



# Merry Christmas!

*It is again Christmastime. On that day so long ago, the eternal God of the universe humbled Himself, not just to live with us, but to BE one of us, to live in time among dying people unfit for heaven. He came not just to be our example (though He is that), but to be our Redeemer, to give Himself, in His death, as a ransom to pay the debt of sin all of us have and none can pay for himself, for the Christmas birth led to the death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter. The cost was high, but the Gift is eternal salvation, full and free, to those who will but receive it. If you've not already done so, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! (Acts 16:31) That is the Good News! Our lesser news follows.*

*It seems we may have sent cards a bit earlier this year (we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused; 😊 we think you need not fear this as a regular occurrence). If you find it convenient, you may want to look at our family website (bottom of 2nd page); Larry may have found time to add a few things.*

*At this writing, Texas is drawing to the end of Late Summer. (For our fellow damyankees: Texas has 4 seasons - Early Summer, High Summer, Late Summer, and Not-Summer.) , and some leaves have fallen; more shall ensue - many more. Thanksgiving is continually in order for the yard vac!*

*Otherwise, our biggest and most prolonged "event" has been adjusting to Larry's retirement (officially as of February 5). Since he was already working from home since March 2020, Anne had already become "accustomed" to his excessive presence. [ About 2 paragraphs deleted babbling the boring pedestrian details of extending pieces of employer insurance, making Medicare primary, and manipulating retirement funds. You're welcome. 😊 ] Larry is somewhat wondering what all this "retirement" is about, because there seems to be a backlog of things that feel like work. (Perhaps it is more "under new management".) Anne tells him that her retirement has been like that for some time. ("Buck up, Sissyants!" Well, she doesn't put it THAT way.)*

*For those we may encounter in person, we wish to assure you that we had our Covid shots (Pfizer) back in May and June, and hope soon to be "boosted". We still mask when out - have experienced no signs of infection to date. May y'all have similar lack of events; we pray the pandemic ends soon.*

*What else? Well, Anne continues to adjust to her hearing aids; Covid stay-at-home stuff inhibits "practice". And, at this writing, cataract surgery is still in the offing. She can see well enough for most things, but street signs have lost legibility. There are now so many options for implants that claim to offer near, far,, maybe even telescopic, X-ray, and heat vision! Supergirl has been researching all these diligently - it is as daunting as the annual Part D research! And when to schedule, and how to prepare for (heaven →→→*

forfend!) any complications as might ensue - if you are one who historically seems to attract complications (and remember, she's married to Larry), you may understand. Others probably won't. Anne also acquired a new "hobby" - the shrubbery in front of our house suffered somewhat in the famous Texas February Freeze, and had already become overgrown and intractable. We opted for complete replacement, and Anne got to research what various kinds of vegetable decoration ought be implanted (there's that "implant" word again 😊).

Speaking of complications (and vegetation), Larry was hoping to become more physically active - only to find that, gee, that's WAY not as easy as used to be. Even a little puffing when mowing the yard on a warm day (did we ever mention that Texas has a few warm days?). Well, long story short and a couple cardiologist visits shorter, he had the second date of his life with Angie O'Gramm (Anne wasn't jealous!), and came away with \*4\* brand-new stents! Now he's all heart! (And on Plavix.) Quite seriously, this all happened BEFORE any "event" occurred, so he still has (so far as we know) all the heart muscle he started with - and we are grateful! to skip the "inconvenience" as might have ensued. At the end of several months of rehab visits, he's back on his commuter bike somewhat. He's lost a few pounds and gained a treadmill.

Also, as part of his "unofficial exercise program", he got to do his part in "refactoring" the shrubbery jungle in front of our house. The landscape contractor did most of the work, but he got to lay lines for watering and to cover them up with paver blocks - the new shrubs are separated from the house by several feet, which provides better access should (again heaven forfend!) the foundation ever need attention.

Life continues. Larry turned 70 this year (Anne remains the same 28 as the rest of you pretty girls over 23), and we also marked 30 years of marriage soon after. Where DID all that time go? We have been regular remote attendees at Fellowship Bible Church in Ann Arbor (vaccinated, yes, but we would have been "remote" at any church) for somewhat over a year, which is not the same as moving there. But a move is still under consideration, if all the details, including pending surgeries (Anne's eyes, Larry's other shoulder - nothing new) can be resolved in one way or another. So, as usual, we don't know our future plans. 😊 (You are not surprised.)

As always, we'd be happy to hear from you with your news as you find convenient time.

Our love,

Anne & Larry

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