

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

December Vol. 1-25



HOLIDAY HAHAS

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic!



What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

Cookie Sheets

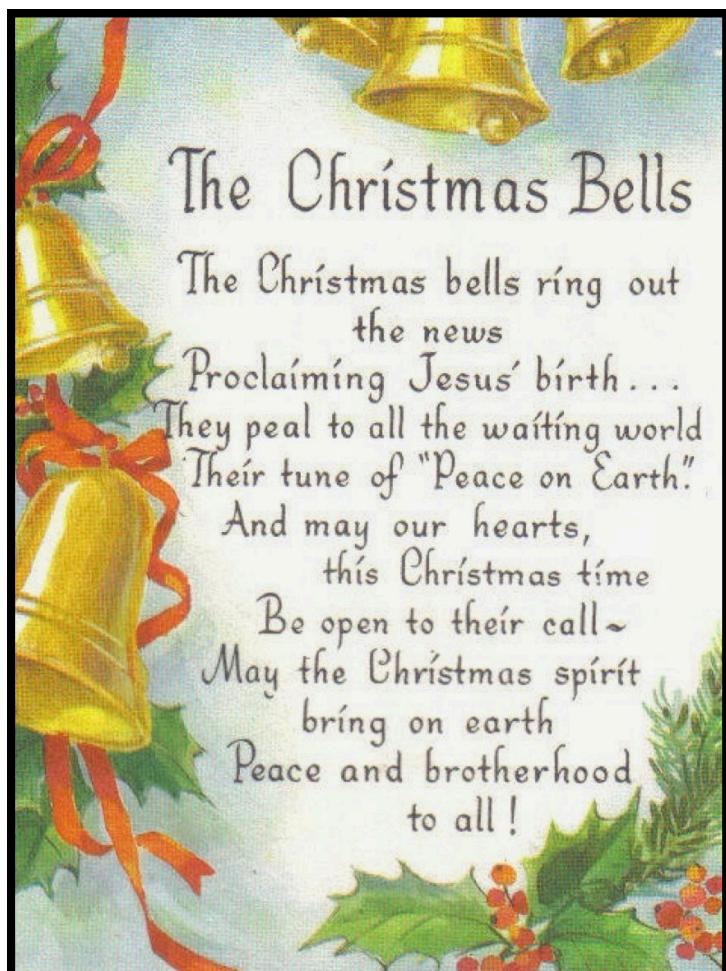


What's a parent's favorite Christmas carol?

Silent Night!



Knock Knock
Who's there?
Mary
Mary who?
Mary Christmas



Oh, Christmas Tree

written by Marla Carter

When I was a child, we always had a real Christmas tree. At my house, that meant going to the tree farm, picking out just the right one, strapping it to the car, and driving home where my dad would work to cut the trunk so it would fit in the stand just right. Decorations ranged from strings of popcorn and cranberries to ornaments made at church or school. My mom was a teacher, so you can imagine how many ornaments she was gifted over the years!

At my grandparents' house, putting up the Christmas tree meant getting the saw and going out into the woods to find the right one. It had to be a cedar tree (can't you just smell it right now?), and it could never have lights on it because my grandfather worried they would start a fire. We decorated it with icicles and those lovely old glass ornaments, plus homemade ornaments my grandmother had crafted from old Christmas cards.

Now, putting up the Christmas tree means that I go down to the basement, get the big storage bags, and carry the pieces of the tree upstairs, where it is assembled in a relatively short amount of time. No chopping, no watering, no messy sap involved. And sadly, no lovely evergreen scent.

For most of us, the Christmas tree feels timeless—like it grew right alongside our childhood memories. But the tradition has surprisingly humble roots. Long before electric lights twinkled in living rooms across America, people used evergreens as a sign of hope in the dead of winter. While the world outside lay bare and cold, evergreen boughs reminded them that life would come again.

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Centuries later in Germany, Christians began bringing small fir trees into their homes at Christmastime. The story goes that Martin Luther, walking home one crisp December night, paused to admire how the stars glittered through the branches of tall evergreens. Wanting to share that wonder with his children, he set up a tree in their home and lit its branches with candles—tiny points of light, like stars brought indoors. It became a picture of the Light who stepped into our darkness.

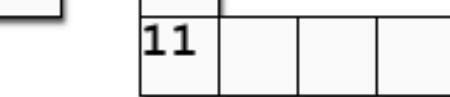
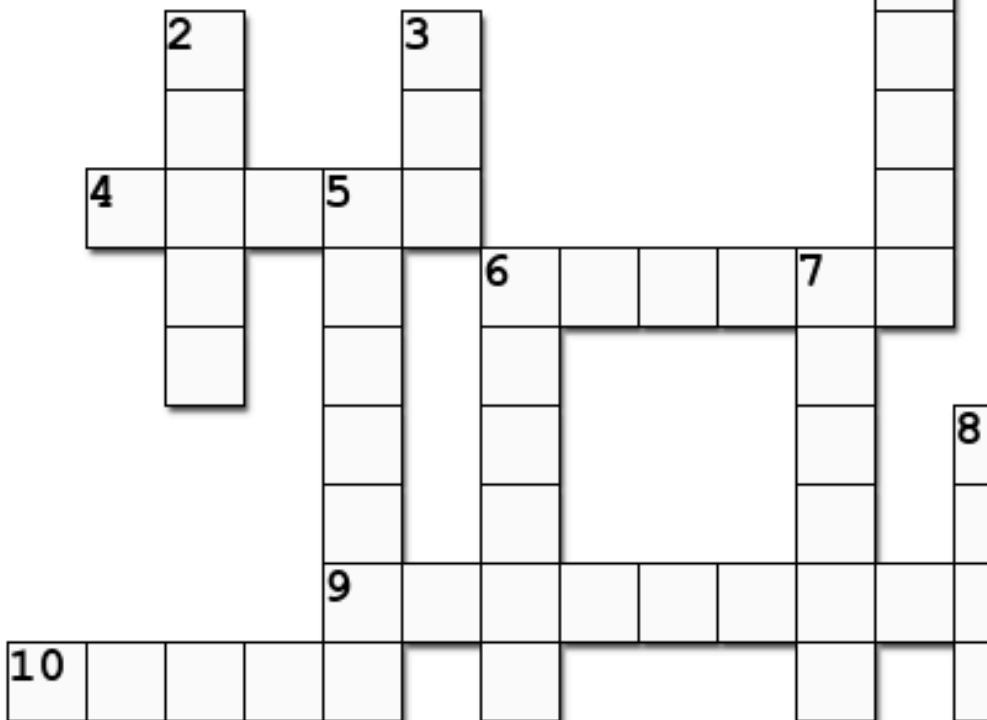
German immigrants carried the custom to America, though it didn't really take hold until the 1800s. When a newspaper printed an illustration of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert gathered around a decorated tree, people decided, "Well, if it's good enough for the Queen..." and the tradition spread like wildfire. Soon American families were trimming trees with handmade ornaments, strings of popcorn, and memories tucked among the branches.

But the Christmas tree is more than decoration. It's a symbol of a deeper truth. Evergreen branches remind us of God's unchanging faithfulness—life in every season. The lights remind us of Christ, the Light of the world, who shines in the darkness and is not overcome. And the very shape of the tree, pointing upward, draws our hearts toward the One who came down to lift us up.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" — Isaiah 9:2



OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

evergreen lights ornaments hooks red gifts needles tannenbaum Luther

water star stand

Across

4. what holds the tree in place
6. these twinkling decorations often get all twisted up
9. a tree that stays green all year long
10. what you use to hang ornaments
11. what sits proudly on top of some trees

Down

1. what we place under the tree (though people used to place them IN the tree)
2. if you have a live tree, be sure to give it this so it doesn't get dry
3. classic Christmas color (other than green)
5. real trees will drop these if you don't water them
6. the person credited with having the first Christmas tree
7. German word that means fir tree
8. we hang these carefully because some are fragile