Shelbyville Good News

FEBRUARY 2023

TERRY & JOANNE THEIS

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Location! Location! Location!

Situated on the northern side of Bedford County, this farm has row crops in the backside of the property, nice open pastures and hay ground, a solid brick home with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, barns, equipment sheds, spring and city water, creek runs thru the farm and much more. Adjacent to the new Tennessee Downs Racetrack

152 Eady Road, Shelbyville, TN

$1,790,000 MLS# 2462365

PRICE REDUCED!!

Stunning Colonial home featuring 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, entry foyer, 3 fireplaces, in-laws quarters, Florida room with wet bar, library/ office, nook, upstairs landing, in-ground pool with deck & pool house, barn, storage on over an acre. This historic home has it all!

407 East Franklin Street, Shelbyville, TN

$589,000 MLS# 2403477

Ultimate Getaway of 144+/- Beautiful Secluded Acres!

This property offers some of the best recreational opportunities in the county with incredible wildlife as well as income producing row crop & possible hay producing acreage! The property's valuable timber species along with food plot locations provided excellent forage for trophy deer & numerous turkey flocks that utilize this property! The pond on the property ensures a year around water source for wildlife helping create a perfect habitat for holding hunting & managing the awesome wildlife.

1 Coffee Road, Shelbyville, TN

$1,194,900 MLS# 2444435

New Construction Homes D&D Subdivision

This land has many features including a pole barn, 3 Richie water wells for animals and over an 8tgh of a mile of creek frontage, Fall Creek. County water is at the road and there are endless possibilities with this tract of land!

222 Coney Island Road, Shelbyville, TN

$269,900 MLS# 2435154

125+/- Beautiful Rolling Acres

This land has many features including a pole barn, 3 Richie water wells for animals and over an 8tgh of a mile of creek frontage, Fall Creek. County water is at the road and there are endless possibilities with this tract of land!

2440 Highway 41A North, Shelbyville, TN

$1,675,000 MLS# 2384672

New Construction Homes at Longview Point - More Homes Available

This home has an open floor plan, primary suite with double tray ceiling, double vanities with large walk in double headed tile shower, granite in kitchen and bathrooms, stainless appliances, vaulted office / study / 4th bedroom ceiling, huge sunroom off rear of house with see thru stone gas fireplace to living room, 2 car attached garage, 14x14 patio on 1.77+-acres

838 Longview Road, Shelbyville, TN

$599,900 MLS# 2404322

Charming Home in Northern Marshall County

This 3-bedroom 2-bathroom home has a bonus upstairs and a 2-car attached garage. It has hardwood floors throughout the main areas, tile in the wet areas, and carpet in the bedrooms. The large owner's suite has two separate closets, double vanities, soaking tub, and stand-up shower. The kitchen includes granite countertops, soft close drawers, pantry, and stainless-steel appliances stay! Outside has a covered concrete patio, landscape lighting, and a fenced in back yard.

2192 Blackwell Road, Chapel Hill, TN

$505,000 MLS# 2456175

Gorgeous Like New Brick & Stone Home

This 2,250 SqFt home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, high ceilings in large living room, white cabinets, island w/granite & pantry in kitchen, huge walk-in closets, walk-in shower in owner's suite, rec room upstairs, hardwoods & tile, covered back patio, concrete drive & attached garage.

210 Shofner Bridge Road, Shelbyville, TN

$547,500 MLS# 2460917

Spectacular Home in Northpoint Subdivision

This 4-bedroom 3 bath brick/stone home features beautiful hardwoods, tile, great room, large den w/fireplace, stunning 1st floor primary suite, formal dining, rec room over garage, guest room downstairs, stamped concrete drive & sidewalks, covered deck, new HVAC upstairs, all new custom shutters, new plumbing, & new garage door. Selling "AS IS WHERE IS".

132 Northpoint Circle, Shelbyville, TN

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201 Sulphur Springs Rd.

Beautifully renovated 3 BR, 2 BA all brick home on almost 2 acres. Property includes 3 car garage (100 amp electric service) & 40 x 72 ft barn (100 amp electric service & city water). Home has 12 x 28 basement (waterproofed in 2018) & full unfinished attic. Upgrades include: HVAC 2022, roof 2018 (total tear off), Pella windows (2016), total rebuild of kitchen 2018 (new appliances, cabinets & quartz countertops), complete rebuild of baths, new bamboo flooring, 2 updated wood burning fireplaces, & 12 x 28 3-season room addition (2018). Low Bedford County taxes & utility costs. All this just 1-1/2 miles from historic Shelbyville town square!

$385,000 MLS# 2403068

1905 Madison St.

$15K can be used for buyers closing cost / prepaid items SO MANY EXTRAS. DOUBLE MASTER HOME All floors are either LVP or tile. Black stainless LG appliances. Marble countertops throughout. 2 Master en Suites. Subway shower tile throughout. Digital dial hot water heater with 5 year warranty. Open concept Kitchen / Dining / Living Area. Centrally located, 60 miles from Nashville International Airport, 26 miles from Tim's Ford Lake, 30 miles from MTSU, 18 miles from Lynchburg & Jack Daniels Distillery, 10 miles from George Dickle & minutes away from Historic Wartrace & Bell Buckle.

$388,000 MLS# 2429824

44 Suntan Ct.

ASK ABOUT A 321 BUY DOWN WITH OUR PREFERRED LENDER. This beautiful 4 Bedroom, 3 BA home in the gated Twin Creeks Resort built by Denali Construction. This home features a large open concept Living Room with fireplace. The Kitchen offers custom cabinets, Quartz countertops, top of the line oven, stove & microwave, large peninsula & dining area. The downstairs Guest Suite offers a spacious bedroom & bathroom with a walk-in shower. The upstairs Master Bedroom/Bathroom offers a spacious walk-in closet, double vanities & a walk-in rain head shower with Custom Bluetooth speaker. Also, upstairs there are two more bedrooms, another full bathroom with walk-in shower & large 14x18 bonus room. Spacious back patio with outdoor fireplace.

$599,900 MLS# 2423109

1507 N. Main St.

Highest traffic count in town, corner lot, great business location. Property zoned C-2. May be used for dozens of business types including retail, a variety of services & professional offices. Selling as is. Property information is thought to be accurate but not guaranteed. Buyers and/or their agents should verify if important.

$324,900 MLS# 2390263

106 White Cloud Trl.

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$769,900 MLS# 2435260

312 Riverbend Country Club Rd.

Beautiful new brick new home with an open plan. Granite tops in Kitchen as well as Stainless Steel Appliances. Cathedral Ceiling in LR, Trey Ceiling in Master BR. Master has a very nice BA with tile shower as well as a separate tub, double vanities. Covered deck (10x16) as well as a patio (14x16) outside. Double car garage (23x25) with a black door completes the house. Customized Shelving will be added to home.

$520,000 MLS# 2442487

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: 10
From the heart

Good News

LOCAL TEACHER WORKS WITH THE COMMUNITY TO FUND MORE THAN 40 SCHOLARSHIPS 14
Cascade Elementary teacher worked hard to honor her sister through helping students

THE BEDFORD COUNTY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER EXPANDS ITS SERVICES 18
Creating your connection to the past by preserving the past and the present

SHELBYVILLE'S FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES A HISTORICAL BIRTHDAY 22
How firm a foundation

36

Good Living

28 **BECAUSE CAREGIVERS NEED CARE, TOO**
A local program serves caregivers and Alzheimer's patients with heart

36 **SCIENCE, STARS, AND STUDENTS**
A love of the night sky launches Shelbyville native into the future of his dreams

44 **FROM THE HEART**
Unconditional Love, Family Love, & Romantic Love in our community

60 **NACHO AVERAGE MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
Taco Feliz is taking classic Mexican dishes and elevating them to a new modern level

64 **RECIPES: A SPECIAL TREAT FOR SOMEONE SWEET**
Surprise and delight your loved one with Valentine's Day treats

66 **FAITH: LEAVE THEM BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM**

Good Times

72 **CANVAS COMMUNITY SHELBYVILLE RELAUNCHES**
Caleb McCall discusses Shelbyville's Canvas Community Church relaunch as Legacy Church

76 **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

80 **EVENTS CALENDAR**

82 **ADVERTISER INDEX**

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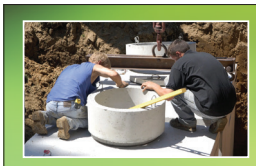

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

From the heart

We may never understand love fully, and that is okay.

IMAGINE LIFE is a car, and our goal is to make it from one side of the country to the other. The only way to do that is by having a full tank of gas. What is the gas in our lives, as humans, that makes us go? How does the car move further along the path? I believe that love is the gas in the car.

Connection from one human to another makes us who we are. Writers have tried to put love into words over and over again. Centuries of lives have been spent trying to understand love. We want to nail it down to scientific understanding — and while we may get close to understanding the amygdala and mirror neurons in our brains — we still have yet to understand love and compassion fully. It's something we feel for our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, friends, and maybe somehow for our enemies.

We may never be able to explain it, but we surely can try. This issue of Good News is about love: the love between friends, love between partners, and love between people in the community. These stories from the heart are Good News. GN

Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

From our readers

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"I LOVE the magazine. Many thanks to all of you for publishing such a "good feel" magazine."
- Dora Barnes, Good News reader

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Mar
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
43
44
Wills
D1

GOOD NEWS

CHAPTER 1 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local positive news you may have missed.

14 Local teacher works with the community to fund more than 40 scholarships.

18 The Bedford County Archives and Records Center expands its services.

22 Shelbyville's First United Methodist Church celebrates a historical birthday.

Submit a positive story on our website:

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◄ Carol Roberts, Kathryn Hopkins

Cheri Blackwell ▲

Local teacher works with the community to fund more than 40 scholarships.

Cascade Elementary teacher worked hard to honor her sister through helping students.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

CHERI BLACKWELL was born to be a teacher—it's in her genes. Retired teacher Brenda Ayers, Blackwell's aunt, influenced a family of educators: her daughter, Robin Ayers Adcock; her granddaughter, Haylie Spence Dial; and her niece, Blackwell.

"Watching her made me want to teach, and I've always loved kids, so it was just something I always knew I wanted to do," Blackwell said.

While the decision to teach was easy, the road to the classroom was not, but she was determined to get there. She worked two jobs and paid for her education in full, and one of the jobs further affirmed her call to teach.

Blackwell said, "I was raised by my mom, a single parent who was an extremely hard worker and instilled it in me. One of my jobs was with the Extended School Program, and it reinforced how much my heart was in teaching. So many students made me love the job before I ever got into the classroom—students I'm still in contact with today. It was hard work, but it helped make me the person I am today, and I wouldn't have changed a thing."

Blackwell is a fourth grade teacher at Cascade Elementary School, where she has taught her entire career. The close-knit community within a K-12 school system adds to the joy of teaching.

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"I love seeing a student get something you've taught them. It's like a light bulb went off, and they are so excited. Also, the unconditional love students truly have for their teachers is amazing. I love being able to watch them grow up. It goes very fast, too. At Cascade, you get to see all of their different phases as they become seniors. That's one of the best things about Cascade—seeing their continued success and the amazing people they become," Blackwell said.

Now in her 27th year, she teaches the children of her former students.

"I love seeing what wonderful parents my past students have become. No matter what, they will always have a special place in my heart."

There's a special place in the hearts of Cascade students and families for Blackwell, too. Their support has helped Blackwell through the most challenging days of her life after losing her sister, Keri King, in a head-on collision in 2018.

The sisters were everything to each other. A senior when King was born, Blackwell helped her mother care for her newborn sister while their father recovered from a serious car accident. By the time King was 11 years old, both parents had passed away from cancer, and Blackwell became mother and father to King in addition to her role as her sister.

King's life continues to bless the community through a scholarship program that Blackwell established in her sister's memory. The community continues to donate to it, funding 40 to 50 scholarships in the past four years.

It's the perfect way to honor King's memory and invest in the future of the student body that Blackwell serves with heart and a loving smile. **GN**

Cascade High School seniors can apply for the Keri King Memorial Scholarship by contacting Blackwell at Cascade Elementary School. Donations to the scholarship may be mailed to 2229 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

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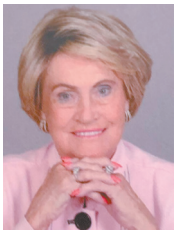

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▲ Carol Roberts and Kathryn Hopkins

The Bedford County Archives and Records Center expands its services.

Creating your connection to the past by preserving the past and the present

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

STEP INTO the office of the Bedford County Archives and Records Center (BCARC) with me. Now, close your eyes and take a deep breath. That's more than the smell of old books and records; that's a current of electricity powering a teleporter loaded with archaeological tools. It's your connection to artifacts you never knew you'd want or need.

Archivist Carol Roberts and her assistant, Kathryn Hopkins, are your dig guides, and they're more efficient than Google at unearthing your missing puzzle pieces.

BCARC is your local resource and access to public records and documents from the county offices.

Gaps in records from natural disasters impacting the courthouse aren't nearly as wide as we imagine. Some records survived a tornado in May 1830, an accidental fire during the Civil War in March 1863, and the December 1934 fire set by a rioting mob. Historical documents from the periods immediately before and after the events connect dots and fill in the blanks for those that were lost.

Blanks in your history may also be filled in through their office. There are more than certificates of marriage and death, more than old probate records and last wills and testaments. The potential exists that even more valuable, seemingly unrelated information is encased within those very documents. Like buried treasure or missing puzzle pieces, these records bear witness to life and times before today and will house the records of tomorrow's local history.

An old probate file may contain claims written on invoices or letterheads revealing a long-forgotten business that once thrived on the public square or near a railroad depot. An old lawsuit settlement might disclose that your ancestor was an adjoining property owner to a tract being sold by the court, even though you'd been unable to find a record of his recorded deed. While researching the cemetery located within the boundaries of the property you recently

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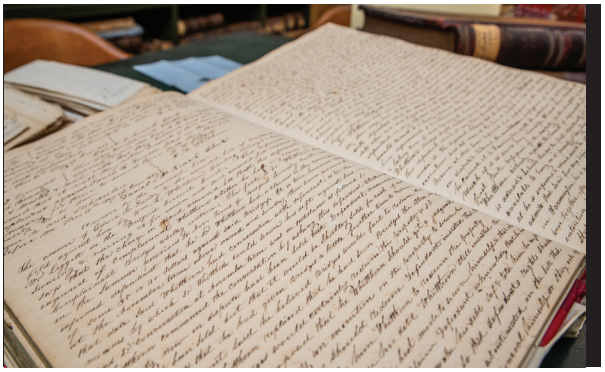

purchased, an old deed for the cemetery might reveal a reference to an abandoned lane that once connected your property and others to a toll road, later dedicated as a state highway.

Reach out to Roberts or Hopkins with your question or need. With access to original documents and digital records, you may be one question away from finding your treasure.

Projects are underway to improve and organize information within BCARC's vast resources. More recent documents are stored in the former state unemployment building purchased by the county.

Roberts said, "The primary goal has been to change from history or family genealogy only to serving the county agencies or departments. That means we're helping with current records not presently used in their office and the historical ones that must be preserved by law."

The document preservation is subject to requirements in Tennessee codes Annotated.

"We're following all the code for retention, disposal, and authorization, but no one's had the time, in Bedford County, to fully index or identify these records and get them in the proper sequence," she said.

Don't brush off the possibility that the office might benefit you, your project, or your curiosity about local history through its tools and connections, including its website.

"One of my top goals is to improve the website. We've gotten grants to improve it, and we purchased equipment for digital imaging of microfilm as needed, which makes it available and easy to read," said Roberts.

It's an office steeped in the past, the present, and the future.

Roberts said, "We have a service to provide to the citizens of the county. The goal is to make all of it easily accessible for whatever the research subjects might be. This is about permanent public county records that will be preserved forever. And yet they're accessible because we have preserved them. And we're building on that past preservation." **GN**

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Shelbyville's First United Methodist Church celebrates a historical birthday.

How firm a foundation!

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitted by Donna Brock

A CHURCH THAT has endured fire, natural disasters, the Civil War, cholera epidemics, and a global pandemic persevered and held its Bicentennial Plus Two celebration Sunday, September 18, 2022. The location has changed throughout time, but the church is not the building; it is its people and the presence and work of the Spirit, a power not confined within brick and mortar.

First United Methodist Church's (FUMC) pastor, Abe Zimmerman, said at the celebration, "Each of us stands on the shoulders and sacrifices of many faithful believers who called themselves Methodist and formed this church. They promoted a gospel of grace, love, truth, and hope. As we remember the past, we acknowledge that we still live in the present, and with faith, we dream for the future."

REMEMBER THE PAST

It's a foundation that began as the Methodist Church in the days of campground meetings at Salem, near Bell Buckle, as early as 1808 and grew to a wood-frame building constructed near the present-day First Baptist Church. After a tornado, a new one was erected on Martin Street (now North Main Street) near Shelbyville's present post office. Continued growth led to the 1879 purchase of a lot on the northwest corner of the public square. Groundbreaking took place in 1880, and the congregation moved into the new church at its present location in 1885.

Membership director Donna Brock, assisted by Barbara Owen, updated church history from the compilation by Charles Woodruff, referred to by church members as "The Blue Book," and a timeline created by former minister Lanita Monroe. It's a history

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of ministry, worship, missionary work, evangelism, and world and community outreach, evidenced by displays in the archive room created by present church historian Ann Spencer.

Brock said, "We don't want to live in the past, but we want to honor it."

LIVE IN THE PRESENT

The Bicentennial Sunday service offered the fragrance of the sacrifice of Thanksgiving and praise. Pastor Abe reminded congregants of the solid and single foundation of the church.

Pastor Abe said, "In the last 200 years, this church has had a few different buildings. But it's only ever had one foundation—'Jesus Christ, her Lord.'"

Lori Shuler's piano solo, "It Is Well," and the choir's anthem, "Love, Mercy, and Grace," were commissioned and composed by Joel Raney for the celebration. The pieces debuted at the special service, and the arrangements are now available through Hope Publishing Company.

As a mission-oriented church, the celebration included a multi-generational, one-day project benefiting Rise Against Hunger, organized by Rheaetta Wilson. Almost 11,000 meals were packaged in two hours by nearly 50 participants and will be shared domestically and globally by the organization.

DREAM FOR THE FUTURE

The FUMC faith and vision of the past 200 years compel its dreams for the church's future.

Brock said, "Our goal is to build on our past, be involved positively with the community around us, and be a good neighbor to the businesses, government, and visitors. Also, we want to provide outreach and hospitality through our members and in connection with the United Methodist Church, Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, and Good Sam. We want to grow along with the future growth of Bedford County, not just to add to our membership but to be a place to make disciples and a place of Christian fellowship and outreach."

FUMC is reaching for the future on a firm foundation! **GN**

For more information, follow FUMCShelbyvIlle on Facebook or visit fumcshelbyville.com for service times and events.

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CHAPTER 2 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local people or businesses you need to know about.

28 Because caregivers need care, too

36 Science, stars, and students

44 From the heart

60 Nacho average Mexican restaurant

64 Recipes: A special treat for someone sweet!

66 Faith: Leave them better than you found them.

Our stories are based on submissions from local people. Submit yours here:

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◂ Judy Gambill

Because *caregivers* need care, too

A local program serves caregivers and Alzheimer's patients with heart.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

▲ Dana Bobo and JT Holman

CITY NEWS // COUNTY NEWS // SCHOOL NEWS // FAITH // EVENTS // RECIPES
SHELBYVILLE
Good News
MAY 2022
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Dana Bobo ▲

SPENDING MOST, if not all, of your time with a loved one that can't recognize their surroundings, forgets if they've eaten recently, or can't remember your name can be more than overwhelming. It might even leave you feeling exhausted, depressed, and hopeless. While in-home care for your loved one with Alzheimer's is ordinary, the caregiver's personal resources seem few and far between. Caregivers in Shelbyville and Bedford County are blessed by a local program that assists with the well-being of the caregiver and their loved one.

In 1993, the Caregiver Relief Program of Bedford County was organized to educate the community about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, according to its director, Dana Bobo. Over time, the program expanded to include monthly in-home visits that address the family's needs, identify community resources, educate about the disease and caregiving, and assist with securing respite care.

Bobo explained, "Through our collaboration with the Tennessee Respite Coalition, we currently offer $200 per month reimbursement to families for quality respite care. We also offer a lending library and a Music & Memory program. During home visits, it's my goal to come alongside the caregiver and offer encouragement, share ideas for dealing with challenging behaviors, and assure them they are not alone in their journey."

Alzheimer's education is a core element of the organization's mission. Their resources for presenting a clear picture of a disease that scrambles images on the patient's mental screen are insightful and impactful.

"We offer memory screenings to the public, and the Virtual Dementia Tour, providing an opportunity to spend a few minutes in the shoes of people living with Alzheimer's disease. Second Wind Dreams developed the Virtual Dementia Tour and specially trained facilitators to conduct this virtual reality experience. This up-close, hands-on experience gives critical insight to those caring for someone living with Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases," said Bobo.

The Music and Memory program has sparked life in non-responsive patients. Music speaks where words often fail. Familiar songs and melodies wake up sleeping minds and spirits when the headphones are on. The musicandmemory.org documentary videos bring tears as you watch the patient's positive response to familiar tunes loaded onto MP3 players.

The experiences locally have been the same. Joyce Adams, the previous director, said, "We've had a couple of non-verbal people who spent most of their time in bed. We put music on them that they recognized, and after regular use for a couple of weeks, the patient, who had been non-verbal for a good while, was singing along."

The caregiver's identity can be lost as they attempt to provide the best care possible for their spouse, parent, loved one, or friend, leaving two people struggling to know who they are. The program's equal emphasis on the caregiver and the patient is a powerful partnership.

Bobo said, "According to the Alzheimer's Association, there were 361,000 caregivers who provided 489,000,000 hours of unpaid care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease in Tennessee in 2021. The value of that care was estimated to be $6,901,000,000! Approximately 66% of these caregivers deal with their own chronic health conditions. The sheer physical,

▼ JT Holman

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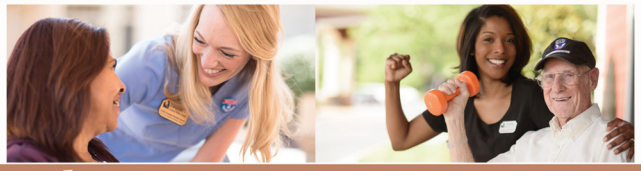

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I am so thankful for the program! It has helped ease my mind of so much worry over not knowing where to start. The caregiver's list they provided has helped a lot, and it's a great relief to know there is some financial help available to cover some time off for yourself.

-Trena Cook

psychological, and emotional toll on caregivers is immense. About 40% of those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease die before their care recipient.

Caregiver Mary Bicknell said, "The program opened my eyes to the stress of being a caregiver. I was dealing with my parents and my personal life, and the program allowed me to take time for myself and relax without worrying about how they were getting along—a peace of mind that all was well even when I wasn't around."

Trena Cook also found relief through the program. "I am so thankful for the program! It has helped ease my mind of so much worry over not knowing where to start. The caregiver's list they provided has helped a lot, and it's a great relief to know there is some financial help available to cover some time off for yourself."

It's a need that is growing exponentially, along with our aging population. The community's need for the program will be greater than ever.

Bobo said, "We would like to begin a support group for our families. The closest groups at this time are in Murfreesboro and Tullahoma. To add a support group, we will need additional financial support. Our program's support of these families will become more important as more and more families seek to care for their loved one at home."

She continued, "To add this service, we will need to increase the financial support we receive. We are primarily supported by grants from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, The Dandridge Trust, The Healing Trust, The East Tennessee Foundation, The Pat Summit Foundation, United Way of Bedford County, the Evans Family Trust Fund of First Presbyterian Church, and the Walmart Foundation. We also hold fundraisers and seek support from individuals and businesses in our area. This financial support has allowed us to provide monthly home visits at no cost to our families and enables us to reimburse them for respite care."

The program is unique because it serves Bedford County residents only, so your contributions go directly to the local community.

Helping one another find our way when we feel lost—isn't that the beauty of living in Shelbyville and Bedford County? **GN**

For more information or to have Bobo speak to your church or organization, call (931) 685-9039 or find the program online at caregiverreliefbedfordco.org.

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SCIENCE, STARS, AND STUDENTS

A love of the night sky launches Shelbyville native into the future of his dreams.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes
and submitted by Billy Hix

Billy Hix

TO SAY "the sky's the limit" is to aim low in the world of Shelbyville native Billy Hix. While the concept of the internet did not exist when Hix was a fifth grader, he'd have had no problem believing he would one day be found on it by searching "Billy Hix NASA." Two things were in view in the telescope of his dreams and plans—plans he shared with his mother as a grade schooler.

"I told my mom, in the fifth grade, that someday I was going to work at a 'cool' place like NASA, but in my spare time I was going to visit schools and tell them about the things that I wanted to know—and that is what I have done," Hix said. He aimed successfully for the stars and wants other young children in rural communities, like the one of his childhood, to do the same.

Today's education system bears little resemblance to education in the rural South of the 60s. For centuries, agriculture was the leading economy and way of life. School days were scheduled around planting and harvesting seasons, and family members were expected to work the land from early childhood. A bold and sometimes vocal expectation for students to continue the tradition upon graduation existed within families and schools. College was seen negatively and discouraged, but Hix didn't listen. He entered college and the workforce with his goals before him and doggedly pursued his fifth-grade vision.

Hix said, "When I was a young lad, I wanted to go to college so I could help people go into space. It often had me at odds with my teachers, but I did attend college and obtained multiple degrees in a variety of

▲ Jan Hix helping with a star party

fields over my lifetime. But I never forgot where I came from. I worked at NASA for many years, and when I returned to Tennessee, I taught future and current science teachers. From the start of my working career, I looked for ways to reach out to rural schools to let students know that they could dream big."

Dreaming big and feeding those dreams on a love of learning is something Hix has taught everywhere he goes. In the late 70s and early 80s, he made an impression on student Joe Thordsen—one he still recalls today.

"Mr. Hix taught us to love music and to strive for excellence as band members. He also taught me to move forward and mature as a person. As a result, I'm a better person and a better musician. I have a love of music he bestowed on me to this day," said Thordsen.

In 1979, Hix taught computer classes and band in Bedford County. Around 1982, he went on to teach computer science at Motlow State Community College before going to work with NASA. Hix returned to Bedford County in the early 2000s with an eye on retirement and the fulfillment of the second part of his dream.

He retired in 2015 and said, "I have the best retirement hobby ever. I target schools that remind me of where I grew up. Since I purchased my first planetarium, over 72,000 students and teachers have entered my planetarium. My goal is not to turn students into astronomers but to excite students about learning in general. They need to see that the deeper you dig into learning a subject, the more interesting it becomes. Also, I want students to embrace the concept of being science literate. Each year, I visit approximately 75 schools with the help of my wife, Jan, who is a retired classroom teacher. The greatest payment is when a student tells me, 'this was the greatest school day ever.'"

> My goal is not to turn students into astronomers but to excite students about learning in general.
>
> – BILLY HIX

His retirement work has gained national recognition. On November 19, 2022, in Burlingame, California, Hix was awarded the Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award for his outstanding educational outreach programs to K-12 students and the interested lay public, making it the top program in the nation for astronomy outreach. The award is pre-

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sented by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the governing body of professional astronomers.

He is the CEO of TeachSTEM LLC, an organization that conducts STEM outreach to rural schools, and was recently selected as the number one STEM teacher in the nation by the Space Foundation. He currently serves as NASA's Solar System Ambassador for our country and is an advisor to many education-related programs. His work even stretches globally. He was the 2019-2020 Education Ambassador to Chile, conducting research at some of the world's largest observatories and working with students and parents across Chile.

Not bad for a little boy in love with the night sky and the idea of our nation going to the moon, huh? Even better for rural students and communities with an eye on the sky! **GN**

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Philia. Eros. Agape.

FROM THE HEART

Unconditional Love, Family Love, &
Romantic Love in our community

"If I know what love is, it is because of you."

– Hermann Hesse

a German-Swiss poet, novelist, and painter

THE CONNECTION between humans—we call it love—is a profoundly beautiful thing. Our Creator built us to have different types of love. The Greek words for the three types are eros, agape, and philio.

Eros is the passionate and romantic love we often think of when picturing two people sharing an intimate bond. It's full of emotion, desire, and longing, and people find it every day.

Agape love is a love that is unconditional and selfless. It's love without expectation or demand, often seen among family members and friends who care deeply for one another.

Philio love is the love of friendship and community. It's about shared experiences and mutual understanding. We often see this type of love in close-knit groups of people who have a deep connection—just like Shelbyville.

No matter what type of love you experience, it's an essential part of the human experience. Love and connection bring us closer together, allowing us to share life's highs and lows with those we care about most. Good News is happy to share these one-of-a-kind stories from the heart. **GN**

The Theises

A BEAUTIFUL SCAR

Forgiveness and redemption reflect God's faithfulness to all who see.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

WHEN YOU see Terry and Joanne Theis, you'll likely see them holding hands. Even from a distance, you sense the depth of their love for each other. It's the picture of their loving relationship that draws others to them. But it's more than their love for each other shining; it's their love of their Savior, Jesus, and the story He's given them to share.

It's a story that begins like many love stories—with stolen glances.

13-year-old Joanne was new to the Baltimore City neighborhood, where she frequently saw 15-year-old Terry playing baseball, basketball, or football.

"I just liked him from afar. I was riding my bike around and watching him. I'd asked my friend who he was, and she said he had a girlfriend, and I told her, 'I don't care,'" Joanne said.

Terry said, "I was always in the neighborhood and happened to see her walking with her then-boyfriend, and I thought she was really nice, and I'd like to get to know her."

Over a couple of years, they got to know each other and began dating. After high school graduation, on Christmas Eve, 1960, Terry proposed. He entered the Army and returned for their Thanksgiving Day wedding on November 23, 1961.

Within the first two years of their marriage, they bought their first home, and their children Karen and Kevin were born. Joanne was a stay-at-home mom, while Terry led a full life outside the home.

"I thought I had it all: a loving wife, two beautiful children, a job I loved as a pipe fitter, and I was still playing sports—semi-pro football, baseball, and basketball—all while serving as a pipe fitter apprentice. I was also going to school three nights a week. For five years, it was all about me," said Terry.

Joanne said, "I knew our perfect family was slowly falling apart."

Terry never sugarcoats his early way of life. "Unfortunately, I was a member of the ADU Club: alcohol, drugs, and unfaithfulness. Fortunately, I'm proud of where I came from."

You can't come "from" a place or thing without going "to" another. It's where they were both led that gives them their testimony today.

"I knew Terry loved me, and I always forgave him every time he asked for forgiveness and promised to do better. Things would go smoothly for a while with him but always go back to the same thing," Joanne said.

The summer of 1974 found her growing tired of the cycle, and a 10-day visit to former neighbors in their new Texas home gave Terry and Joanne an idea of

"I knew Terry loved me, and I always forgave him every time he asked for forgiveness..."

-Joanne

how life apart from the other might feel. Joanne imagined a fresh start for her and the children in Texas while Terry felt the weight of their absence.

Their Baltimore neighbors kept inviting Joanne to church. Although she'd attended church before their marriage, Joanne says she didn't have a relationship with Jesus. She accepted their invitation to church on January 19, 1975, and following a message that spoke directly to the details of her life, she accepted another invitation.

Joanne said, "I thought they'd told the preacher all about my life. Of course, I know now that the Holy Spirit was speaking to my spirit. When the preacher finished, I ran to the altar and turned my life over to the Lord. It was the best day of my life."

A less than covert operation set an army of prayer into motion over Terry's life. The church prayer list clinging to the refrigerator requested prayer for Joanne's husband, and Kevin made sure the coffee table held stacks of religious tracts for Terry to read.

"I'd read the tracts and restack them the same way they were so Kevin would never know they'd been read. I listened to sermons and music by Jimmy Swaggart. Even at snack, I couldn't get away from the conviction of the Holy Spirit," Terry said. "Then, on our 14th anniversary, Joanne asked me to go to church with her, and I thought I'd save money on a gift and go to church as a family."

Joanne was surprised when he offered to go to Sunday school. "I thought to myself, 'Wow, Lord, I didn't ask for Sunday school, too.'"

As Joanne had, Terry felt the preacher knew all the details of his life, but Joanne had only asked them to pray that he'd be saved.

"I went to church to get Joanne off my back. The preacher pointed straight at me, and when the altar call was open, I was broken and convicted and went to the altar from our seat in the back of the church. We've never sat in the back of the church since," Terry said.

About two years later, a couple having marital problems contacted them and asked if they'd counsel them.

Terry said, "We sat down, and that's where we were first introduced to counseling. We still do that together and love doing it and seeing changes in people's lives. But it's not because of us; it's because of God. We're certainly not professionals, but we tell people from the beginning we're just going to share what the Word says and our testimony. We're transparent. There's nothing we don't share if they ask."

The most likely question is to Joanne: How could she forgive what Terry had done early in their marriage?

"The Lord gave me this illustration. You cut the tip of your finger, and it really hurts. As it heals, a scab forms and falls off, and it hurts all over again. But when it heals from within, all you have is the scar—no pain. God allows us to remember the hurt to share with others, but there is no more pain," she said.

Terry said, "Joanne and I have always been in love. We've had more than 60 years of good days, bad days, good times, and bad times. But most importantly, [we've had] more than 60 years of love, growth, and maturity together. Joanne is loving, kind, compassionate, caring, tenderhearted, and selfless, always preferring others. I hope I can and will be all that my best friend wants and deserves."

Joanne finishes, "God doesn't waste a hurt, and He has used our testimony to share with others that there isn't any marriage He can't restore. Our prayer each day is: 'Make us a blessing and allow us to be usable.'"

It's a story of forgiveness and redemption as old as The Gospel, and Terry and Joanne are a living reflection of God's love for us. **GN**

Because Two People

Robert Martin

A SWEET AROMA

Robert Martin serves more than good food.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

FOOD IS a universal love language… one that needs no words. Memories are made around the fellowship of the table where love, laughter, and a sense of belonging comingle with the sweet aroma of our favorite foods. There, we are nourished by mind, body, and soul.

Robert Martin's life is steeped in sweet aroma.

It's a fragrance that rises from the kitchen of his childhood, where his mother, Jean Martin, spent her days feeding her husband, Bud, and their family of six children. There was always room at the table for one more; no one was ever turned away.

Martin said, "There were always people coming to us, spending the night or visiting, and my mom and dad always entertained them. There would be some kind of sandwich or coffee, or she'd brew tea and make a peach cobbler, chess pie, or something. Everyone loved Mama's sweet tea. It was just a social center."

"I learned from watching my mom, and my grandmother was an amazing cook. At one time, she owned a cafe here and in Uvalde, Texas. My father was a mechanic, and when I was five or six, I was trying to help him. He had asked for a 3/16 wrench, and I gave him a 1/2 inch. He yelled at me, so I ran inside, and my mom said, 'You stay in here and help me.' I guess it's worked out okay, but I sure wish I had the mechanical skills my dad instilled in my two younger brothers. He was a jack of all trades," he said.

Martin's first job was at our local Hardee's in the days before they served breakfast.

"At Hardee's, I learned the urgency of customer service and following health department codes. I spent many years with Hardee's corporate and worked for two other franchises. In 1985, I was awarded Manager of the Year and won several presidential awards, including a trip to

Vegas. I went from line cook to manager, training manager, and a district manager there," he said.

A season with Jack Palmer Food Service placed him in different roles and further immersed him in the food service industry. "I did a lot of multi-tasking there, from buying to assisting with the warehouse managers and office managers," Martin said. "I also handled the credit department, setting up new accounts and dealing with delinquent ones."

Martin grew in other ways while working at Palmer, too.

"While there, I joined the local chapter of the American Cancer Society and helped in their Hee Haw and Music and Memories shows. That was my first time fundraising for a cause. I served as a writer for the skits, participated in them, and sang a little. It was hard work but so rewarding," he said

All those experiences were essential as Martin and his wife, Trudy, opened their cafe, Sweet Aroma, in 2006 in Unionville. They filled the community's hearts and stomachs until personal health issues forced them to close in 2012.

Martin said, "We made so many friends while there. You can make a lot of friends if you offer them a good meal and some hospitality."

Martin stayed plugged into the community by catering at Homes of Hope and for dinner theaters at The Fly Arts Center. 2019 found him managing Koffee Beanz, bringing new life to its business and menu, even during the pandemic.

Seasons changed again for Martin in December of 2021, just as he was preparing for a total knee replacement. With the Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen planning the opening of its current location on Cannon Boulevard, Martin was asked if he knew someone that might oversee the kitchen in their new dine-in facility.

"I pointed to myself and said, 'Me.' The rest is history," he said.

In January, he began assisting with Tuesday to-go meals from the old Save A

"It really is better to give than to receive."
-Robert

Lot property. He progressed to the new location, where he scheduled the volunteers and helped the groups prepare the meals while maintaining the kitchen's mission. An average of 125 nutritional meals are served every Tuesday and Thursday, feeding the homeless and needy and assisting the at-risk population in Bedford County.

Martin explained, "We have a state-of-the-art kitchen and an inviting atmosphere. Like a popular gym, we are a no-judgment zone. We strive to be good stewards of what's been given to us to oversee. I'm encouraged by the generous donations from individuals, businesses, and churches."

The sweet aroma has come full circle from Martin's childhood kitchen to the community table, each experience leading him back to where it started in many ways.

"It really is better to give than to receive. From cooking for [the] family to preparing meals for hundreds and even thousands in a day's time, it's not been easy, but it's what I do. Chances are that you or someone you know at one point or another has had a biscuit, burger, or entree that I've had a part in," said Martin.

What he's learned in his years behind the counter gives him a different perspective on how we tend to respond to one another.

Martin said, "People are so overwhelmed and so busy in their lives, and the people you encounter daily, whether at a public restaurant or the soup kitchen, you never know what baggage they're carrying that day or what's happened to them before you met them. The ability to serve and please them is not something everyone can do—not everyone can try to make everybody happy; in fact, no one can make everyone happy. But you have to realize that the person who may be upset or angry at you is not actually angry at *you*. They're troubled by something that happened to them before you met them. So the way you act and react to their situation can change them and make their day brighter."

Can't we all offer more grace and mercy? What a sweet aroma! **GN**

A FOUNDATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FAITH

Fair president is committed to our community

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

I like to get out and meet people—see what's going on or if anything's needed."

– Judy

THEY'VE ALWAYS been a part of Judy Gambill's life—agriculture and faith. Her commitment to serving her community is rooted in them.

Gambill grew up in Franklin County and spent her childhood on the family's farm, where they tended livestock and row-cropped. When she married her husband, Paul, the couple settled on their farm in Bedford County, continuing to put down agricultural roots with their goats, cows, and horses. Their love of the farm and their faith have cemented their relationship for 48 years and counting, blessing them with a close-knit family. One of their daughters, Mary Alyson Tolar, and her husband, Josh, have a daughter, Jade. Their other daughter, Paula Roddy, and her husband, Kevin, have a son and daughter, Cole and Ella.

"I was raised in church, and we continued that after we got married. We keep those values—God in our life. I think that's one reason our marriage has been a success. And I think you have to give 100 percent to each other. Keeping the faith, I think, is the best thing you can do for a marriage."

Gambill's love of agriculture naturally drew her to the mission of the fair when Bedford County's returned in 1998 after a 67-year hiatus. She began overseeing the fair's All Pleasure Horse Show in 1999 and volunteered for the following two years. Gambill joined the fair board in 2001 and became the president in 2002—the first female president in its history. She has continued to serve as president since, except for 2006.

It's ideal for a farm girl with a servant's heart.

From there, Gambill shares her love of agriculture with all of Bedford County, but she doesn't do it alone.

Offering something for everyone connects Gambill and the fair to the community.

Gambill said, "The fair has something for all ages. We have a lot of individuals that give their time to the fair, and the volunteers and sponsors are a big part of how we're so connected to the community."

You'll not likely find Gambill sitting in the office during fair week.

"I like to get out and meet people—see what's going on or if anything's needed. I like to greet people and enjoy seeing the new faces at the fair. I love seeing the older faces, too; some of them I haven't seen since the year before," she said.

From the agricultural displays to the livestock barn exhibits, young and old can learn of and experience life on a farm. Of course, the music and the midway provide the soundtrack for the events.

Seeing children learn that their food doesn't originate from a fast-food restaurant or grocery store warms Gambill's heart, as does interacting with the special needs visitors on the day dedicated primarily to them.

Gambill said, "The ages range from 10 to 70 years old. That's their day to let loose. We feed them, entertain them, and they get to ride the rides. Some can't normally ride but will ride the small rides that day. That's their passion, and they enjoy it."

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Photo provided by Bedford County Fair ▲

"Some come in wheelchairs and might not be able to get on the rides, but they will go and see things happening on the grounds," she said. "They get to see the poultry and rabbits and a lot of the displays we have in our number two building. The smiles on their faces when they leave is incredible. They're so passionate about it. We have over 100 that will come that day. That's what makes our fair."

Gambill is happy to commit her time throughout the year to the fair. It's a year-round job, taking off only during December. The annual fair convention takes place every January in Murfreesboro. Our annual fair winners have competed there and won several years in a row, further evidencing our fair workers' hearts to their mission of serving our community. Gambill always emphasizes that the board members and volunteers make it all possible.

The weeks leading up to the fair have them all busy, working hard to prepare the grounds for the carnival, the livestock area, and the buildings for the exhibits. Last year, the board helped Gambill tremendously while she stood by Paul after his heart attack.

"The board really stepped up for me this year and took over when I couldn't be there. I was actually only there Monday night, a half day on Friday, and all day Saturday. I'm fortunate to have a good board."

The couple leaned into their faith and each other in 2022 when Paul had a heart attack during fair week, and Judy received a cancer diagnosis in the days following. The reciprocal love and support of their family and the community sustained them.

A strong faith, a strong marriage, and a strong love for her community enable Gambill to face each day ready to serve wherever she sees a need. **GN**

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Good News is coming to dinner!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as he dines in Bedford County. This month Colby Prince visited Taco Feliz.

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WITH SO many options for Mexican restaurants, how do you stand out from the crowd? Birria pizza, quesadillas with Flaming Hot Cheetos, or elote in a cup sure will help to be unique. These are innovative dishes I've never heard of or seen before being introduced to Taco Feliz right here in Shelbyville.

This quaint building may look small from the outside, but the inside is large and full of many different seating options for you or a whole group of people. With music playing in the background, I sat down to eat my grilled chicken fajita nachos, a choice I knew I would love for my first visit. The chips were freshly made. The cheese was melty and plentiful and covered the bottom of my nachos, which was honestly the best part. The chicken was perfectly cooked and tender, with a perfect brown color to each piece. With rice spread throughout, there were bites of fresh carrots and chunks of jalapeños from the cheese sauce.

I will admit that is the largest portioned meal I've ever had from any Mexican restaurant. I struggled to finish even half of my dish. The menu is also the largest I've seen. Such a large menu can be overwhelming, but you're guaranteed to find something you like or discover something new to love.

Their expansive menu includes options from Taco Birria to nachos, breakfast burritos to vegetarian options. The list seems to never end, and it may not, with the new creations they crank out. I'll be back soon to keep exploring this outstanding menu full of never-ending possibilities. Be sure to follow along on Facebook to see all their groundbreaking new spins on classic Mexican cuisine. **GN**

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A special treat for *someone sweet!*

Surprise and delight your loved one with Valentine's Day treats.

By Kali Bates

ROSES ARE red, violets are blue, treat your loved one to a treat that is made by you! Whether you're celebrating the beginnings of a new relationship, or spending the day with your longtime sweetheart, sharing a sweet treat or meal together can be a great way to show that love in action. These delicious Valentine's Day recipes will help you create the perfect romantic culinary treat from the comfort of your home. GN

Kahlua Chocolate Cake

Submitted by Judith McLean

3 eggs, separated
3/4 c. sugar
1/2 c. butter
1 c. light brown sugar, packed
2 1/4 c. AP flour
1/2 c. cocoa, unsweetened
1 1/2 t. baking soda
3/4 c. strong cold coffee
3/4 c. Kahlua®

Grease and flour two 9" cake pans. Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium mixing bowl, beat egg whites until frothy. Beat in sugar until soft peaks form and set aside. Cream butter and brown sugar until fluffy in a large mixing bowl. Beat in egg yolks one at a time. In a medium mixing bowl, sift flour, cocoa, and baking soda together. Add flour mixture to the creamed mixture, alternating with coffee and Kahlua®. Blend well. Fold in egg whites into batter. Pour into prepared pans. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until done. Cool 10 minutes, invert on wire rack; remove pans. Cool cake before frosting.

Asparagus with lemon butter

Submitted by Ruby Farrar

1 bunch asparagus
3 qts. water
4 1/2 t. salt
1/4 c. unsalted butter
1 T. lemon juice
1/8 t. black pepper
sliced lemon for garnish

Trim 1/2 inch from the bottom of asparagus. Using a vegetable peeler, peel stalks. In a saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add salt. Add asparagus and bring water back to a boil. Boil until asparagus are tender. Drain and transfer to a paper towel to drain completely. Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir in lemon juice and pepper. To serve, arrange hot asparagus on a serving platter. Pour the warm lemon sauce over the asparagus. Garnish with lemon slices.

Peppered Ribeye Steaks

Submitted by Emma Hardin

4 beef rib steaks, 1 1/2" thick
1 T. olive oil
1 T. paprika
1 T. garlic powder
2 T. dried ground oregano
2 t. dried ground thyme
1 1/2 t. pepper
1 t. salt
1 t. lemon pepper
1 t. ground red pepper
parsley sprigs, to garnish, optional
orange slices, to garnish, optional

Brush steaks lightly with olive oil. Combine paprika, garlic powder, oregano, thyme, pepper, salt, lemon pepper and red pepper in small bowl and sprinkle over steaks, pressing into both sides. Cover; chill for 1 hour. Grill steaks over medium-hot coals, turning once. Cook 14-18 minutes for rare, 18-22 minutes for medium, and 24-28 minutes for well-done. Garnish with parsley or orange slices, if desired.

Leave them better than you found them.

By Kali Bates

I DON'T KNOW a stranger. Call it a hazard of my job as a writer, but I genuinely enjoy meeting people, and it is even better if I can turn them into friends. There's a great quote by Maya Angelou that reminds us of the importance of the effect we have on each other.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

So whether I make a friend or not, I always hope to leave people better than I found them. This quote always leaves me thinking of an unusual but special friendship with a neighbor of mine.

Mr. Franklin was an older man who lived down the street. Not knowing his last name and wanting to show respect since he was my elder, I added the title of "Mr." I'd pass him every morning while driving to work. He'd be sitting outside reading, and I'd wave at him. At first, he'd wave at me sometimes, and sometimes he wouldn't. To be honest, it frustrated me. It became a mission of mine to get him to wave each time I passed.

One day he was walking to his mailbox, and I was driving by. I stopped beside his mailbox, rolled down my window, and stuck out my hand. I told him that we might as well know each other's names if we were going to wave at each other. He laughed in agreement, and from that day on, I didn't have a problem with him waving at me. I'd stop my car sometimes, and we'd talk. If we hadn't seen each other in a few days, we'd make sure to catch up the next time we saw each other.

Over time, I don't know who seemed to get more enjoyment from our waving to each other. It was probably me because I had worked so hard to get him to wave in the first place.

About six months after we began our friendship, I hadn't seen him for a few weeks. I didn't think too much of it, as I knew he had visited family out of town in

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

-Maya Angelou

the past, and I figured that was the cause of his absence. One of his neighbors flagged me down one evening to tell me that Mr. Franklin had passed away. He wanted me to know, because he knew we were what he called "waving buddies."

All I could think of was what a terrible loss for the world to lose someone like Mr. Franklin. He wasn't perfect, but he showed kindness where he could, and that counted. I know for me, he made so many of my crazy mornings brighter, and I hope I did the same for him.

I never talked politics with Mr. Franklin. I didn't know his religious preference, and I didn't care. We were just two people in the crazy world trying to show each other a little kindness.

It didn't cost us anything. We didn't have to change our beliefs, politics, or opinions to show each other some kindness.

Now, years later, I still think of him. Those few moments of kindness left a mark on me that I will carry for the rest of my life. He indeed left me better than he found me. **GN**

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Good Times

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

72 Canvas Community Shelbyville relaunches

76 Community Events

80 Events Calendar

82 Advertiser Index

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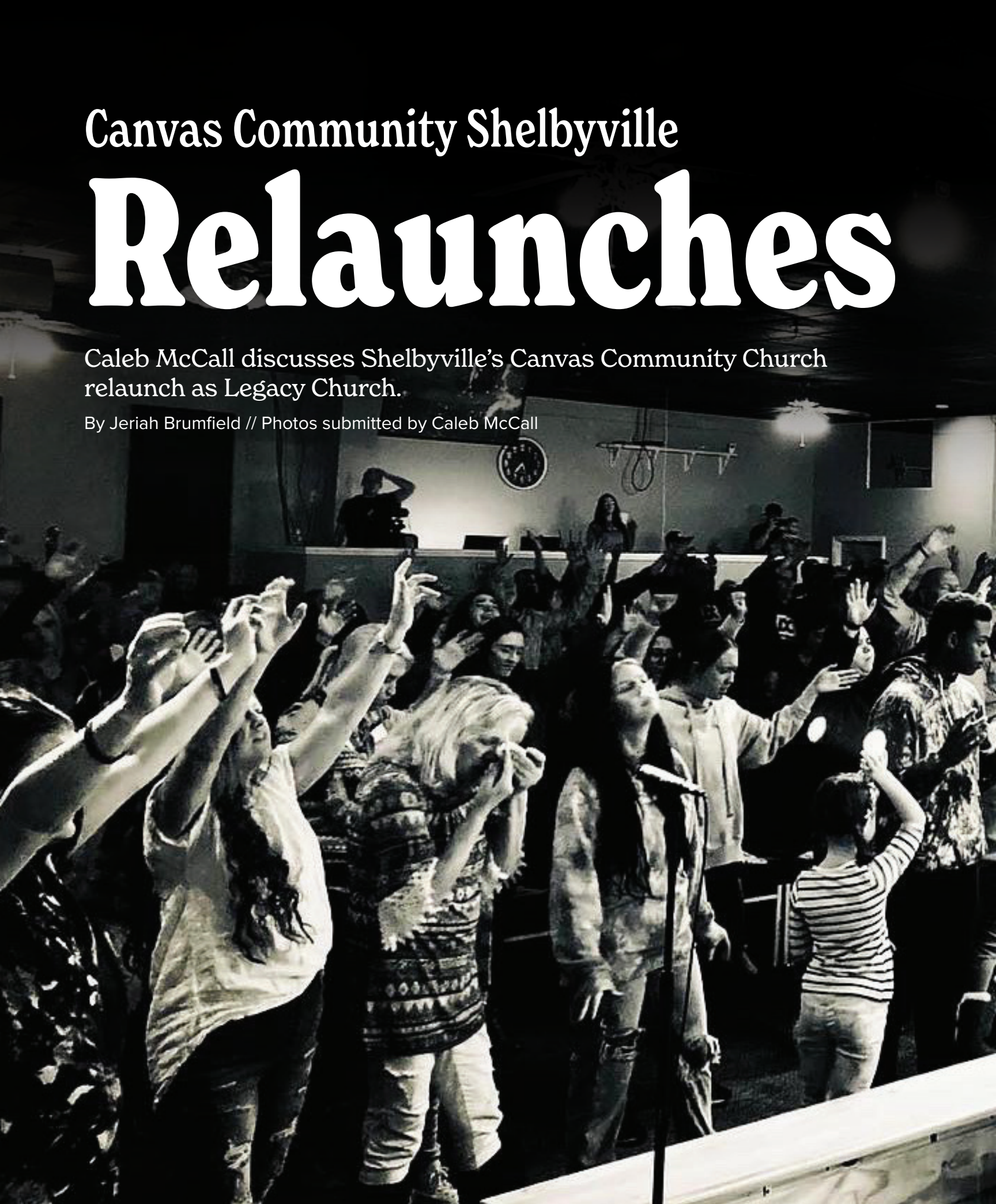
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◂ Caroline, Tara, and Aiden Turner

Canvas Community Shelbyville Relaunches

Caleb McCall discusses Shelbyville's Canvas Community Church relaunch as Legacy Church.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photos submitted by Caleb McCall



CALEB MCCALL walked into Canvas Community Church in Manchester as a young adult, not realizing how big an impact they would make in his journey to restoration.

He served as the young adult pastor from 2016 to 2020. McCall's journey in Canvas Community Church is a testament to their mission statement: "Love people, encounter God, and Send Them Out." The Canvas Community Church in Manchester fulfilled its mission and helped McCall discover his own.

A small-town boy, McCall's mission is to share God's love with the community that raised him. McCall and his then-pastor, J.T. Jordon, wanted to plant a church in McCall's hometown of Shelbyville in 2020.

McCall and his team launched Canvas Community Shelbyville in September of that same year. The two churches held joint events and outreach activities together.

"God really did some incredible things. We started with 10 people, and now, on any given Sunday, we'll have anywhere from 100 to 150 on Sunday mornings."

After two years of service at Canvas Community Shelbyville, McCall and his team, as well as Canvas Manchester, decided it was time to step into their own identity and relaunch.

McCall said the name "Legacy" came to his mind while driving through Alabama, contemplating the church's new identity and purpose.

Legacy Church is inspired by Psalms 78:3-4, which reads: "We will continue to tell our children and not hide them from the rising generation, the great marvels of our God, His miracles and power that have brought us all this far."

McCall said previous generations forgot about God's marvels, wonders, and miracles, but this generation and church would not.

"That we would tell the next generation about all the marvels, wonders, and miracles God has displayed through the church and what brought us this far, and in return, leave LEGACY."

Legacy Church's motto is "Encounter, empower, and leave a legacy."

McCall said the team wants Legacy to be a church where people encounter the power of God on a personal level. Once they encounter God personally, they are empowered by God to go out and fulfill their destiny on Earth and leave a legacy.

"We're not settling for Shelbyville. I want to impact the region, state, country,

and nation. We have a heart for outreach. We support ministries across the globe."

The new Legacy Church is here to serve the community in any way it can, hosting block parties in poverty-stricken areas and providing food and clothing for those in need. They completed their Thanksgiving Outreach in November and gave away toys for the Blended and Blessed Foster Closet in December.

"We have the heart to reach folks in addiction and poverty-stricken neighborhoods."

With a heartbeat for outreach, Legacy Church hosts Be the Bush Ministries, a rehabilitation center for men, and Miriam House, a women's home launched in 2020.

He said, "We have a heart for the city, and we just want to serve and help our community."

Legacy Church is always looking for ways to engage with the community. **GN**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

All is calm. All is bright.

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Nothing rouses the Christmas spirit like the lighting of a Christmas tree. Locals gathered to celebrate the holiday season at the Winter Wonderland Christmas Tree Lighting at Nearest Green Distillery in Shelbyville.

◀ Caroline, Tara, and Aiden Turner

◀ Jody Johnson, Scott Johnson, Ann Johnson, Elliot Johnson

◀ Hank and Beth Harris

◀ Donovan Jackson, Kiara Baker

➤ Ashley Gaytan, Angelica Miller

Checking off the Christmas List

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Holiday shoppers checked their list not once but twice before heading out to the annual Christmas Market in search of those perfect gifts for the family. The Market offered something for everyone to enjoy.

Scout and Dave Parkin

Abe, Nehemiah, and Izzie Zimmerman

Emmy Burden, Nene Maxwell

Jax, Chase, Sarah, and Ryan Hamlen

Andrew Frennier, Dawn Turner

Stacey Gillam, Isabella Moody, and Jeremy Davis

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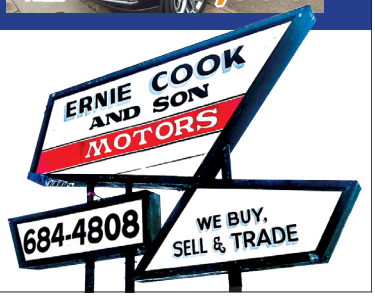

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EVENTS CALENDAR

January 16

6:00 pm **Beauties in Business: Ladies Networking Night**
Casa Mexico-Tullahoma (across from Publix)

Ladies Networking Nights are a free laid-back gathering for female small-business owners and businesswomen in general who have a desire to share their knowledge, build relationships, learn from their peers, and grow.

January 17

4:00 pm **STEAM Club**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

Grades K-5. Join us for crafts and activities relating to science, technology, engineering, art, and math!

January 25

10:30 am **Morning Storytime**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

For ages 0-6 years.

January 28

12:00 pm **Battle of the Bull Breed's 5**
Bedford County Agriculture Center

Three BRCG Sanctioned shows and one fun show.

Admission is $25. Kids 12 and under are FREE! $10 per dog.

1:00 pm **Teen D&D/RPG Club**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

Grades 6-12. The club is focused on playing tabletop role-playing games, where each person creates their own character to be part of a larger story.

February 3

7:30 pm **33rd Annual Lonestar National Finals Rodeo**
Calsonic Arena
February 3-4

Ticket prices:
Adult $20. Children $10 (ages 4-12), ages 3 & under are free.

Contact Rachel Boyd at (931) 269-6000 for further information.

February 8

10:30 am **Morning Storytime**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

For ages 0-6 years.

February 11

10:00 am **Lego Club**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

Grades K-5. Come play with LEGOs and conquer challenges with your friends!

1:00 pm **Teen D&D/RPG Club**
Shelbyville - Bedford County Public Library

Grades 6-12. The club is focused on playing tabletop role-playing games, where each person creates their own character to be part of a larger story.

February 17

12:00 pm **TNS3DA- Archery State Championships**
Calsonic Arena

For more information, contact Robert Carter (865) 405-2518.

For more events and to submit an event visit:
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Shelbyville Bedford County Public Library 39
Shelbyville Parks and Recreation 58
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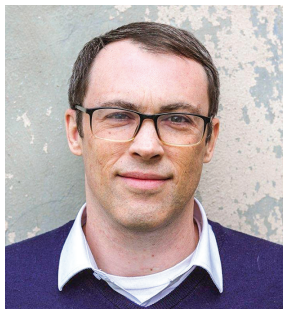

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