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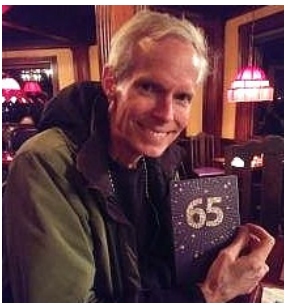
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December, 2017



Dear

It's that time of year again. People keep asking whether we're ready. Of course not! Somehow it feels like, just once, we'd finally get the thing right. Not this time around.



I do have an excuse, though. Finally! On November Eighth we celebrated my 65th birthday. It was a lovely party at The Old Spaghetti Factory with a nice assortment of friends. But next morning I found myself staring at the number on the card and saying no, there's no way I can be that old. C'est la Vie ...



We've taken a few losses. Spring brought a trip to Richland for the funeral of my godmother, Chris Emmons. Then my mentor from PBC, Larry Knox passed away. Kind of set the stage for what was to come. By the end of the year Sandra was asking not to bother with a special picture for the card, just find one from a few months previous. So I picked Valentine's Day and cut in a background from our visit to Chihuli Glass on our anniversary year. When in doubt, party! Good plan, for I took sick a little before Christmas and even these letters got put on hold for a while.

Got a visit from Chris's mom and sister in July. They showed up about 3am, took him out for dinner, and then headed right back so he could stay a week. Nice visit, very brief.



Sandra lost an uncle and then her dad began having problems. So began a bittersweet season, final visits, new arrangements, and longer range planning. All part of life, really. Makes us look forward to what lies ahead, the reality of Heaven, where no one



grows old and tears will be wiped away.



Popeye was another loss. We tracked his declining health for the last couple years and did our best to keep him comfortable but there came a point where things finally started getting the best of him. Just judging by the pictures that got taken, we were holding our breath and making memories all year. Allergy wise, there are no plans for another cat but we miss him.





Repair work has been dwindling but there's still a bit that needs done from time to time. My boss at PVT decided to close his warehouse, which was where my shop was located, so I purchased what was left and took it home with me. So I'm still working, out of my garage, and still working to get everything fitted in like it should be. Kind of gives me a longer term option, something I can stick with as long as I feel like it.



Sandra's been using the opportunity to get organized, one of her life-long goals. In the middle of all my disruption and moving stuff she cleaned out her office space and we did some major re-arranging there too. Between that and learning to work with essential oils and diffusers and whatever, she's been having some real fun. The library continues to

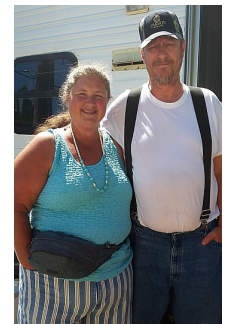
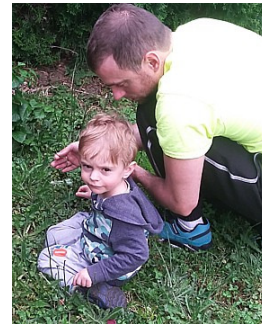


be a blessing and an opportunity as she learns new skills and plans to go to the Public Library Association convention in Philadelphia this year.

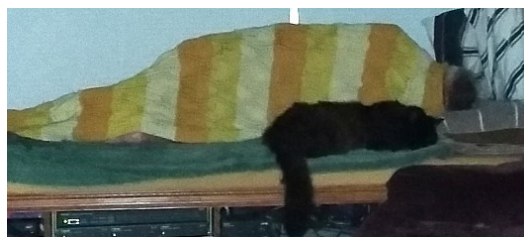
Portland Bible College celebrated a 50 year anniversary. Had some nice services and a few reunions there too. Unexpected blessings.



Still working on a few pipe organs in the community. Finished up the console for Cleveland High School within the past month or so and they used it for their big winter concert a few days ago. Working on a pipe chamber for the Hollywood Theatre that's a new installation. Lots of fun and something I've always wanted to do.



And of course there continue to be all the get-togethers and birthday parties and all the other things friends do with one another. At this stage it's easy to see there's a treasure worth cultivating. Many of our friendships are those we met at church, some who still attend and others who've become part of other fellowships. But the love and goodwill still remain and we'll try to keep it that way.



Blessings