

Christmas 2001

Dear Friends,

Wow!! What a year!! A year of blessings and tragedy. We are specially blessed with a beautiful extended family (2 2/3 grandchildren), friends and exciting daily opportunities. We hope and pray that as the world mourns the September 11th event, we will work toward solving the root causes of hunger, homelessness and disease on our planet. The isolation and arrogance of our country preceding the attack was very disturbing.

Our move to Santa Rosa (60 miles north of San Francisco) is still slowly happening. Judy says we will be ready to leave Cupertino by May and Joe wonders which May. Our new house plans are almost complete; we sold a Hollister rental and bought a Santa Rosa rental (where we will live as we build our new house); Joe is currently remodeling our bathrooms and entry way (Judy says he did great tile work in the bathroom already completed). It is going to be a project to move after 35 years and 4 kids. We also have to move twice.

Joe has an exciting and challenging job at Agilent Technologies (a spin-off of HP). He is working on a worldwide project to convert all internal computer systems to Oracle applications. The job is in Palo Alto, where Joe started work 35 years ago. He can't ride his bike, so he is taking the bus and train everyday. Joe misses the daily bike ride of over 30 years. He plans to take a day off every week to work on our house. He might have to spend time on the project in Colorado Springs (he spent 2 weeks in late fall and found out he hates living in a motel room). He plans to work part time or retire when we start building our house. Joe's health has been very good (he has atrial fibrillation that is in remission). He had his 4th cardiac conversion last January. Fortunately Judy talked the doctor into doing one more conversion. The doctor is reluctant to do the procedure more than once a year. Joe has found a replacement for his parish Outreach role. This is making the transition much easier as he didn't want the program of helping the needy of our parish and community to end. He is back on the board of Cupertino Community Services, an organization that he helped found in 1972. They are building 24 affordable housing units and a community service center in Cupertino. Joe is also back at his love, Sacred Heart Community Service, on a transition project. Our parish Renew group is helping start a Singles Group. We are trying to create a loving, community environment for people to meet in our very rapid moving, impersonal environment.

The travel highlight of our year was a Panama Canal cruise. We spent several days in Florida (Key West and the Everglades) and left from Fort Lauderdale. Fifteen days later we arrived in San Diego, California. We traveled with our parish discussion group. We've been friends for over 25 years. Joe thought he would be bored with many days on the ship, but he was surprised that he was so busy having fun, that he hardly had time for hot tubing. He read a book called Path Between the Seas right before entering the canal. It was a fabulous experience. There is only 2 feet of clearance on each side of the ship and the ship is almost a 1,000 feet long.

In July Judy retired from wedding photography after over 20 years. She took over 500 weddings and that is a lot of work. She is still very busy creating portraits of children, families and occasionally pets. Her really big excitement is taking pictures of grandchildren. Each grandchild has a large album that is continually growing. She is also mastering movies as she has a digital camcorder and is learning Apple iMovie. Judy has the major challenge of our house-moving project, as she has all her photo stuff to deal with.

Becky and Dave Lorenz are expecting a baby boy in March. Becky is so cute with her plump stomach. Dave plans to build the baby crib. Mary had a baby shower for her a couple days ago. Becky loves her teaching, and plans to only substitute teach after the baby arrives.

Mary Tembrock is enjoying another wonderful year teaching 4th and 5th grades in Saratoga (the next city south of Cupertino). Her class handmade Holiday cards and wrapped gifts for the annual Outreach Veterans Holiday party. They were beautiful and very much appreciated. This was also an opportunity for the children to learn and appreciate our veterans. Mary's friend, Frank, has been to many family events this year including a trip to Colorado for our niece Nicole Tembrock's wedding, and two trips to Oregon. We enjoy Frank and he is also a great cook.

Amy and Mike Edmondson are the parents of Rachel. She was born Christmas eve last year and is getting ready to walk. Amy works part time at Hewlett-Packard and Mike is home one day a week. They are spending Christmas at Mike's parents in Georgia. Judy has wonderful video pictures of Rachel giggling as she feeds crackers to their dog, Toby.

We are fortunate to see Joey, Belinda and Kate Lynn Tembrock frequently as they live in Santa Rosa. They just moved into a new house and Joe got to help a bit with landscaping. Belinda is a full time Mom and loves teaching Katie many things. Joey has been promoted to project lead in the small construction company where he works. He is experiencing the challenges of rainy weather and dissatisfied customers. He is getting a lot of excellent experience that will be very useful when he builds our new house. Joe and Judy plan to do some of the work (Joe can hardly wait as Joey is helping Joe get setup with a professional carpenter's tool belt).

Happy and Blessed Holidays,

Joe and Judy Tembrock