



The Year of our Lord - 2017

Dear Family and Friends,

It is snowing in Baltimore. They canceled the Christmas concert. It wasn't that much snow. So we stopped on the way back and got 3 x 35 lb. of birdseed. All things work together for good for those who love God. But they do not necessarily work out the way we wanted. His way, not our way. I have a committal for a lady who was called to glory last night after many years of decline. Her memorial service will be later. Joni Erickson Tada wrote to the effect, It would not be good if Christians were noticeable richer, healthier, protected from harm. God has to treat us more or less the same as unbelievers or else they would come just for the goodies. Joni's life has been blessed as a quad in her ministry to others who have been devastated by the evils of this life. She looks forward to walking and dancing with all the saints and angels.

Christmas is the doorway to eternity. God comes to enter this world in the Babe of Bethlehem and invites us to come to Him. "For a day in your Temple courts is better than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather stand at the entrance of God's house than live in the tent of wickedness." What is real? Christmas to many is fun and fake. To others there is deep reality concealed within. It is seen, acquired through the eyes of Faith, the gift of the Spirit. May His Love be born in your heart, life, this Holy Season. Rejoice.



Our lives continue as before. Steve added hearing aids. Now he needs to pay attention. He leads worship once a month at two churches, good and enjoyable. Writes two monthly letters and a weekly Bible study. His long association, work in the Black community and church, with Blacks led to an enjoyable time at the Denomination's Black Family Convocation in Birmingham AL.

Lynne continues to keep busy with knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and hats for the Senior Center and prayer shawls for church. At church she is chair of the Shepherding/Outreach Team, writes articles for the newsletter, plans how to use Bible verses to pray for the members, volunteers as a communion assistant, and counts the church offering. She still monitors at the Fitness Center and teaches the stained glass class at the Senior Center. She continues to be blessed to lead the Moms in Prayer group. In her spare times she reads Christian fiction.

In the early spring we drove to New Jersey, took the train to New York City to see some of the sights. We then drove to New England, enjoying visits with Lynne's college roommate Linda in Connecticut and her niece and family in New Hampshire before staying in Newport for a few days, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard.

In the fall we spent an enjoyable vacation in St. Petersburg, Russia, seeing the palaces of the wealthy there. We stayed in a five story walk-up hotel, got lots of exercise walking the city and up the 5 stories to our room. We took a train to Finland, rented a car and toured parts of southern Finland. We took a ferry to Tallinn, Estonia where we saw much of the old city. Then we took an overnight ferry to Stockholm. After a few days of touring (walking) the city, we rented a car and drove around southern Sweden.

Lynne's sister Barb retired and moved to family in Columbus GA. We've been able to visit with her. She is doing well after

open heart valve repair. Our daughter Katherine is in Atlanta. We were there at Thanksgiving and went with the house inspector to her new home. Closing is the end of December. Very nice 1970's home, nice neighborhood.

Stephanie started this fall at Reagan - Dulles Airports as a Fireman / Paramedic. Strong little lady, she passed fire training and testing some time ago (same physical tests as men) and finally found a good opening. Dulles is closer to home so of course she started at Reagan. Not many airplane fires but lots of buildings, vehicles and people. Greg continues as a stay-at-home dad, doing a great job with our granddaughter Joanna.

*We praise God for you and ask God to bless you
in the New Year of 2018*

Lynne and Steve Funck

