

JOY TO THE WAITING!

by CHAD ASHBY

No one is ever *happy* to wait. Stop lights, waiting lines, waiting rooms—they're all just a big waste of time. I've been a hurrier for as long as I can remember. I have a bit of a reputation for driving . . . *quickly*. I used to run across campus from my dorm to classes, and my current students joke that I have the power to teleport. Honestly, I think it's just this simple: I hate waiting.

The Ashby family has been in a season of waiting for almost three years now. We left Newberry, SC, and a church of people we loved to come to Greenville in 2021, assuming it would be a short season of transition. Here we are, still waiting for the Lord's direction for our long-term future.

But in the waiting, Griffin is becoming quite the athlete and Fletcher quite the artist. Teddy is proving to be an imaginative leader and Caroline a faithful friend. Davis is filling our home with laughter and Peter with coy smiles. For the kids, this isn't a season of waiting—it's their childhood.

It's easy to want to hurry through seasons like these, anxious to get on to whatever we're waiting for. But Advent is an invitation to childlike joy in the present. After all, kids love the weeks leading up to Christmas—all the baking and decorating and tree-trimming and cheesy music. The waiting is half the fun.

The truth is, waiting has given us the chance to open the Hutch and start this Post. Baking and writing for our neighbors has been a source of joy this year. It's led to emails, texts, and calls from friends old and new that have caused this *hurrier* to slow down and savor the wait. It reminds

me of that old Christmas carol with the weird verb tense: It's not "Joy to the world! The Lord *has* come." And it's not "The Lord *will* come" either—though both are true. Advent sings to us in the present: Joy to the waiting! The Lord *is* come.

POETRY CORNER

by Fletcher Ashby (age 11)

DECORATING

We drag it in
And bring out the bin.
Dad puts on the lights and lace
All held up by a sturdy base.
The transformation has begun
But much more is to be done.
To put on Mom hands one by one
Lovely ornaments until we're done.
And on the top up far
Dad places the majestic star.
And then this mere pine we see
Is now a beautiful Christmas tree.

ORDER A PIE

Residents of Greenville, SC can contact us via Facebook at facebook.com/thehutchgvl or email at ashbycc1@gmail.com

VISIT THE HUTCH

The Hutch is a 24/7 self-serve neighborhood pie & goodies stand at 5 Queensbury Dr. Greenville, SC 29617

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The Hutch Post is a weekly newsletter all about books and baking! Find out more at chadashby.substack.com

GRIFF'S TOP TEN

by GRIFFIN ASHBY (age 13)

10. Starting 7th Grade
9. Playing for the GCA middle school basketball team
8. Turning 13
7. Running as a hobby
6. Going to Homecoming at Grove City College
5. Playing for the GCA varsity soccer team
4. Going to Florida
3. Seeing a Pirates baseball game from box seats
2. GCA fall retreat at Lookup Lodge
1. Summer Vacation in Maine



Mindy: "Why did the angels sing when Jesus was born?"

Davis: "Because he was going to save the day!"



sour cherry pies
(dec 9)

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INBOX BY SUBSCRIBING TO OUR SUBSTACK AT:
CHADASHBY.SUBSTACK.COM



Bear heard a knock-knock on his door. When he opened the door there was a mouse bright-eyed. When he wants to get the pickles, um no no no yeah yeah, the mouse wants to check for presents. Then he was going to get the cheese, but then he tiptoed back upstairs, I mean not back upstairs, *upstairs*. And then he checked under the bed-bear. And the mouse peeked out his head, and then he got the cheese and mouse wasn't there.

Mouse was checking for presents. Again? Yes! He checked in the closet where there were presents, and mouse was there-in the boot. Then he went to get the crackers but mouse went into the Christmas tree. Mouse peeked out his head and got out. And they drunk a bit of tea and ate. And then mouse said, "The fire is lovely." And he said, "No presents."

Then he said very loudly, "THE STOCKINGS!" Bear smiled cuz there were stockings. And mouse opened his stocking first and in the wrapper there was a telescope, and they tried the telescope out. Then bear got a sled with red runners, and Bear said, "I always wanted a sled with red runners." Then they just sled down the hill. Woo, I'm done!

**DECEMBER
SCHODOODLE**

THURS DEC 7
**STRAWBERRY &
BLUEBERRY POP TARTS**
(\$3 each)

SAT DEC 9
SOUR CHERRY PIES
(\$22 each)

THUR DEC 14-
SAT DEC 16

**CHRISTMAS
COOKIE BOXES**
(\$25 each / please reserve!)

THURS DEC 21
**CRANBERRY-ORANGE
BABKA**
(\$18 each)

DEC 22-JAN 1
NO BAKES
TILL NEW YEAR'S!

Message or email us to reserve
yours in advance to make sure
you get one!

**WANT
SOMETHING
SPECIAL?**

We are happy to bake
something special for you! We
have filled special orders for
family gatherings, holidays,
birthdays, and no reason at all.

If you would like to order a pie,
cookies, or some other goodie...

CONTACT US



facebook.com/
thehutchgvl

ashbyccl@gmail.com



sugar cookies (cookie boxes dec 14-16)

**BOXES OF
CHRISTMAS CHEER**

We'll be baking up a storm this
December: sugar cookies, pinwheels,
shortbread, biscotti, pizelles, ginger
cookies, and more. If you're a
Greenville local and would like a
box—or want to give one to someone
you love—we will be boxing up cookies
for pickup on Thursday-Saturday, Dec
14-16. Message us on The Hutch
Facebook page or contact us via email
ashbyccl@gmail.com to reserve yours!

CHRISTMAS CROSSING

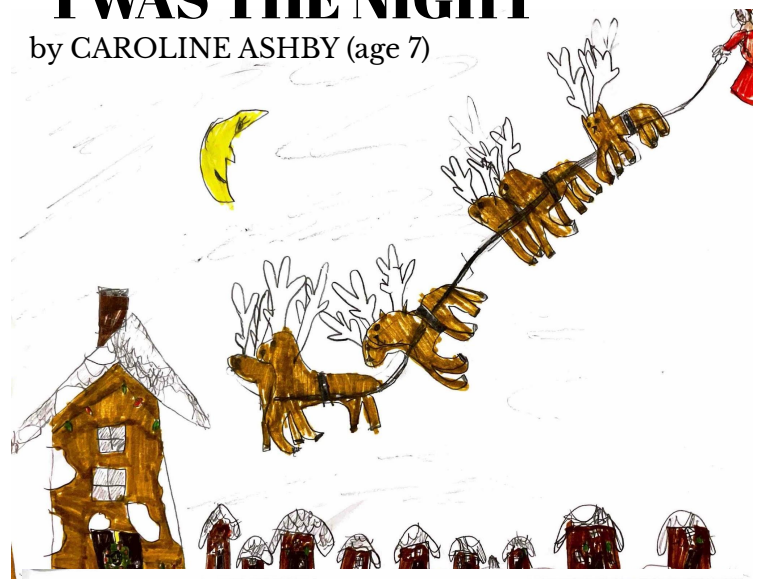
by TEDDY ASHBY (age 9)



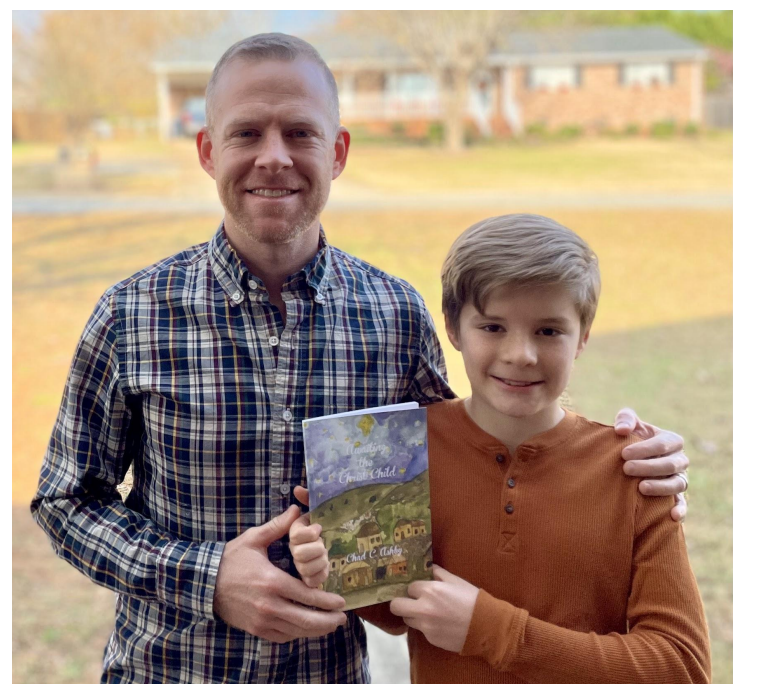
Washington and his troops
had been chased into New
Jersey across the Delaware River.
Hessians hired by the English to fight
the Americans were waiting for the river
to freeze so they could cross. So Christmas
night Washington and his troops crossed
the Delaware River and attacked and they won the battle.

'Twas THE NIGHT

by CAROLINE ASHBY (age 7)



When what to my
wondering eyes should
appear but a miniature
sleigh and eight tiny
reindeer



ASHBY ADVENT BOOK: THE WAIT IS OVER!

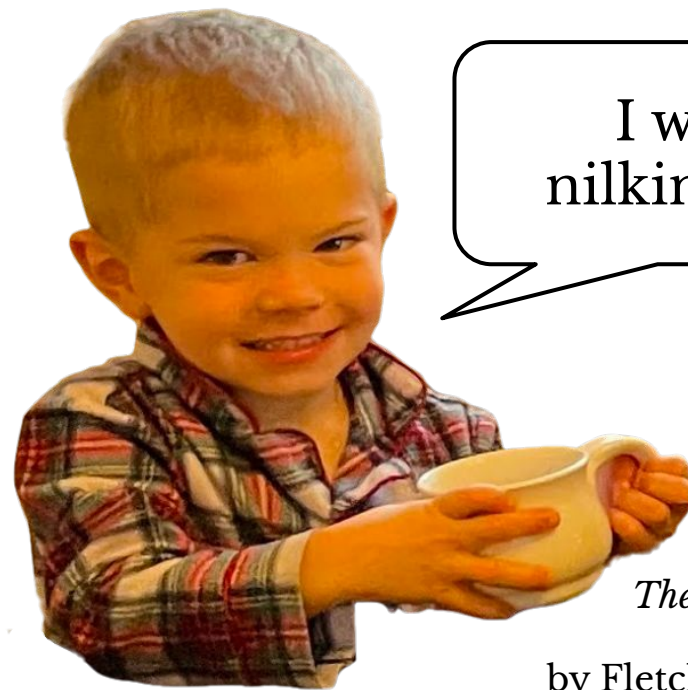
Chad and Fletcher have paired up again, this time for the
Advent devotional *Awaiting the Christ Child*. Harnessing the
anticipation of the Old Testament, the book's accessible
narratives are wrapped in the beautiful watercolor featured on
the back of this month's post! Find a copy on Amazon where it
is available with Chad's other 2023 release *Reading Classically*.

2023: FAVE BAKES

Mindy: Almond Macaroons
Griffin: Toll House Pie
Fletcher: Almond Macaroons
Teddy: Whoopie Pies
Caroline: Pistachio Meringues
Davis: Black & White Cookies
Peter: Maple Moon Pies
Chad: Cinnamon Doughnuts

FAVE BOOKS

Mindy: *The Scent of Water* (Goudge)
Griffin: *Something Fresh* (Wodehouse)
Fletcher: *A Place to Hang the Moon* (Albus)
Teddy: *Percy Jackson Series* (Riordan)
Caroline: *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* (MacDonald)
Davis: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
(Rowling, read aloud by Teddy)
Peter: *Each Peach Pear Plum*
(Ahlberg, read aloud by everyone)
Chad: *Dune* (Herbert)



I want
nilkinacup!

The Star of Bethlehem
(watercolor)
by Fletcher Ashby (age 11)

