



this issue

**The Reason for  
the Season:**  
A Student Perspective

## The Reason for the Season

This past fall semester marked my first semester serving as a student leader for CCF on the Ripon College campus. Thus far, my experience has been absolutely wonderful and has created some of my favorite memories of my college career. CCF organizes and participates in many activities throughout the school year, but one of our biggest events is our annual Christmas Party. This gathering has it all, annually including: a "build your own care package" station, a hot chocolate bar, and snowflake station. Since we celebrate Jesus' birth as the Messiah for all of mankind, we embrace that message and invite other campus groups to help us with this event so that we can attract even more students. This offers us the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ to more of the campus body. This year, I was the student leader in charge of helping Mandy, one of our campus ministers, with decorating for the event.

I am, by nature, quite introverted; and, as such, I often worry that I do not emulate necessary leadership skills since it is often difficult for me to be social and outgoing, especially in larger crowds and with people I don't necessarily know. God is so good, though, since He reminded me that He can and will use me in ways that utilize my strengths and talents through His strength and power. I am, also, by nature quite creative and adept at utilizing the Pinterest app. I spent time gathering different ideas for decorating, especially on a budget, and as a result, Mandy and I were able to add more decorations for the party than what had been accomplished in years past. Thus, it created a much more festive and beautiful event. Personally, my favorite decoration added this year was the balloon Christmas lights. Not only do I think that they turned out fantastic, they added a fun and festive element to the party décor. They were also a lot of fun to make and hang up with some people from another group on campus who don't usually come to our regular Thursday night campus meetings.

I also found the planning and execution of the decorations for the party to be a wonderful project to be working on during the last few weeks of classes. Amidst all of the reading; final projects and papers; and studying that I, along with the rest of the student body, was juggling, I found that planning the party was a beautiful way for me to focus on God, His Son, and, ultimately, His plan for me. It is easy to get caught up in the schoolwork and busyness that comes with the end of the semester and forget about what or who is most important in our lives. For me, this event helped me focus on Jesus and His will for not only my life, but every other person's life as well. Purposely taking out time during the last few weeks of school to help prepare for an event that reaches out to many of the students on campus provided a tangible and service-oriented way to take a break from schoolwork and focus on sharing God's love with the students on this campus. After all, Jesus is truly the reason for the season. By: Alexandra Molinski, Ripon College Student

