



December 2017

Dear Faithful Friend,

As we approach the holy season of Advent and Christmas, Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Carolina would like to extend greetings of peace and joy to you. May your faith in the Son of God, who came to earth as a baby, transcend all the troubles of this world. Charles Wesley's beautiful Advent hymn from 1744 is still both relevant and inspirational today.

<i>Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;</i>	<i>Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,</i>
<i>From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.</i>	<i>Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.</i>
<i>Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;</i>	<i>By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;</i>
<i>Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.</i>	<i>By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.</i>

This year has been a tremendous one for CWA of North Carolina, filled with much joy and many blessings because of friends like you. Let us thank the Lord together as we review several great things He allowed us to be part of in 2017:

- ◆ In both March and October we encouraged participation in the 40 Days for Life semi-annual prayer vigil.
- ◆ In April, I had a remarkable opportunity to be interviewed by a small group of Ohio State University students on how the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act (H.B. 2) impacted our state. Although these students were liberal in their thinking, they were polite and respectful as they asked their questions. They were surprised to hear some of my responses. We should never shy away from opportunities to speak with young people on the issues we so passionately defend.
- ◆ In May, we celebrated our twentieth anniversary as a state organization by hosting the [Defender of the Faith Prayer Breakfast](#) at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte. Over 125 friends attended. Having the event in the month of May was significant because it marked the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Marriage Amendment to the constitution of North Carolina. We honored Sen. Dan Bishop (R-District 39) with the *Outstanding Legislator in Defense of Family Values Award*. In 2016 he served as a representative for North Carolina's 104<sup>th</sup> district and was the primary author and sponsor for H.B. 2 which became law in March 2016. Sen. Bishop continually defended this common sense law even after it was repealed in March of this year. Additionally, a framed resolution designating Dr. Billy Graham as *World Evangelist* was presented to his grandson, Roy Austin Graham, for the Billy Graham Library.
- ◆ From April to June, we ran our Encourage-A-Legislator Project in which 170 state legislators, Council of State members, 13 U.S. Representatives, two U.S. Senators, the president and first lady, and the vice president and second lady were prayed for regularly and received monthly postcards of Scripture and encouragement.
- ◆ In June we hosted our [17th Annual Day at the Capital](#) in Raleigh, which was co-hosted by NC Values Coalition. Our speakers included Tami Fitzgerald of NC Values Coalition; Anna Scott Marsh, Miss North Carolina International 2017, Mary Frances Forrester, our Associate Director and several legislators. The day was full as the group of 75 people visited



all 170 legislators' offices promoting three bills: Restore/Preserve Campus Free Speech (H.B. 527), Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws (S.B. 548), and Human Trafficking: Resistance and Rescue (H.B. 910). We later learned from a state senator that had we not been in Raleigh to push these bills that day, one of the bills probably would not have passed. As it turns out, H.B. 527 and S.B. 548 both passed. Thank you, Lord! As always, the chapel service with our legislators was especially inspiring. To conclude our day, we attended a reception given in our honor at Lt. Gov. Dan Forest's office!

- ◆ In September we participated in one of Love Life Charlotte's weekly prayer walks in front of the busiest abortion clinic in the southeast due to the number of patients and frequent protesters. What an amazing experience it was to join with over 300 people to pray and walk for the unborn.
- ◆ In October we co-hosted the first [Charlotte Municipal Candidate Forum](#). We felt such an event was necessary since Charlotte's leaders caused the cultural uproar in 2016 which led to the "bathroom bill" fiasco. We were joined by First Baptist Charlotte's Culture Impact Team, Frederick Douglass Foundation of NC, and Jesus Ministry, Inc. Candidates for Charlotte city mayor, city council, and Mecklenburg County School Board were invited. Twenty-five candidates attended, and we received compliments from many of the candidates, both conservative and liberal, as well as the audience.
- ◆ In October and November, we encouraged participation in the "And Then There Were None" (ATTWN) note-writing outreach to abortion clinic workers. ATTWN was started by Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood "Employee of the Year," to help abortion workers receive the necessary support to leave the industry.
- ◆ This month we joined the last prayer walk of Love Life Charlotte's 40-week campaign for the year. It was an honor to take a stand for life in unity with over 5,000 people.
- ◆ Throughout the year, we sent out regular e-alerts on issues, events, and projects, as well as our [bi-yearly newsletter](#).



A special thank you to our many Steering Committee Members, Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders, and Home Team Captains. You have all faithfully given countless hours in defense of Biblical values.

Thank YOU for your participation in 2017! It has been vital and effective. We look forward to all the Lord is going to do in 2018 with our combined efforts through the ministry of CWA. With your help, we will make a tremendous difference in our great state!

As this year concludes, please consider giving a generous gift to CWA of North Carolina. YOUR gift will give us a strong foundation to stand on as we go into the New Year. We are appreciative of your gift of any size, and all contributions will remain in the state. Click [here](#) to donate online. Or, write a check out to "Concerned Women for America," put "CWA of NC" on the memo line and send to our Records Correspondent, Mrs. Phyllis Philemon at 1233 Ladera Drive, Waxhaw, NC 28173.

May you have a Christ-filled season by finding your rest in Him.

In Christ,

Jill Coward  
State Director

**Concerned Women for America of North Carolina**

P.O. Box 472903 • Charlotte, N.C. 28247 • (704) 516 - 0820 • [nc.cwfa.org](http://nc.cwfa.org) • [director@northcarolina.cwfa.org](mailto:director@northcarolina.cwfa.org)