LCYDC 1109 Spring Drive Opelika, AL 36801



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11-1 Mariah Williams

11-4 Terry Woodall

11-8 Alexander Jones

11-13 Lillie Maddox

11-21 Monique Summers

11-23 Cynthia Kilgore Berry

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-4 Mary Todd

12-12 Kambria White

12-16 Sarah Reiser

12-23 Mitzi Rogers

12-27 Carolyn Reid

12-29 Amy Tatum

New Hires

Stephen Roberts - Life Coach II

Kristy Noelting - Residential Specialist

Sarah Reiser - Administrative

Bennie Calloway - Lead Teach

Assistant Project Uplift Journeys EDU

Candice Lewis - Residential Specialist

Nicholas Tolbert - Residential Specialist

Jermel Scott - Residential Specialist

Shaneka Williams - Residential

Specialist

Magdaline Webb - Client Logistics

Leader

Lillie Maddox - Life Coach II TLP

To view our WEBSITE, log on at www.lcydc.org



Peace... The Perfect Present

Regular readers of our Center Stage newsletter will recall the gem of a tale that I am about to share. As the trilogy of annual holidays begin – starting with Thanksgiving, moving all too quickly to Christmas and ending with fireworks to usher in the New Year – it is not unusual to begin fretting about all that is just around the corner.

Ah, but this year readers, this year is so very different. The hustle and bustle of the season ahead does not hold a candle to all that has been endured over the course of this unfathomable year that is 2020. How timely is this annual fable which reveals how peace might be discovered in the very midst of turbulence. See if you agree:

"There was once a king who offered a prize to the artist who could paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looks at all of the pictures. After much deliberation he was down to the last two. He had to choose between them. One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for the peaceful mountains that towered around it. Overhead, fluffy white clouds floated on a blue sky. Everyone who saw this picture said it was the perfect picture of peace.

The second picture has mountains too. These mountains were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell. Lightening flashed. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not appear to be a peaceful place at all. But when the King looked closely he saw behind the waterfall was a tiny bush growing in the rock. Inside the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest. She was the perfect picture of peace.

The King chose the second picture. Because, he explained, peace is not only in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. Peace is in the midst of things as they are, when there is calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

This wise King from long ago was and is absolutely correct. Despite all the heartbreak, grief, angry vitriol and worse from 2020, may all of us – the prosperous and the poor, the right and the wrong, the enlightened and the misguided – may all of us find our pockets of peace in even the most trying circumstances.

Wishing us all the gift of peace...the perfect present.

Laura Cooper, Executive Director







