

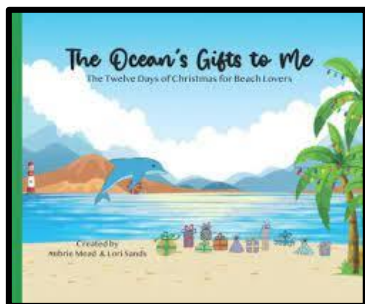
# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

### JOIN US!

- **November – December:** *Gallery of Trees* continues
- **December 31:** *Anchor Drop* at Shell Point, sponsored by Bring Back the Lights

### Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



**The Ocean's Gifts to Me:  
The Twelve Days of  
Christmas for Kids and  
Beach Lovers**  
by Wayward Pansy

Enjoy twelve days at the beach with this illustrated sing-along storybook for kids and beach lovers! It's the perfect gift for kids to learn about the creatures of the ocean, sung to the tune of a classic Christmas song! It includes twelve variations of the traditional The Twelve Days of Christmas lyrics and has an educational message about the creatures of the ocean and environmental conservation.

Grades: K-3  
Pages: 95

### Remembering The Great Swan's Arrival at the 2009 Davis Shore Community Christmas

Photos by *Picture This Photography* of Davis, NC

Written by Ed Pond at Davis Shore December 14, 2009

Just like for the past two hundred years, when the Down East villagers at Davis Shore then would see from out across the Core Sound marshes the Great Swans arriving on their slowly moving snow white wings, the villagers would point and nod to each other with joy. They would know, as well, that the Christmas Season was arriving, just as the Babe's Birth had been foretold long ago to the shepherds, by the Star of Bethlehem.

So, on Friday night December 11<sup>th</sup>, the villagers gathered at the Davis Original Free Will Baptist Fellowship Hall, to hear a special Christmas musical presentation by Davis Shore's own Catherine Styron Marx. Catherine, recently on *Good Morning America*, normally plays in the scenes at Nashville, Tennessee, where she is the principal accompanist for the country music star, Reba McEntyre. In the Church Fellowship Hall, standing as sentinel, was *The Great Swan* representing the beginning of this Christmas season.

Many of the villagers, as they entered the Hall, were dressed in Victorian costumes including ladies with elaborately plumed hats, long skirts, and bustles. Some of the village men were dressed in top hats, frock coats and flowered jabots. Some even resembled Ebenezer Scrooge right out of Charles Dickens, and there were small boys dressed like "Tiny Tim."

Grace was said and food served and then a selection of favorite Christmas Carols were sung. *The Great Swan* kept his sentinel watch and approved of it all.

On Saturday morning, December 12<sup>th</sup>, out of a sun drenched cold late morning, the small joyously chattering ...



The Great Swan out of the marshes of Core Sound stands sentinel over The Davis Shore Community Christmas at Davis Original Free Will Baptist Church, December 11, 2009



"God Bless us everyone"

Scrooge (Ed Pond) & Tiny Tim (Ethan Gillikin) The Davis Shore Community Christmas Davis Original Free Will Baptist Church, Dec. 11, 2009

## The Great Swan's Arrival continued ...

... children, of the Davis Shore Village stood on the docks and wharves at the Oyster Creek and watched both Santa Clause and Mrs. Santa Clause weave their long trailing passage toward them, not by sleigh, but by a boat coming out of Core Sound.

Daintily, Mr. & Mrs. Santa, stepped ashore to delight and hug the children, and not a child was frightened, and nobody fell overboard. Santa invited all the children to join him and Mrs. Clause inside the Luther Lewis Crab House which had been magically transformed by Gay Mason into a coastal version of Santa's workshop. The crab house had all its shelves filled with toys and goodies. At the worktables in the crab house, Mr. & Mrs. Clause helped the children, one by one, as each child fashioned, craft like, a blue crab shell into that child's very own Christmas Tree Ornament. Food and refreshments were enjoyed before Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause said they had to get back to the North Pole.

As Santa's boat pulled away from the Oyster Creek wharf, one little boy was very loudly "heard to exclaim ere they drove out of sight," "I want to see Santa fly away." The boatman, Chuck Mason, then gunned both engines and the boat jumped out on it and sped away to the Core Sound horizon at 50 miles per hour.

On Saturday afternoon at 1:00pm, Ernest Childs of Beaufort's *Flowers and Designs by Ernest*, gave a demonstration workshop in Dorothy Pond's big white barn to a group of forty ladies. Ernest gave tips and instructions and created a door prize floral arrangement as well as a spectacularly distinctive Davis Shore Christmas door wreath using large dark red hypericum berries and pearlescent white oyster shells all set against a backfield of Down East Cedar boughs.

On Saturday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>. at 7:00pm all the villagers assembled to the Davis Free Will Baptist Church for a program of special Christmas Music, "The Sights and Sounds of Christmas". That program was presented by The Down East Community Choir. Several solos were performed including *The Gift Goes On*, by Kara Smith, and *Silver Bells* " (Davis Shore Version) by Meresa Mercer, Director, all backed up by the Choir. The recessional started at the Church and made its way up the road to the Davis Shore Corner.

There, at "The Corner", travelers had "come from Afar". They were, The Veteran, the Core Sound Fisherman, the Sailor, the Mom and her little Sailor, "a Little Drummer Boy", a Soldier, and a Businessman, all who came and knelt before the Baby Jesus in the nativity.

The names of our villagers who have passed to the other side were read and remembered. Then the assembled children lighted The Corner Christmas Tree. Instantly that Corner Tree joined the almost hundred others of Nicky Harvey's Crab Pot Christmas Trees held high and already shining brightly as seasonal street decorations. Those streetlight trees were necklaced in every direction with luminaries, placed by the Davis Boy Scouts troop 252, on both shoulders of all the village roads. The day's celebration was made complete by a full fellowship of friends, neighbors, and visitors. Cookies, sweets, hot cider and coffee were served on the opposite corner side at the resplendently decorated Davis Shore Provisions store.

On Sunday morning, December 13<sup>th</sup>. at 10:45 AM all the villagers from all the churches assembled at the Davis First Baptist Church for a joint Christmas Worship Service. Pastor Ed Renfrow delivered the sermon, assisted by Rev. Jimmy Mercer of the Free Will Baptist Church, and village choral groups.

We think the Great Swan will continue to stand his sentinel at Davis Shore until *TWELFTH NIGHT EVE* when on midnight January 5, 2010, the Great Swan can see if the cattle, in their stalls, kneel down right at midnight as it is said they did that night long ago in Bethlehem.



The Nativity at Davis Shore Community Christmas, December 12, 2009  
" Bearing Gifts, We Travel A Far ..."  
the Veteran, the Fisherman, the Sailor, the Mom with her Sailor Boy,  
the Little Drummer Boy, the Soldier, & the Businessman



Santa Clause (Tim Davis) and Mrs. Santa Clause (Dana Nelson)  
Landing at the Oyster Creek on Core Sound to Join  
The Davis Shore Community Christmas Season  
December 12, 2009