



Merry Christmas!



Christmas is once again at hand! It is the birthday of the Saviour, Jesus, Who came to save His people from their sins. The glory the angels sang wasn't pomp, display, or earthly position, for Jesus enjoyed none of that here – it was God's love, sufficient to set aside all He was entitled to, to live among us, and pay with His death for the likes of us. And then to rise again to bring many sons into glory with Him, who have no claim on heaven but to trust in Him for it. That is the Christmas Gift. Please accept it if you have not.

That is the Good News. Some of our local news follows.

Texas remains Texas. With temperatures recently below freezing and, at this writing a few days into December, about 75 or so. Nearly no leaves had fallen, and then, over a couple of days, a whole bunch, so Larry began collecting (how wonderful to have a good leaf blower AND a good yard vac!) – then we got some more. It is a subscription. And those trees were so little when we put them in. Well, it's exercise.

Anne is still adjusting to her hearing aids – or learning how to get along without them; Larry isn't quite sure. She seems to be dealing with online services and broadcast media mostly without them. But she got her cataract implants! Although there were many options available and affordable, wisdom seemed to suggest getting the “standard” distance version – physicians and patients have the greatest body of experience with them, and if/when some later laser work is needed on ye olde eye, these implants give the least difficulty. Of upgrades, she declined the heat vision (fire being a concern), but did consider X-ray vision. However, the expense was too great, especially since she doesn't aspire to employment with the TSA. Having worn glasses continually from a very young age, Anne is comfortable with readily available bifocal reading glasses, which she wears all day. So you will not see a great change in her appearance.

In late July, Anne suffered a brief memory loss; they call this Transitive Global Amnesia. Blessedly, the operative word is “transitive”; it resolved within a day. Initially, though, it was very distressing to Anne, since she was aware something wasn't working right, but, of course, she wasn't sure what. (She can't remember, but may have thought, “What's happening? My mind's not working right. Am I turning into a man?”) Larry was a bit (OK, a LOT) distressed also – he had to keep repeating himself even when he was sure Anne had heard him. Began to wonder whether he was losing HIS mind. (Y'all kindly keep your editorial comments to yourselves . . .)

Later, Anne had some back trouble, and was referred to physical therapy. Worked well, but apparently the exercises made some different shoes necessary. Shopping ensued. (Now we all know that two of you ladies can walk into Pay Less or T J Maxx or wherever and get fitted right out of the box or right off the rack. Maybe even three of you. Anne is not among that group. Further details elided. 😊) →→→

Larry began "refactoring" the office. That is, "began" – while a large desk went to ReStore and was replaced by a smaller computer desk he built, and file cabinets and other intrusive pieces were moved about, there is (sigh) more to do. After a number of years, our respective personal computers have been replaced with newer machines of higher horsepower (both Dell 17" laptops, not new but recent, which Larry upgraded substantially, running Alma Linux). We hope these may give us as much as a decade before replacement, but we'll see. (Anne's Mac went 12 years, and the previous Dell has been the "main" machine since 2014.) We are trying out having our own IMAP server in the house, which allows Anne and Larry to read, write, and answer email on the same account, but independently on different machines without conflict. (That last sentence made sense to some of you. If it didn't, just say, "That's all Geek to me," and don't worry about it.)

Larry also began clearing out the garage. He built some storage cabinets, rearranged others, and moved some collection of supplies to ReStore. You will be better entertained to imagine the further details than if recounted to you. We are sure he will be done before 2030.

We report that we expect our third Covid boosters soon, and have escaped that virus as far as we know, so we think you won't get it from us. Yet, anyway.

What else? Did y'all happen to notice inflation? Golly, it is SO good that the government and the media told us about it before we even saw any change in prices. As soon as they let us know, why, immediately we saw prices go up, just like magic. We here in Texas briefly saw California prices for gas. But thanks to the government's swift and repeated actions to ensure enough interest would be charged, we saw prompt deflations in our respective retirement set-asides. (Be glad you don't get all the government you're paying for.)

And we got windows. No, we have not reverted to running Windows, but we BOUGHT windows for the house. In November, Window World replaced all 15 windows, at a very competitive price. The actual installation, and the window product, seem of high quality, by appearances comparable to Andersen, which quoted a retail price approximately SEVEN TIMES as much. (Inflation again?) The work is not flawless (post-install cleaning the biggest issue), but so far we have found Window World to be responsive in following up, and we think the windows are sound and will serve for many years. As of today, they get maybe 3 1/2 stars. Sharing this on the odd chance it helps folk shopping the same.



See? Windows. (Wow!) ☺

We'd be happy to hear any news from y'all as you may find convenient. And we wish y'all a
Merry Christmas and a *Happy New Year!*

Our love,

Anne & Larry

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