The holidays have a way of becoming so chaotic that many times we find ourselves crossed instead of enjoying the beauty and wonder of the season. Here are 6 tips that have helped me find balance during the most wonderful time of the year.

1. Write down your goals for the season. What things do you want to do that are out of your control over the holidays? Whether it’s “enjoy a sturdy-looking Christmas lights” or “a quiet dinner with friends,” it’s easier to keep your focus when you have this written down.

2. Use your calendar! First, go through and write down all of the non-negotiable commitments: Kids Christmas pageants, company holiday party, family dinner, church on Christmas eve, sports events... Put it all down. What you have left you can consider your open/available list to do some of those things you mentioned in support. Plug them in.

3. Set up a holiday planner. This could be as simple as a spreadsheet. Use this to write down all of the people that you want to buy Christmas gifts for and what you plan on buying them. If you do Christmas cards write your list here. If you’re hosting any gatherings, put your meal plans here. Writing down when time of day will help you stay within your budget and avoid too many impulse purchases.

4. Set boundaries. The holiday season is notorious for being filled with more activities than any one of us can feasibly do. In order to enjoy this time of year, reevaluate your priorities to make sure your family has to learn that “no” doesn’t always apply. For us all, you cannot have an extra plate of cookies for the cookie exchange. Say “no” to the party and set your limit and stick to it. Whether it’s a home made gift or something you buy, the key is to say that you have more “must” than we need. The thoughtfulness and “personal” gifts you have chosen in the past was something that the recipient will really love and use. If you cannot consider an alternative gift, it’s a gift card to their favorite store is always a well received gift. For the person that has everything consider a donation to their favorite charity in their name. I am also a big fan of “experience.” A day spent together in your favorite quilting shop will yield more memories than just a gift card to the same store.

5. If you’re able, complete your Christmas shopping by December 1. This one tip alone has relieved 90% of my holiday stress the last few years. It enables me to focus on the events and the people. I learn to be with during this special time, as opposed to fighting crowds at Christmas shopping. Many stores offer Christmas specials as early as November. Take advantage of these! But last but not least, be sure to carve out time to reflect on the real reason for the season. God gave us Bible. Ask yourself what your morning coffee and read the true Christmas story. Consider reading the scriptures for your favorite family so that you have to learn that “no” doesn’t always apply. For us all, you cannot have an extra plate of cookies for the cookie exchange. Say “no” to the party and set your limit and stick to it. Whether it’s a home made gift or something you buy, the key is to say that you have more “must” than we need. The thoughtfulness and “personal” gifts you have chosen in the past was something that the recipient will really love and use. If you cannot consider an alternative gift, it’s a gift card to their favorite store is always a well received gift. For the person that has everything consider a donation to their favorite charity in their name. I am also a big fan of “experience.” A day spent together in your favorite quilting shop will yield more memories than just a gift card to the same store.

6. If you’re able, complete your Christmas shopping by December 1. This one tip alone has relieved 90% of my holiday stress the last few years. It enables me to focus on the events and the people. I learn to be with during this special time, as opposed to fighting crowds at Christmas shopping. Many stores offer Christmas specials as early as November. Take advantage of these! But last but not least, be sure to carve out time to reflect on the real reason for the season. God gave us Bible. Ask yourself what your morning coffee and read the true Christmas story. Consider reading the scriptures for your favorite family so that you have to learn that “no” doesn’t always apply. For us all, you cannot have an extra plate of cookies for the cookie exchange. Say “no” to the party and set your limit and stick to it. Whether it’s a home made gift or something you buy, the key is to say that you have more “must” than we need. The thoughtfulness and “personal” gifts you have chosen in the past was something that the recipient will really love and use. If you cannot consider an alternative gift, it’s a gift card to their favorite store is always a well received gift. For the person that has everything consider a donation to their favorite charity in their name. I am also a big fan of “experience.” A day spent together in your favorite quilting shop will yield more memories than just a gift card to the same store.

Join us in our “Crusing I-95 Shop Hop” November 15 & 16
Shop hopping are:
• ladybug quilt shop• the Thread Quilt Shoppe• the Sew & Sew Quilt Shop in Kissimmee• the Right Kind of Blunt Fabric• Magpie’s Quilt Shop in St. Augustine Each shop will have a Mystery One for you. Visit all 5 shops and the prizes are the “Mystery Christmas Quilt Shop Hop Experience.”

We’ll be cruising I-95 on November 15 & 16 and we’ve got a list of prizes waiting for you. Stop by at the shops and the ladybug quilt shop. Visit all 5 shops and you’ll be entered to win one of the many prizes.

Florida Breeze Shop Hop

Deland, FL 32720

Cinnamon’s Quilt Shoppe

Orange City, FL 32763

Magpie’s Quilt Shop

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Orange City, FL 32763

BloCk kIT ~ CollECT All 6

Deland, FL 32720

One of the most fun is to make your own pomander, and the kids love folding the petals to form a cone. Use a simple vase (not too tall) and fill with water. Set it so that the petals face outward. Put cloves in the petals for a lovely and fragrant scent that will last.”

The specified document is a magazine page that features holiday shopping information. It contains details about the Florida Breeze Shop Hop, which is described as an event where participants visit various quilt shops along I-95, collect passports, and participate in drawing for prizes. The magazine page also includes tips for holiday shopping, emphasizing the importance of setting goals, planning, and sticking to a budget to avoid stress. Additional content includes a mention of pomander-making activities as a festive tradition. The page features advertisements for various quilt shops, including Ladybug Quilt Shop, Jacksonville, FL, and Cinnamon’s Quilt Shoppe, Orange City, FL, among others, with contact information and special offers such as passports and passes for the shop hop. The page ends with a call to action to visit all 6 shops to enter for a Grand Prize drawing. The content style is informative and promotional, with a focus on creating a festive and enjoyable shopping experience for the holiday season. The information is presented in a clear and organized manner, using headings, bullet points, and contact details to guide the reader through the available resources and events.