







# **Bring Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling To Your Neighborhood**

Christmas carols help set the mood for the holiday season. Such songs are played in stores to create festive atmospheres for shoppers, and many families play seasonal music as they decorate their homes for the holidays.

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago during Winter Solstice celebrations. When Christian holidays replaced many of the pagan celebrations, Christian holiday carols replaced the

earlier songs.

Before Christmas carols were sung by the general public, they were enjoyed during church services, when they sometimes were performed by official carol singers. However, new carols became popular during the Victorian era, when many ordinary people took to the streets to share holiday joy with others through the gift of song. Wassail, a thick, hot and spiced beverage, often kept carolers warm, and soon wassailing and caroling became intertwined.

Although carols and other songs are still popular forms of entertainment at school concerts and some religious group events, the classic tradition of carolers going door-to-door has largely fallen by the wayside. But those who want to bring back this once beloved tradition can take the following steps to do just that.

Find a caroling group leader. It helps to have someone who has a sense of musicality and pitch to lead the caroling. Carols are usually sung a capella, so you'll need a strong singer to guide others and keep them in tune. Recruit home to enjoy the free show.

a theater or music student or even a member of your church choir. Fill out the rest of the carolers with volunteers who have moderate to strong singing abilities. Of course, you can accept anyone, as it's more about sharing the joy rather than having a pitch-

perfect group.
Choose a neighborhood to visit. Select an established neighborhood where there are likely to be many families and even seniors who will be most receptive to carolers. Place fliers in the mailboxes alerting residents of your caroling plans for those who want to be

Promote your plans if you want a larger crowd. If you want to make the caroling a big event, promote your plans in the local newspaper or in a community bulletin. This way everyone in the community can take in the caroling show.

Choose a handful of wellknown songs to sing. Your audience will appreciate easily recognizable songs they can sing along with if they choose.

Print lyric sheets. Although the lyrics to popular songs are widely known, it helps to have them handy if carolers forget verses. Keep extra copies on hand in case others want to join the caroling group.

Get a sponsor. If you live in a rural area and caroling door-to-door is impractical, see if a local retailer will let you carol outside of his or her store or business. Doing so can set the holiday mood and may generate free advertising and increased business for

Involve youth groups. Kids love the holiday, so including them in your caroling efforts can bring smiles to many faces. Speak with local youth groups to determine if their members may want to join in your efforts to spread holiday



Dresden High School's FCCLA hosted Santa at the Dresden First United Methodist Church during Dresden's First Annual Christmas

son.

The holiday season is a special and spiritual

L time of year. It can

sometimes be easy to get lost in the more commercial

aspects of the holiday season,

and there's certainly nothing

wrong with shopping for gifts

that will show your loved

ones how much you love and

For those who want to focus

back on the spiritual side of this special time of year, the

following suggestions can

Share The Story Of Christmas

Luke offer differing accounts

of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Both indicate that Jesus was

born to Mary, who was engaged

to Joseph, a carpenter. Mary

became pregnant through

Immaculate Conception, as

she was a virgin when visited

by an angel who informed her

The Gospels of Mark and

appreciate them.

help in those efforts.

# Happy Holidays!

May your winter wonderland be filled with warmth and cheer during the holidays.

from the employees of

Weakley County Municipal Electric System

Call for information on heat pump loans

587-9521

## Thompson Creek Baptist

Church Christmas Cantata Church, 10600 Hwy 54 in Como, will present its adult Christmas Cantata, "A Family Christmas" at 11 a.m. Sunday, Barr's Chapel Choir will On Sunday evening, perform at the 6 p.m. service December 23, 2018 at 6 p.m. the same day, followed by

Set Out A Nativity Scene Make a nativity scene the primary focus of Christmas decorations and encourage

that she was to carry God's

all Jewish people had to be

counted by Roman soldiers

for tax purposes. That required

people to return to their places

of birth. As a result, Mary and

Joseph set out on an arduous

journey to Bethlehem. Upon

arriving in Bethlehem, inns

had no vacancies, but Mary

and Joseph were given shelter

in a stable where Jesus was

Churches traditionally hold

religious services on Christmas

Eve and Christmas. These

services are joyful expressions

of faith, music and community

spirit. But Christmas is not the

only time to head to church.

ultimately born.

Attend Church

At the time of Christ's birth,

Spiritual Christmas Traditions To Embrace children to play with the figures and act out the Christmas story.

## Focus On Gifts For Good

Families can focus their energies on faithful endeavors and the spirit of giving that's synonymous with the season. Do good deeds for others, embrace peace and love and share special time with others.

## Sing Carols

Spread the holiday spirit through song. Get together with a group of friends or neighbors and go door-to-door, or hold a caroling performance at a centralized location. Select religious hymns, but also include some secular favorites.

The holiday season is a great time of year to reconnect with one's faith and spirituality.

# Local Christmas Cantatas

Thompson Creek Baptist

the church's youth presenting their Christmas program, "The Christmas Express, Finding Joy in the Journey.'

## Bible Union Baptist Church

Christmas Cantata we will be having our annual

Christmas Cantata. This years Cantata is entitled Come Let Us Adore. The youth will be involved in this years production. Directly following the Cantata we will be having finger foods and Bro. Keith will read The Christmas Story to the children. Please invite someone and bring a dish.