



# Bihl's Bugle



## *Merry Christmas!*

Here is a brief recap of our 2024... even though this is the first time ever that the *Bihl Bugle* has turned into a 3-pager instead of a 2-pager!

Some of the highlights of our year included a Spring Break trip to Missouri to visit Amy's relatives (aunt and uncle, Cendy and Taylor, cousin Joshua and his family, grandfather Jim, and great-aunt Donna on the 121-year-old Hardy farm in S.W. City). We toured Grand Falls (aka Shoal Creek Falls), other familiar Joplin and Carthage sites, and also stopped at the Cherokee National Research Center in Tahlequah, OK. Amy's great-great-aunt Ruth Muskrat Bronson's dress that she wore to meet President Calvin Coolidge on Dec. 13, 1923, to advocate for tribal sovereignty, in addition to other artifacts that belonged to her, are on display there, but we unfortunately were unable to see the exhibit due to another group occupying the artifact room for a long while. We'll save it for our next trip! As a side note, on Dec. 21, 2023, the Cherokee Nation (which Amy, Caleb, Aden, and several other Muskrat family members are registered citizens of) officially declared Dec. 13 to be "Ruth Muskrat Bronson Day," which marked the centennial anniversary of her activist visit with President Coolidge. Amy's grandfather, aunt, and several other relatives were in attendance for the commemorative occasion.



Another highlight of the year included caring for our sweet Noelle's nine puppies. It was an incredible experience to witness the miracle of the precious puppies' births in mid-September, and we enjoyed taking caring of them for almost ten weeks. It was a lot of hard work but worth every minute and puppy snuggle! We found loving homes for eight of the puppies and decided to keep a lilac merle male, Pappy van Winkle (aka Pappy, Paps, Papster). He and Noelle are already instant playmates!

We still have our six Black Australorp chickens and have enjoyed gifting fresh eggs to family, friends, and neighbors. Because the chickens ate all of our backyard grass after free-ranging for over a year, we decided to put them in a penned-in chicken run in the Fall to help our grass grow back. Noelle still circles the entire pen, "herding" the chickens, and Pappy is quickly catching on as well.

I, **AMY**, am still a Social Work Case Manager with Therapy 2000 and still serve as Board President of the Texas non-profit, Chari-T2000. I had the privilege of teaching our church's children's choir again this Spring and Fall, this time with the Pre-K group, in addition to still serving in the First Baptist Woodway Choir and Praise Team. In the Fall, I also started teaching children's Sunday School for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders (15 min. Bible lessons with each grade) during the even months. My choral anthem, *At the Potter's Wheel*, was premiered by my twin brother Andy's church choir (*pictured right*) at First Baptist Waco on June 9. I had every intention of publishing a new congregational praise song and a children's picture book (yes, Harley Hedgehog is coming back!) before the end of this year, but the arrival of the puppies pushed those projects to 2025. I also had the pleasure of attending the biennial Argentine Baptist Missionary Reunion via Zoom in July and singing with members of the First Baptist Woodway Choir and First Baptist Waco Choir in the Annual Texas Baptist Convention in November.



**DANNY** is still Product Service Manager at Kirby Smith Machinery, Inc., where he oversees all field repairs in the Central and South Texas regions and supervises the field technicians, but he also now oversees the in-house shop repairs and supervises the shop technicians as well. In his spare time, he has been busy retrofitting his woodworking shop by insulating it and wiring it with electricity. He enjoyed fishing with the boys over the Spring and Summer at our local Amsler Park, and he also went on his first deep-sea fishing excursion in the Gulf of Mexico in August, catching several red snappers, including one that was half-eaten by a shark as he was reeling it in! Prior to that, he served on a five-man pyrotechnic crew with my brother Andy (whose brother-in-law led the crew) in Burleson, TX for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show (*pictured below right*). In April, the day after attending a Chari-T2000 fundraiser event in the DFW-area, we stood in line for over an hour to taste the delicious food of Goldee's Barbeque, the #1 top-rated BBQ restaurant of *Texas Monthly*. Danny was in his happy place as he inspected the meat smokers and talked with the owner. In October, Danny, along with other 1994 teammates, was honored by the Crawford High School Football Team for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their 1994 State Championship game. Members of the 2004 State Championship game were also honored, and that was the year that Danny & I started dating and attended the championship game, along with many of the other playoff games.



**CALEB** is a Freshman and has enjoyed playing his alto saxophone in the marching band for all of the high school football games, in addition to the Waco Veteran's Day Parade and a local Christmas parade. In the Spring (8<sup>th</sup> grade), he played in the All Region Band, won the McGregor Jr. High Band Outstanding Musician Award, the Temple College Jazz Fest Outstanding Musician Award (where he was a featured soloist), the McGregor Jr. High Band Golden Paw Award, and he earned three #1 UIL medals for music. Caleb also enjoyed going to Six Flags for the first time on a band trip at the end of the Spring, and he attended a week-long Sundays Camp at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Camp in Cedar Hill, TX with our church's youth group over the Summer.



**ADEN** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and has been thriving in school this past year. His favorite pastime is playing video games, and he loves playing Fortnite with Caleb, his cousins, and classmates. He has renewed his interest in soccer recently, so we are looking for a soccer program for him for the coming Spring. In the meantime, he enjoys practicing soccer in the backyard with his soccer goals that were gifted to him for his birthday. Aden also enjoyed attending VBS over the Summer, in addition to a three-day Cowboy Church Camp, a week of swim lessons, and many trips to the local Amsler Park Community Pool, which is just down the street from our home. In the Fall, he participated in our church's children's choir, KREW (grades 1st-4th), singing in a musical called "Danny & the Shacks."



*(Caleb is holding Pappy, our newest family member)*

Until next time, our dear family and friends, **we pray God blesses you** this 2024 Christmas season and 2025 New Year!

- Danny, Amy, Caleb, & Aden ([dannybihl@gmail.com](mailto:dannybihl@gmail.com), [amybihl@gmail.com](mailto:amybihl@gmail.com))

You can read our previous newsletters at [www.muskratracks.com/eng/amy.htm](http://www.muskratracks.com/eng/amy.htm)