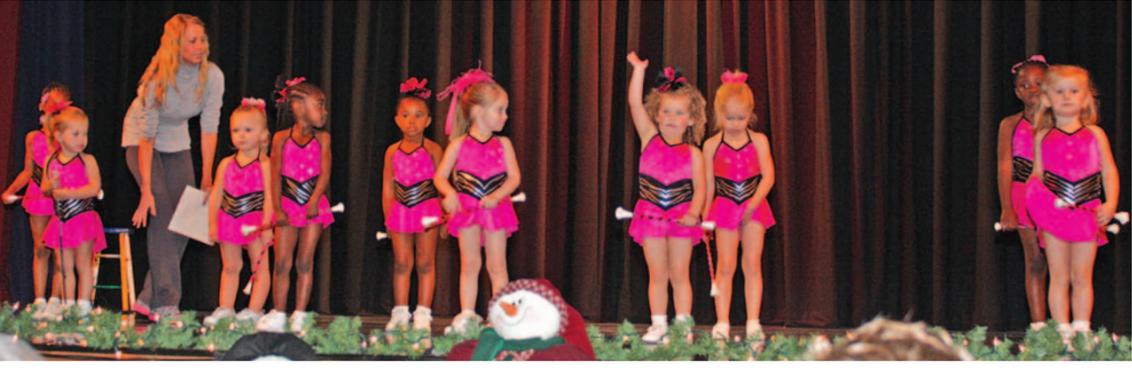
Looking back now it was pretty uneventful by today's measure, but those memories are some of the most magical I recall. We were just a house full of kids and a mama, and we were indeed, just fine, spending wonderful Christmases together. We were certainly lucky and didn't truly realize how much so at the time. Thank you mama.

Whatever your traditions include, from baking cookies and building gingerbread houses, trimming the tree, singing carols, wrapping gifts, enjoying a cup of eggnog or hot apple cider, watching holiday movies and television shows or just sharing stories about Christmases past, know that those traditions will one day become the memories you share with those who are near and dear.

My traditions were simple and yours may be very much different. Either way you make Christmas memories, know they will live on in your heart and in the hearts of those you love, forever. With each new year all memories become evermore dear.

Christmas in a small town is, in my opinion, a wonderful, beautiful time. Pictured here are my girls, Majorettes by Melanias, in their fifth Anson County performance since September. "Making Christmas Memories" was presented at home, in the majestic Ansonia Theatre. The annual Christmas show was held on December 17, and many beautiful memories were made. These memories will be among my newest, but also become some of my fondest.

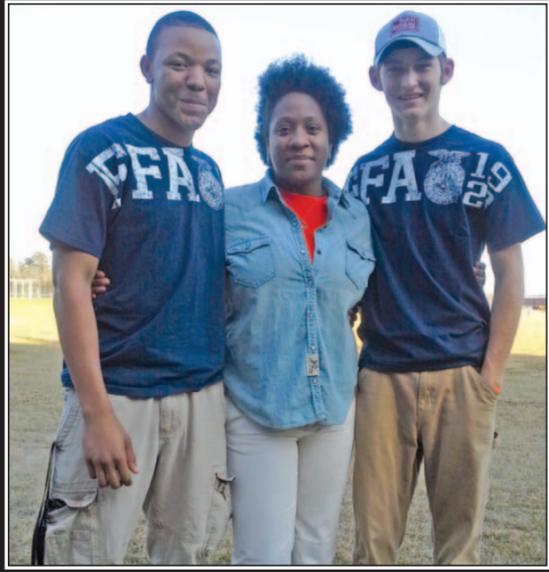
By Melanie Lyon



FFA Club in Career Development Competition

The Future Farmers of America Club recently traveled to Forest Hills High School to participate in the FFA Career Development Event Competition.

Sarah Johnson, Agriculture Education/FFA Advisor at Anson High School, said, "We traveled to Forest Hills High School on December 3. FFA is making strides this year, and I am extremely excited about the support we have received and the gained interest in the students. From having 2 CDE's are career development events that allow FFA members to explore options in agriculture. Students have the opportunity to compete in various events such as floriculture, livestock, dairy, horse and many more options. Congratulations to Natia McIver who placed third in the girls divisional tractor driving competition. Congratulations to all of those FFA members who went and competed. I look forward to the spring contests."



Quatavious Allen, FFA Parliamentarian (left) and Chance Emrich, Anson High School FFA Chapter President flank their advisor, Ms. Sarah Johnson.



Look out guys...this girl can drive a tractor! Natia McIver placed third in FFA tractor driving competition recently.

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