



Merry Christmas!

Christmas! God so loved us that He gave His only Son! The eternal God took on human flesh and became one of us so He could suffer death as a man, to apply His infinite worth in payment of the sin debt none of us is able to pay. For each of us both inherits a nature in opposition to God, and proves it by actions that displease God, Who made us. That is a broken relationship none of us can repair, a debt we cannot pay. But Jesus the Christ COULD pay it, and He did on the cross, dying in the place of each and all of us. Then, being God, He took up His life again, among other things proving that the debt is paid. He did this painful, costly thing out of His great love: salvation is offered us, a gift (of which our Christmas giving is the mere shadow) both free to us and costly to Him. We have but to receive it by believing in Him - taking Him at His word and relying on His finished work on our behalf. This is the Good News of Christmas!

*What lesser news have we this year? Well, Texas surprised us with freezing weather on Halloween! That's one of the earlier first freezes on record; we've had several more since, and saw "color" nearly concurrent with Anne's hometown (Ann Arbor). Indeed, we are now inundated by **MANY** oak leaves, which normally drop at a more leisurely pace, favoring us with a need for several cleanups stretching into spring. But the trees are already close to bare. Yet now the weather gurus tell us to expect a warm December. Perhaps Texas does not want to be Michigan . . .*

The year has been "interesting" (you astute spellers notice how that word ends in "sting"). We began the year with Larry's continued recovery from his freak accident last fall, and another period of physical therapy to put off his shoulder replacement. We were glad to have him back at work. Spring gave us a hailstorm; we wished there existed a "shingles vaccine" for our roof. We also had the privilege of replacing our microwave (not a hail casualty, though).

We enjoyed the visit of Anne's cousin Karen and her son Michael, recovering from his liver transplant; Michael adopted our 1990 (yes, really!) Grand Voyager van, and we were down to 2 cars. Almost on the very heels of that transaction, Larry's 2002 Volvo V70 started making a noise that no Volvo should make (despite religious attention to maintenance), and two garages concurred that the next commute might be the last on that engine. This car was also adopted out, to a mechanic who would put it back on the road for a needy soul - far better than junking a vehicle with \$\$\$ of new parts added over a couple of years. That put Larry in a rental long enough to find the 2012 Tahoe now serving as his ride. (He had really liked the Volvo, with its excellent driving manners and its low fuel consumption, but we could hardly rate it an "economy" car under the circumstances. He hopes the Tahoe will work out better long-haul.)

August found us scheduling the roof replacement and a somewhat overdue foundation repair. In its turn, the foundation work required damage to our patio (yes, we'd consulted a foundation guy before it was installed several years back - no concern, said he at that time), and it turned out less expensive to demolish it and replace it than to fix it. So, in September, the foundation work was done, followed by the re-roof (big sigh of relief). But the patio work was deferred until late October.



For Larry had his right shoulder replaced on October 1. If you find you need such a thing, Dr. Kruse is your guy, but total recovery scopes out at about 6 months. Larry is receiving the best of physical therapy from Heather Rudd, DPT, and returned to work the week before Thanksgiving. (He contemplates getting the other shoulder done next year.) The patio work was done late in October (another big sigh of relief).

By now, you're probably getting the idea that Larry and the house, taken together, were among Anne's major challenges for the year. You would be correct. But Anne then fearlessly dug deep into the annual morass of Medicare supplement and Part D research. She eventually emerged victorious (we each have the appropriate coverage), but the enemy took its toll. Be glad you're not getting all the government you're paying for!

Anne continues her search for a good lymphedema sleeve, strictly-gluten-free restaurant food, ladies' clothes that fit off the rack (seems a common complaint among ladies), and a hearing aid suitable to her. (She'd also like to find a good training program for Larry, but it seems neither Amazon nor anyone else offers one.)

Those of you who follow such things may have noticed that we have a Facebook account to which we post approximately nothing. (We have it so Anne can see postings by family and friends who seem to prefer that mode of communication.) Last year, Larry set up a small website. We posted images of the last several cards and letters we'd sent, and also had hoped to add other material, but that's not yet happened; life interfered. All the same, we will add this year's card, and perhaps again try to flesh out the site with a bit more content. (Larry thinks he has some latent stuff. . .) You can visit it at <https://www.brunelleweb.net/>. In any case, we do like to hear from you as you may find convenient; our contact information is below if you don't have it otherwise at hand.

All in all, we have our needs met. We are thankful to God for His faithfulness, and for sending our Savior, Who never leaves us nor forsakes us. We wish each of you all the blessings of Christmas, and continuing throughout the coming year.

Our love,

*Anne
Larry*

