

December, A. D. 2020



Merry Christmas!

It is again Christmastime, anno Domini 2020. That is, in the year of our Lord 2020. We reckon dates from the most significant event in history, the date of the coming of the Lord, Jesus the Messiah, in the flesh: Emmanuel, God with us. He didn't come for a pleasant sojourn, He came to redeem us. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable (that is, there really aren't words for it) gift! That is the Good News!

We have a little news of our own, quite a bit lesser, of course. Has anyone noticed the Covid-19 crisis? Well, to the best of our knowledge, so far we have both steered clear of the virus, and we hope you have too. We can't say we've not been affected by it, though. Sometime in March (was it?), we discovered that we weren't supposed to wear masks, but we should lay in a couple weeks of supplies. On the very heels of this news, a giant vacuum was applied to the inventories of every store. The infection of apparent insanity was far more virulent than the virus itself. But we somehow found enough T.P., paper towels, and spam in one store or another to get by, and eventually, Amazon supplied us with enough masks and gloves to avoid the earlier incursions of the virus into north Texas.

About concurrently, Larry's employer "encouraged" employees to work from home. This soon became more nearly a mandate, but, as it turned out, the necessary support was mostly in place, and he and his teammates adapted readily. While we did have a temporary 10% pay cut, the reduction of commuting and purchased-lunch expense more or less compensated. Since the firm processes payment-card transactions, the need for development and support remained almost normal, and the traffic diminished rather less than for, say, bars and bowling alleys. Business has been recovering nicely even in the midst of the dire (and somewhat overblown) news reports. But changes in the company (owing much more to its merger last year than to Covid issues) made it clear that Larry ought to take an upcoming opportunity to put in for retirement from this firm. Absent some surprise, we expect this next February 5th to be his last day. At 69+, he can hardly be said to have been in a rush about it.

Larry has been becoming steadily more active since his right shoulder was replaced late last year. The opposite shoulder settled down, and its replacement is deferred indefinitely; it works well enough for now. And that allowed Larry to install some underground piping/soaker hose in the back yard. Since nearly all the grass had been shaded out in the years before the trees' lower branches could be sufficiently pruned, we've had, well, mud back there. But no more. As of late September, we have Zoysia sod, nice and green. We'll see if it lasts through next spring. If not, perhaps we'll plant tumbleweeds. 😊 We include a picture of the yard before it dies off again. As an unrelated project, Larry also replaced our mailbox (did you know they can wear out? Texas sun) and that of our next-door neighbors. The new boxes light up at night, helpful when the postperson is running late - picture also included.



It appears that maybe Larry will no longer have the local monopoly on replacement of body parts. Anne is looking at (is there a pun here?) cataract implants. Our ophthalmologist, Dr. Goldsberry, is the guy you want to do things like this, but, at this writing, she isn't quite ready to dive in. Not only are there options to consider regarding just WHICH implants are most appropriate, but she is still adjusting to her hearing aids, an entirely new experience for her. This means Larry is becoming more confused than usual - sometimes she has them in and he is supposed to speak more softly, sometimes she doesn't and he is supposed to speak up, and sometimes she has them in, but the water is running or some other noise is intruding, and he is supposed to shut up. (We know there are those among you who would advise him to focus on option 3.)

We recently had work done on our HVAC. The firm we'd dealt with for over 20 years was bought out a couple years back, and the acquiring firm is not a dealer for our Daikin equipment, so we had to find someone who is. Between Covid issues and a reorg in the new firm, we were about 6 months in getting warranty service done to replace parts suffering from condensation. Long story short, we also had to replace a part that was NOT warranted, and we also had a UV light installed that is supposed to kill viruses and bacteria and mold dead, dead, dead. We hope it does. In the wake of this work, we engaged a (recommended) duct-cleaning service. We still may have more work upcoming to control the humidity in the attic, but we think we may remain contractor\$\$\$-free, and disruption-free, for the remainder of this year.

Some may ask, "Do you intend to move?" Well, along about the third week of January, we will have been in Texas 25 years, and considering moving back to Michigan for some double-digit number of those years, but have not done so. The answer must be, "Maybe - could happen." At this writing your guess is about as good as ours.

As always, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and the happiest possible new year. We hope we may hear from y'all as you find convenient; contact info (and please note webpage) below.



Our love,

Anne & Larry

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