



# SHIELD

Supporting Home Instruction  
Encompassing Lexington District

At 7,000 feet above sea level in a National Park, you can see many things that you don't usually see. But last year the most memorable thing my family encountered was the stars....so many stars...some aligned to form imaginary pictures sparked by the human imagination.....some of them racing across the sky between us and the Milky Way. I did most of my growing up outside of Washington D.C. It was normal to see the man-made grandeur of monuments that draw people from around the world, sometimes just on the way to the department store. But the bright lights of modern necessity, convenience, and even preference were too strong for my feeble human eyes to see beyond into the vast night first formed by God at the dawn of creation. It took the majority of a lifetime, a drive across country, and a nerve wracking drive up a mountain for me to first get a glimpse of the splendors of night that was always above my head, but out of my reach.

I've come to find significance that in the Northern Hemisphere we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world so very close to the Winter Solstice. The longest night of the year, a time when darkness dominates, seems a fitting prelude to the coming of holy light, the Light of the World.

It is with all that in mind that I would like to encourage you to take time this Christmas to go find some dark, quiet spots where you can see holy light. To look at your surroundings and take time to turn down the noise, step away from the stress, prioritize your focus because, just like the city lights of my youth, almost everything around you will push for those priorities to serve a purpose that will make it hard for our feeble human eyes to glimpse the splendor of His light. It might require some effort, maybe the emotional or spiritual equivalent of our three day drive and hairpin mountain roads, but you will find what was

always right there...a God who cared enough to make that journey into humanity, to bring you peace in the chaos and light in the darkness.

Wishing you all the peace of a dark, quiet night lit by stars this Christmas.

Elizabeth Collins

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SAVE THE DATE:

**Mid-Year Fellowship:** Monday, February 4

First Baptist Church of Lexington

**Standardized Testing:** April 4–5

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**Lexington County Museum Early Christmas Crafts Field Trip**

9:45–11 a.m., Tuesday, December 11

Cost is 50¢ per student with a \$3 max per family. This will cover supplies we need to provide. Preschool and older are welcome to participate as they are willing and able

The John Fox House, circa 1832, is decorated with period decorations which the children are shown as they look through the house. After the tour, the children make these same period decorations such as popcorn strings, pomanders, and gum drop trees.

To register, email [Nicole Walters](mailto:nicole.walters@lexcountymuseum.org) with children's names and ages, and directions for Paypal will follow. The maximum is 20 participants. **Register by December 4.**



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**Please do not reply to this email.** Contact coordinators directly with questions.  
Email [Melissa Bryan](mailto:melissa.bryan@shieldcommunications.com), SHIELD Communications Leader, with content for next month's newsletter.

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