

December 2021

Merry Christmas, Friends,

Well, another year is winding down, and our hearts are filled with gratitude. We have remained healthy through the second year of COVID precautions, and I know it is not over, but things seem to be getting more normal.

You may remember that our son-in-law, Shea Tisdale, was diagnosed with a glioblastoma in March of 2020. Duke Cancer Center performed surgery, and developed an aggressive treatment plan of radiation, chemotherapy, and an experimental immunotherapy. Still, the doctors were not optimistic that he would live more than 15 months, as glioblastoma is aggressive and persistent. It is now 20 months later, Shea is cancer free, and has just finished his last chemotherapy treatment. He has days when he just doesn't feel well; the treatments are pretty brutal. Julie has been a trouper standing with him. We are thankful, and continue to thank God for His healing touch, and His loving kindness and tender mercies toward us.

We travelled a bit this year. I was in Florida for a CEF Board of Trustees meeting in February, and Julie went along for a little R&R. Our niece, Kristin her family came to visit at the end of May and early June, and we had a great trip to Ocracoke Island and the Outer Banks of NC, where we connected with Donna Stoneking, Dennis and Kristin's cousin. It was fun to watch Kristin and Donna who hadn't seen each other in about 30 years. We live in such a beautiful state,



and it's fun to share it with visitors as we discover it ourselves. We spent a long weekend at the Cove in late June where our friend, Alex McFarland was leading a weekend of Bible study. We took an afternoon to drive to Mt. Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi River.

In early September, we spent a week in Wisconsin. We enjoyed the sights and sounds and tastes of Door County for a few days, and



then spent a few days with Dennis's brother, Dale and his wife Staci. We went to the baby shower for their son, Wes, and Jessica. We'll all welcome their baby girl later this month. In October, we had meetings at CEF headquarters in Missouri. Our niece, Kristin and nephew, Andrew came with their families, and met us for the weekend. We visited the St. Louis Zoo, and had wonderful Italian food at "The Hill," St. Louis's Italian community. We are so thankful to be part of the lives of their children, our great nieces and nephews, who range in age from 17 to 3.



We detoured through Dallas on our way home from St. Louis and visited with Darwin and Fauhn Schierer. We rode The Texas State Railroad roundtrip from Palestine to Rusk and back. It was overrated, but still fun.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving at our house with Julie and Shea, and Shea's parents from South Carolina. Our younger daughter, Jennifer, was not able to be with us. She is doing well, living in Raleigh and working in the home building industry.



My mom turned 84 in April, and we had a celebratory luncheon with a group of her lady friends. Mom still lives alone in her own home, and is active. Her home is about 1.5 hours from ours, and I try to go about once each month and visit with her for a few days.

Dennis remains active with the NC Association of CPAs, and continues to offer consulting and assistance for nonprofit organizations and Christian ministries, missionaries, chaplains, and pastors. He's gone international this year, as he has received requests for assistance from individuals in at least three countries outside the US. This ministry brings us in touch with so many interesting people with such worthwhile missions. We are so thankful to be a small part.

Dennis and I both continue to serve as volunteers with Child Evangelism Fellowship. I am in my 4th year on the International Board of Trustees, and Dennis serves on the Finance Committee. We've been very busy this year as the organization goes through some organizational changes, always striving for excellence as we reach out to children in almost every country of the world. Getting a little closer to home, I also serve as the chair of the USA Ministries committee. As fewer families attend regular church services, our work to reach children with the Gospel message becomes more urgent. Dennis and I assist our state office with some financial matters, and any other way that we can. Our local chapter here in the Greater Greensboro Area is closest to our hearts. I serve as bookkeeper and assistance in the office as I am needed. Dennis serves as treasurer of the local committee. Our chapter is growing and God has blessed us so much. While Good News Clubs have been closed because after-school programs have been closed because of COVID, we have been working to open clubs in alternate locations and to recruit churches to partner to start new clubs when schools open back up. Some of our Good News Clubs were able to open this fall, and the rest are expected to open in January. We have a lot of work to do to resume our 12 clubs, and to open about 12 new ones. Praise be to God for this wonderful opportunity and for sending workers into the fields that are ripe for harvest.

I started this to be a short letter, but it has gotten rather long as I think about the many blessings of this last year. Our God is an awesome God; His wonders never cease; His mercies never end, and His love endures forever.

Many blessings to you and yours,

Dennis and Debbie Walsh