

Homeland
Moments & Memories



SHELBYVILLE
TIMES-GAZETTE

Bedford Co. 2022

The song of Christmas

By ZOË WATKINS

Billie Crowell led the devotional at the Shelbyville Woman's Club Wednesday and offered a simple reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

She began simply, "I love my Lord, and I love to serve Him."

For Crowell, Christmas has always been a time for singing. "And there's so much to singing about," she said, such as the coming of our Lord.

Though the Heavenly Hosts knew Emmanuel was coming, they would have to hold their song until a virgin girl named Mary knew the good news—or as Crowell described it, "the right time, just the right moment."

"Heaven did rejoice while the earth still waited, except for the faint echoes of long-past promises that were all in solemn stillness, unaware that the King of Kings was about to make His entrance."

Then, Crowell described how the first notes of a new song on earth began.

They, of course, began with the sound of a newborn's cry. Then came a mother's lullaby followed by the lowing of the cattle in the stables, Crowell poetically described.

"It was becoming quite the symphony—a masterpiece of praise to God the Father. The song was finally in the air over the dark plains outside of Bethlehem in Judea," Crowell said.

The shepherds had their solo voices until the angel came and said, "fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy."

That is, until the entire Heavens opened up and declared, "Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!"

Crowell described how this song was heard far into the East where the wisemen came from to view the child. "But, oh, what a child He was," she said. "Though he looked ordinary—just like us—He was actually God Himself in the flesh."

The prophets, like in the Book of Isaiah, called Him Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—the Savior of the World.



Billie Crowell

"One song, one night, and a new song for the ages...Hallelujah!" said Crowell said.

Jesus is the song—in our hearts, homes, and daily lives. "So, let's sing to Him."

Crowell finished with one of her favorite carols called "Straw is Yellow."

*Straw is yellow, straw is soft.
Who's that baby lying in the loft?
Straw made a bed on the manger floor,
The shepherds came to worship and*

adore.

*No room in the inn, the innkeeper said,
But Mary and Joseph needed a bed.
Go to the stable if you're tired and worn,
And there in the Manger baby Christ was born.*

*Herrod said to his wisest men,
A King's been born in Bethlehem.
Find that child whatever you do,
I want to go there and worship to.
Straw is yellow, straw is soft...*

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Woman's Club celebrates Christmas with music



Brock and Schuler played a variety of Christmas tunes and carols.

The Shelbyville Woman's Club had "A Musical Celebration of Christmas" with First United Methodist's Choir and Music Director Jon Brock and Organist and Pianist Lori Schuler last week. The flute and piano duet played a variety of tunes, both old and new, which brought back the nostalgia of Christmas time for many.



O Tannebaum



Brock and Schuler prepare the music before the concert.



Wednesday's concert was a full house at the Riverbend County Club.

Merry Christmas

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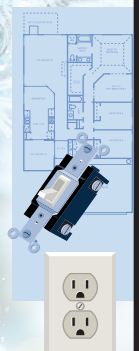
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ABOVE LEFT: Little Adley was a good girl this year and is excited for a visit from Santa Paws.

ABOVE RIGHT: Mr. T was bundled up on the couch during the holiday season in 2021.

LEFT: Frankie is excited for Christmas 2022 with her family after being adopted this past summer.

Submitted photos

 An advertisement for Riverside Liquors. The top and sides of the ad are decorated with a border of holly leaves, pine branches, and pinecones. The text in the center reads:

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 At the bottom, there is a red banner with the text "Locally Owned & Operated" and a small Facebook icon.



Submitted photo

Luna is all decked out and ready for the holidays.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

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LETTERS TO Santa

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Dear Santa,
 I would like a baby alive, a big stuffed animal, and a new dress. I would also like some Christmas pajamas with Santa and reindeer on them.

Love,
 Kylee Buckmon

Dear Santa,
 I would like a toy car, a doll, a big Spiderman book, and a small princess book.

Love,
 Lilyana Clark

Dear Santa,
 I would like a roblox gift card and a big car. I will leave you some chocolate chip cookies and milk.

Love,
 Joshua Day

Dear Santa,
 I love you. My baby brother wants a snuggle for Christmas. I would like an Elsa snuggle and an Elsa picture.

Love,
 Amelia Dunn

Dear Santa,
 I would like some Barbie toys, some stuffed animals, and clothes. I love you.

Love,
 Ellie Finch

Dear Santa,
 Please give me another ride on toy for Christmas and some baby clothes for my baby sister or brother that my mommy is going to have soon. Please give my dogs some new dog toys.

Love,
 Lane Fuller

Dear Santa,
 I would like a hoverboard, and Barbie clothes and accessories for Christmas. I love you.

Love,
 Eiza Gonzalez Cruz

Dear Santa,
 I would like a tablet for Christmas. I

will leave you some milk and cookies.

Love,
 Morgan Hicks

Dear Santa,
 I would like a toy robot, a stuffie dog, a real puppy, and an air soft gun.

Love,
 Garner Hopper

Dear Santa,
 I would like a Barbie for Christmas. Hope you have a happy Christmas.

Love,
 Mila Hughes

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy. I would like some new toys for Christmas.

Love,
 Joe Martinez

Dear Santa,
 I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,
 Timber Miller

Dear Santa,
 I would like a toy float for the pool and two nerf guns. I would also like a Cocomelon toy for my sister.

Love,
 Lizzie Nelson

Dear Santa,
 I would like a unicorn for Christmas. I also want a my little pony and some horsies.

Love,
 Jayden Rogers

Dear Santa,
 I want you to bring my baby brother some clothes. I would like a big monster truck with giant wheels and a remote control.

Love,
 Kyler Sanders

Dear Santa,
 I would like a few stuffed animals, and please can you get me a colossal giganotosaurus? We will leave you some milk and cookies & some carrots or apples for your reindeer.

Love,
 Foster Spencer

Dear Santa,
 I would like a kite, some new clothes, and an electric scooter for Christmas.

Love,
 Charleston Swing

The Christmas sentiment

By ZOË WATKINS

This Christmas, for me, feels different than my 22 other ones.

When I think of Christmas, I think of my childhood home: garland winding down the stairwell, jingle bell trees, Bing Crosby and Nat King Cole CDs, Mom's special poinsettia plates and teacups, chocolate gravy and biscuits, and a midnight candle service we haven't missed since I was a baby.

I lived in the same house for 22 years with my family. But last October, I moved out, and ever since then, the Christmas season hasn't quite felt the same.

When December 1 came, I had such a strong desire to recreate these superficial memories of Christmas but didn't know where to begin.

Now that I am no longer in my childhood home—and especially now that I'm married—I've realized I'm going to have to start making my own Christmas traditions instead of using old memories in order to get that "Christmas feeling." I'm just glad I'm realizing it now instead of later like Clark Griswold.

Though we may not admit it always, there's so much pressure around Christmas. And I never thought living up to my fond childhood memories would create this pressure to have a very merry Christmas—like "the ones I used to know."

Christmas is sentimental. It's in almost every Christmas song we hear. And if you're not used to the change, that sentiment can almost feel painful.

But here's the important thing: Christmas isn't about recreating sentimental memories and

"feeling" nostalgic. It is, of course, about celebrating our Savior's birth.

It took a fed-up Charlie Brown to realize this, and it took me moving out to realize it. It's the peace of "the reason for the season" that filled the void my childhood left.

All this has been said before—many times and many ways—but it never hurts to hear it again and again, especially as Christmas becomes more secular and commercialized every year.

I think back to the "good old days"; the days when families lived in one or two room cabins and had very little to give. I like to imagine they weren't concerned over creating memories and living off of past sentiments.

I imagine them thankful for another day, for another meal, for another year gone by. I imagine them thankful for Jesus and for a faith that sustains them through hardships of the year. Or to sum it like Tiny Tim, "God bless us, everyone."

There are many families like that still today in our community. They live real lives—not the ones prepped and primmed by social media. In this way, gratitude is more prevalent.

Again, it never hurts to say this: be thankful for what you have, and rest in the peace that our Lord and Savior Jesus came, died, and rose again so that we might live abundantly.

With this, the best and most sentimental Christmas memories will come naturally and genuinely.

RIGHT: My "first Christmas tree" (as a real adult)





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TEETH TREE

Many Christmas trees come in all different shapes, sizes, and ornaments...including teeth! This dentist decided to get creative with his Charlie Brown-sized tree as well as to remind patients to floss their teeth (just not with tinsel).

Submitted photo



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