



Bihl's Bugle



Happy New Year!

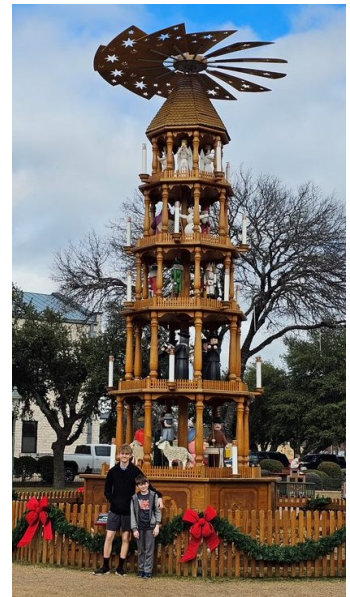
Here's a brief recap of our 2023...



We started the year off with accompanying Danny to the annual Too Cool "Big Chill" Adventure Race in January, where he served as a medic. It was held at Cameron Park in Waco, TX, so we didn't have to travel for it this year. In July, we traveled to Fort McKavett, a historic pre- and post-Civil War military post in the Texas Hill Country (just south of San Angelo) where Danny's great-great-grandfather, a Texas Ranger, served and lived. We enjoyed touring the historic grounds and museum, including nearby family gravesites, and learning about Danny's family heritage.

Aside from a one-day trip to Clifton, TX for its annual Norwegian Fall Festival, and a few quick trips to Fort Worth, TX, the only other trip we took this year was to the German tourist town of Fredericksburg, TX, where the four of us (and our border collie, Noelle) stayed for two days before Christmas Eve. As one friend put it, it felt like a "Hallmark Christmas movie" with its small-town tourist attractions, outdoor ice-skating, and twinkling holiday lights.

In May, we welcomed 10 baby chicks to our family; two Red Stars, two Rhode Island Reds, and six Black Australorps. We ended up giving the four Reds to some friends and kept the six Black Australorps. We're enjoying the fresh eggs and watching Noelle herd them. We tore down our old shed and used parts of it to build a chicken coop; it was a fun family project and a lot of hard work! The six "ladies" free-range in the backyard during the day but retreat on their own to the safety of their coop at night.



Danny still works at Kirby-Smith Machinery, Inc. as a Product Service Manager, and he also started his own woodworking business, Hammer & Nail, with plans to get it up and running in 2024 via Facebook Marketplace, weekend events, and a vendor booth at a local antique store.

I (**Amy**) still work at Therapy 2000 (aka Green Apple Therapy) as a Social Work Case Manager. I still have my blog, Faith & Family First, and I'm slowly trying to work on my book series. In May, I accepted the position of President for Chari-T2000, the charity I have been a part of for many years. I still sing on the Praise Team at church and in the church choir, and I taught Kinder choir (Kids Praise) at church in the Fall and will continue to do so in the Spring. A huge blessing for me this year is that I recently published a choral anthem, "At the Potter's Wheel." My mother, Nancy Muskrat, arranged and transcribed it, and she also composed the piano accompaniment. This song has been in the making for the past twenty-five years, so I praise God for His faithfulness in making it come to life!



Caleb is in the 8th grade and enjoyed participating in track (4 events) during the Spring and football during the Fall. He passed his mom in height this year and is still growing like a weed! Caleb still plays alto sax in the middle school band and jazz band, and he was awarded the "Outstanding Musician"

award in April, won three separate #1 medals for UIL (in music) in May, and he made the All-Region band in December, ranking #1 out of forty-six saxophone players. We are very proud of him and hope he continues to develop his musical talent. Caleb also volunteered at our church's VBS program over the Summer, and he attended a six-day teen camp called "Sondays Camp" at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Camp in Cedar Hill, TX.

Aden is in the 2nd grade and played baseball for the McGregor Bombers in the Spring. He decided at the end of the season that baseball (or organized sports in general) is not his favorite hobby right now; instead, he loves playing video games (especially team-play games with his brother and Dad) and watching Marvel and DC movies. Aden has grown a lot this past year, both in height and socially, and we are very proud of him and love his kind heart and jovial spirit. He also enjoyed singing in the children's choir (KREW) at church this year, attending VBS, and going on two school trips, including Hawaiian Falls (in Waco) and Dinosaur World (in Glenrose, TX).

That's pretty much it for us! **Until next time, blessings to you and your family during 2024!**

- Danny, Amy, Caleb, & Aden (dannybihl@gmail.com, amybihl@gmail.com)

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