



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

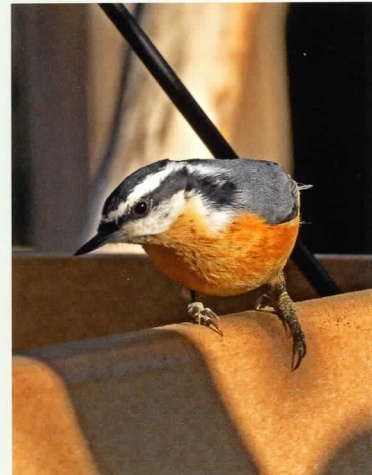
Land Stewardship Committee

Gifts From God

Not all gifts are pretty-wrapped. During the Christmas season we lift up our hearts to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus, who died on the cross and saved us from our sins. We thank God also for the gift of our beautiful world we see each day. In the winter months it is difficult to see all the gifts in nature that God has given us, When people think of nature in winter, they mostly think of snow, but if we look closely, we can find many gifts despite the snow that hides these gifts.

One of the many gifts is the presence of various species of birds. Wings in the woodlands during the winter: Some of the birds have been here all year while others only appear during those long months of winter, traveling south from Canada to hunt our wild places once the snow flies.

The nuthatches are among the most enjoyable of our winter feathered friends, filling the forest with their comical, laughing calls as they scurry up and down tree trunks in search of food. (They are present in the Green Ash on the north side parking lot.) Chickadees are usually close by, chattering and scolding loudly if you are spotted in their territories. The loud cries of crows and ravens are some of the favorite sounds of winter. The familiar call of the crows, as they move in groups through the treetops, is unusually beautiful in winter as it echoes through the trees, wild and free. Less often heard, the unusual uttering's of ravens soaring over the winter woodlands help bring the season to life.



With the winter season here and the snow is present, now is a good time to explore the winter forests to discover the treasures the snows provide. Despite the seemingly dreary days, there are many things to look for and enjoy during winter. Nature is dynamic. Attentive observers will find that the bleak winterscape has many points of interest. Unwrap the present slowly.

Look For The Beauty That Is Hidden.

PEACE OF THE LORD

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes from within the souls of people when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

- Black Elk

GREEN LEAF

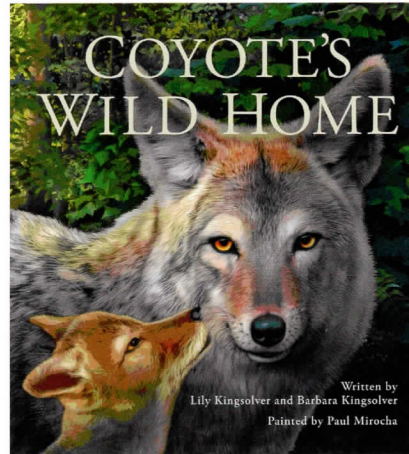
Just In Time For Christmas—Almost

In A New Book, Barbara Kingsolver and Daughter Lily Teach Children Empathy for Wildlife.

Barbara and Lily Kingsolver discuss 'Coyote's Wild Home', family publishing, and the importance of balance in wild places like Greater Yellowstone.

Coyote's Wild Home was published November 28 and is a children's book that takes readers through a day in the woods with a young girl and her grandfather, along with a coyote pup and his Auntie. Woven through the story and illustrations are bits of information about what a coyote eats, a conversation about predators and prey, and hints at coyotes' diminishing habitat, all topics poignant in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Paintings by Paul Mirocha reinforce the Kingsolvers' goal of being accurate in the flora and fauna depicted in the book while also letting them create a love letter to Appalachia. (For more details see mojo@mountainjournal.org)



Lily is working on a master's degree in environmental and informal science at the Florida Institute of Technology.

This charming book is a perfect Christmas gift for the youngsters of the parish and serves as a welcome, instructive, introduction to the ways of God's creation. It couples to religious education like a red caboose--somewhat distant from the engine but a critical part of the whole.

**Reading age 6-9 Length 32 pages
Grade Level 1-2**

This book was released November 30 and may not be available by the crowded mail service until the week after Christmas. The Land Stewardship Committee of Resurrection Parish will have 8 volumes available for parishioners of RUCP (one per person) at NO COST. Place your order at hoechoka.com. Or contact Paul Gore at 406-587-2001. Please, parishioners only.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This issue completes five years and 60 issues of the Green Leaf. Much has changed on campus, both school and church. But as a people secure in the knowledge that all things are possible for our God, we move forward. Don't forget to pray unceasingly and love one another.



CHRISTMAS 2023

Stille, stille, stille,

*One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is
sleeping.*

Holy Star its vigil keeping.

Stille, stille, stille

One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep

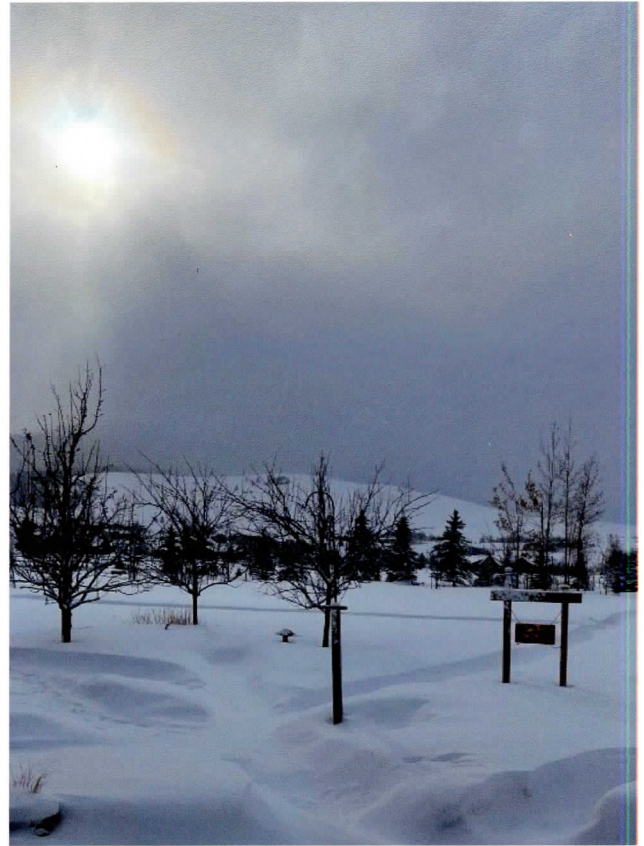
*'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you.
Close your eyes let sleep surround
you.*

Sleep, sleep, sleep

'Tis the eve of our savior's birth

Dream, dream, dream

*Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber,
Dream, dream, dream
of the joyous day to come.*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MINISTRIES
OF CREATION CARE AND
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

DOMINION OVER ALL THE EARTH: WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

*"About them frisking played
All beasts of the earth, since wild and of all chase
In wood or wilderness, forest or den."*

John Milton, 1667
Paradise Lost, Book IV

Critters of Resurrection Parish



As always, commentary on Green Leaf is gratefully accepted and will receive replies. The web site is giving us fits but we believe the problem is now solved to service contacts. The web address is hoechoka.com (ending period omitted to avoid confusion) All lower case. The site can also be reached under the ministry connect on the Parish web page.