

de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●

Christmas 2021 | Special



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*Special issue for Christmas 2021.
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We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

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Comments by RG

Merry Christmas!

After being away from Lubbock for almost three years, I moved back in June. I have a completely remodeled duplex rental I am currently in that is a far cry from most other places I've lived. That also means I have a little more room and flexibility for Christmas decorations!

On the cover, you see that the outside of my duplex is more like a courtyard. Most of the duplexes on my street—and on my side of the street, the ones across the street are much newer—have some sort of similar courtyard. Also, part of the remodeling of the duplex involved painting the outside bricks. That gave a great backdrop for Christmas lights, as you can tell!

For the first time since 2012, I was able to get and put up a Christmas tree! Now, it is a fake tree, but it is a thinner style I bought from Hobby Lobby. (At half price, of course!) I set up the tree by the front window, and it does not take up much space and looks great!

My duplex also has a large fireplace with a large brick wall behind it. It is also painted, but in a dark blue, and has awesome contrast to the white mantle.

I have various other decorations around the house, some I've had and some were Mom's.

For fun, I've included a history of my Christmas trees since 2000, and I included a few of my favorite cookies to make for Christmas. I also included one Christmas carol I discovered last year while putting together the Christmas Carol special issue last year.

All in all, let us not forget that Christmas is exclusively about Jesus and about His birth that led to His death to take away our punishment for our sins and give us forgiveness!

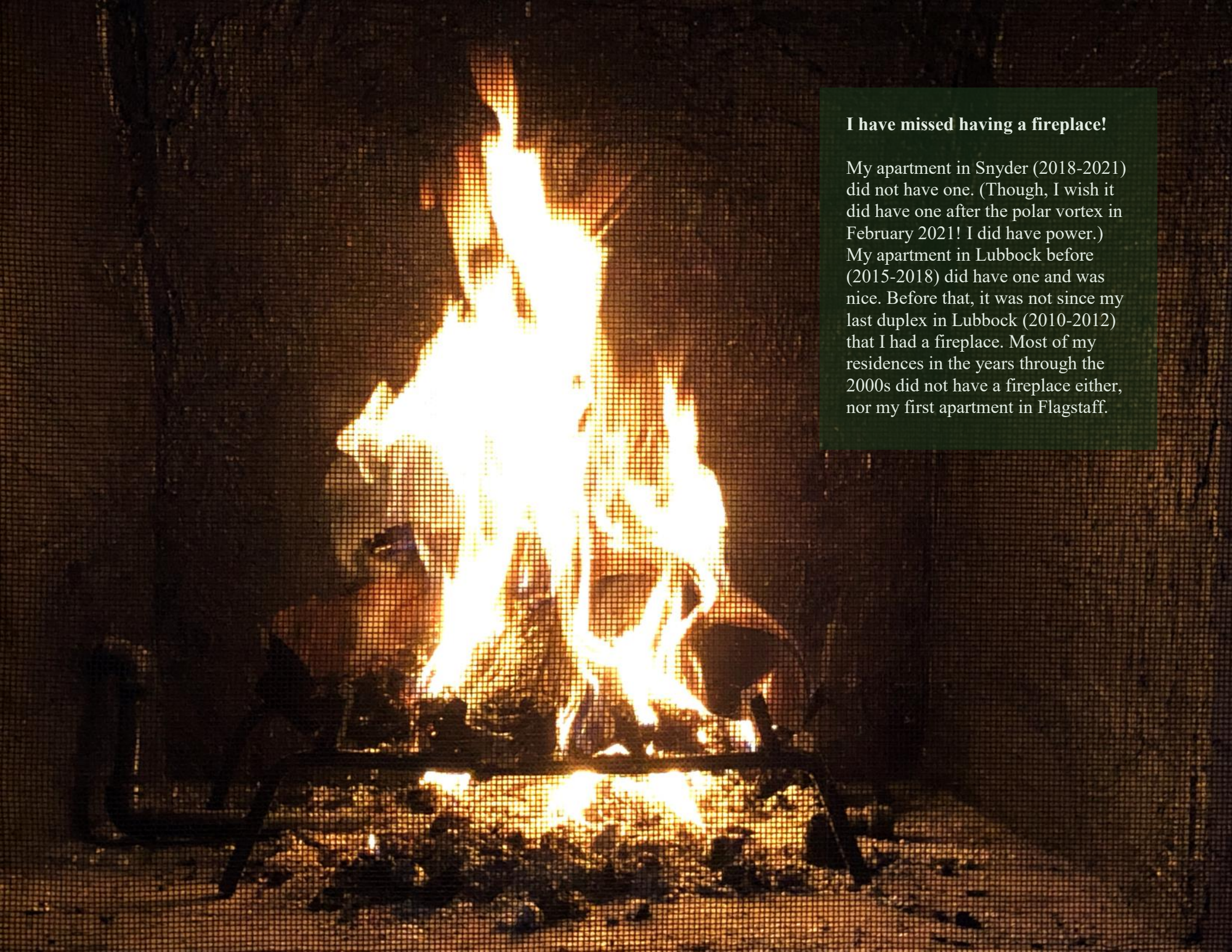
**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year for 2022!**



Christmas is only about God sending to the people a Savior and a Lord; His name is Jesus!

Luke 2:11-12, John 3:7





I have missed having a fireplace!

My apartment in Snyder (2018-2021) did not have one. (Though, I wish it did have one after the polar vortex in February 2021! I did have power.) My apartment in Lubbock before (2015-2018) did have one and was nice. Before that, it was not since my last duplex in Lubbock (2010-2012) that I had a fireplace. Most of my residences in the years through the 2000s did not have a fireplace either, nor my first apartment in Flagstaff.

Trees of Christmas Past

2000



In 2000, I was living in Flagstaff, Arizona. My little brother and I went to a local nursery to get a tree (which I had already picked out beforehand) and helped decorate. However, my first tree became unusually dry within a week. So, I took it back and got another one! I don't remember which tree was first, though.

2001



By mid 2001, I moved to Lubbock, Texas. As I recall, I did not get a tree for Christmas that year, but I used a tumbleweed as a tree instead!
(West Texas has never had a shortage of tumbleweeds!)

2003



This was my Christmas tree in 2003. I was living in a trailer in Posey, Texas near Slaton, Texas southeast of Lubbock. This was around the time I graduated from Texas Tech.

2005



In 2005, I was living with some friends, and I set up this small artificial tree in my bedroom.

2007



In 2007 for the NRHC, I created a tree at the International Cultural Center to represent Texas.

I don't remember if I had a tree in 2002. If I did, I probably took photos with film. I did not have a tree in 2004. I don't think I had a tree in 2006, 2007, nor in 2008.

Trees of Christmas Past

2009



Several years after I moved back into my own apartment, I set up that same tree from 2005 on my table in 2009, along with my Manger set.

2010



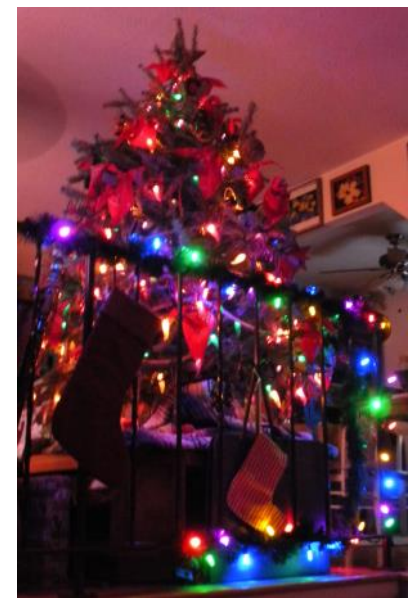
In late 2010, I moved into a duplex. After getting a good deal at Lowe's, I bought two trees! And put one in the living room and one in the bedroom. Also, I set up a small tree on the table. The bedroom tree had my first strings of LED lights.

2011



In 2011, I set up the same small tree from 2009 and 2005 in the living room of my duplex. I was not able to get a real tree (or 2) like the year prior.

2012



The last real tree I had was in 2012 after moving to Colorado Springs. I decorated it, along with decorating the front of the house.

The rest of my time in Colorado Springs, I did not have a tree for 2013 nor 2014.

Trees of Christmas Past

2015



After moving back to Lubbock in 2015, I didn't get a tree, but instead set up this little tree I had. I didn't do much decorating since I had only moved in the apartment less than a month by the time Christmas came around.

2016



I didn't have the funds to get a tree in 2016, so I just decorated my fireplace mantel (like I also did in 2015) and put that same little tree I've had for years up on the mantel. It works.

2017



In 2017, I did not have a tree. However, Home Depot had an app where you could aim your phone where you wanted a tree, and the app would show a virtual tree!

For 2018, 2019, and 2020, I did not have the room for a tree in my apartment nor had the funds.

Trees of Christmas Past

2021



Not since 2012 have I had a Christmas tree. This tree is a fake one I bought from Hobby Lobby. The model is called Alpine. And since it is a fake tree, I'll be able to put up the tree for several years.



*Having a dark wall meant that I could really make light decorations stand out!
The browns really look nice too!*

Friends Say Merry Christmas!



*Garfield says Merry Christmas
and to give him some lasagna!*



*The teddy bear says have
a nice winter hibernation!*



*Grullo says have a Grrrrreat Christmas!
(Made by Pokey the rodeo clown.)*

Old Christmas Carol

Gaudete

Latin (*Gaudete* is pronounced as “gow-deh-tay”) 1500s
Music comes from older liturgical books as a standard

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaudete>

To hear this song and its almost haunting melody, hear *The King's Singers* from 2012 sing the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KSxg9Ij5r8>

Latin

Refrain:

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine,
gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiae
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiæ
Devote reddamus.

Refrain.

Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

Refrain.

Ezechielis porta
Clausa pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

Refrain.

Ergo nostra contio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.

Refrain.

English

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary –
Rejoice!

The time of grace has come—
What we have wished for;
Songs of joy
Let us give back faithfully.

Refrain.

God has become man,
With nature marveling,
The world has been renewed
By the reigning Christ.

Refrain.

The closed gate of Ezekiel
Is passed through,
Whence the light is risen;
Salvation has been found.

Refrain.

Therefore, let our assembly
Now sing in brightness
Let it bless the Lord:
Salvation to our King.

Refrain.

Page one of *Gaudete* in the original version of the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

Christmas Cookies

These are three of my favorite Christmas cookies that I have made within the past ten years. Give them a try!

Make sure to click the links to go to the recipes!



Chocolate Chip Shortbread Cookies

Recipe: http://f.e.starbucks.com/i/52/163466415/CookieRecipe.html?utm_source=msr&utm_medium=email&utm_content=recipe&utm_campaign=cpg-coffeev1



Coffee Cookies

Recipe: <https://www.folgerscoffee.com/recipes/desserts/coffee-spice-cookies>



Chocolate Almond Biscotti

Recipe: <http://allrecipes.com/Recipe-Tools/Print/Recipe.aspx?recipeID=10432&origin=detail&servings=36&metric=false>

Christmas Past

**Merry
Christmas!**



RC

2018



Can't forget the squirrels from Dad's house! (2013)



Dog paw prints from the Lubbock blizzard of 2016.

My poinsettia this year with really cool coloring!



Christmas Past



2000, Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas while at the NFR.



Circa early 2000s, Kittea-Kittea, Mom's cat



197?

This photo I took on Christmas eve in 2005. This tree is in the front of a man's house here in Lubbock, somewhere in the southwestern part of town. As I understood it then, he decorates that tree with those lights every year starting in October! I want to say that I saw the tree again maybe five years ago. I could not find out if he is still putting lights on this tree nor where the tree is located.



de Stolfe Journal.....

The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.destolfe.com

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