

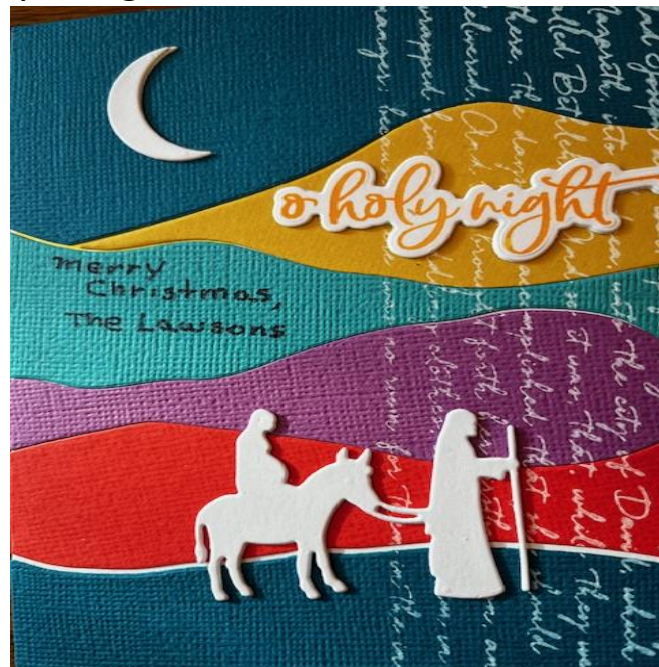
December, 2023



The way camping should be.... with friends who become family!

Good morning, Folks,

Patt and I want to wish each of you a great and full Christmas and safe journey thru out the New Year. Each of us will have a birthday and time seems to get shorter and creep up on us, so we want each of you to enjoy your family, build each other up and always be mindful of others.



Just a reminder about our two planned rallies this year. Our 20th anniversary rally is being held at the beautiful Willow Tree Resort in Longs, SC. I hear a rumor that they have dirty campers around the campground. It seems they like to disrupt dinners, especially on Friday

nights. Let's get a good group of campers together to fend off these dirty campers. More info to follow.

For camping reservations April 25th-28th;

<https://willowtreervr.com/>

contact rally master Jane @ blockjane1@gmail.com

We will have our annual rally the last weekend in Sept., 9-26 to 9-29 at the Palmetto Cove resort near Table Rock. This date is a corrected date. A beautiful setting.

FMCA mailed out 215 letters to perspective members this week! We have already had positive response!

Larry & Patt

One of my favorite Christmas songs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAEJKg0ISPk>

In [Roquemaure](#) in France at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish priest persuaded poet [Placide Cappeau](#), a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem.^[1] Soon afterwards, in that same year, [Adolphe Adam](#) composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey.^[2]

Unitarian minister, music critic, and editor of *Dwight's Journal of Music*, [John Sullivan Dwight](#), adapted the song into English in 1855.^[3] This version became popular in the United States, especially in the North, where the third verse (including "Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease") resonated with [abolitionists](#).^[1]

The wide vocal range of the song makes it one of the more difficult Christmas songs to execute properly.^[4] In French-language churches, it is commonly used at the beginning of the [Midnight Mass](#).^[5]

