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Hughes

December 2014

Dear



It's that time again! The season when we look over what's happened all year and realize what an amazing time it's always been. No exceptions! Been a year of lots of little gains, nothing remarkable by itself, but yes, the forward motion is very, very special. Sandra and I celebrated our ten year anniversary, wondering where all the time really went. It's been good!

Took another Mexico trip in March. Sandra needed a permanent partial and I'd just broken my lower denture, so the timing was perfect. Had a couple spares made up too which was handy when Sandra lost a tooth. She went to her local dentist to find out which one and it turned out to be out of the partial, which simplified things immensely. She put in her spare and our friends in Tijuana were able to repair the damaged one by mail order, a truly painless procedure.



Have to say I'm still reaping the benefits of having the rest of my teeth out. Gotten pretty comfortable with the dentures and after three years I'm still gaining ground and picking up strength. Hallelujah!

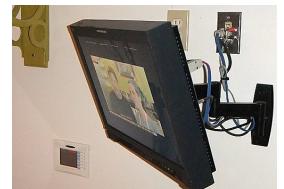


Around Easter time we made another big decision. Over the past decade our church has divided itself into several video-linked campuses. We stuck for a long time with the main original location, for that's where all our friends were, but now that we've lived nine years in Tigard it felt like time to go to the local spot. Definitely saves on gas and helps us plug in a little tighter by attending with those who live closer to us. Been a definite season of transition but it feels good being part of a smaller campus. We'll see how it all plays out.

Summer went by in a blur. Sandra's been doing more regular walks around Summerlake Park and another local pond. Towards fall she signed on for a personal trainer at LA Fitness, determined to break through a few weight barriers. Building muscle takes a while to register on the scale but she seems to be trimming up a bit and feels more energetic at work. Looks like another good move.



Took on a few little projects. Extended the AMX system into the spare bedroom so one can lie on the bed in ultimate video decadence, accessing any of the equipment in the living room. Finished a few shelf projects that had been on the drawing board for some time.



Probably the biggest experiment was pickles and vinegar. Got some books on fermentation a year ago but by the time I figured out what I was doing the season had ended on dill and cucumbers. Made two batches this year, the first in every glass container I could spread across the counter. They were absolutely delicious, although a bit on the salty side. The fermentation cycle takes two weeks and by the time they were nicely soured up there weren't that many left.



We were still in the season, though, so I bought a six gallon fermentation bucket and loaded up another batch with a little less salt. We're still eating on those, although the reserve stock is going fast. I'm thinking the ideal batch would be to fill the fermenter, because the airlock makes it low maintenance while it's working, and also a two-gallon countertop crock, because daily samples are half the fun. Excellent probiotic.



Also did a couple batches of vinegar, one from our raspberries and the other from our plums. Sandra's a little more nervous about these because the first step is to ferment the juice into wine but give it access to air, for the bacteria turn the alcohol to vinegar as a secondary fermentation. Still tastes a lot like wine but you can tell the alcohol has been greatly reduced by the time it's done. Makes some of the best salad dressing we've ever had.

Come fall we were looking at our tenth anniversary, so naturally something special was called for. Sandra found a silent movie in Seattle, *The Phantom of The Opera* at the Paramount Theatre. This has to be one of the most gorgeous old movie-palaces still around and we had a wonderful adventure staying with relatives and seeing the sights. Didn't go in with enough lead time for an evening dinner at the Space Needle but we got an afternoon reservation, delightful in every aspect.



Our friend James got married. He was in our wedding party ten years ago so it was wonderful to see his number come up. He and Olha had a lovely ceremony and already have one on the way. Not wasting much time...

Other than that we're just keepin' on. Sandra's still at the library, I'm still at the video shop, Shayne's still at the Bible college, and the black cat is still ... HEY, YOU, OFF THAT COUNTER!!!



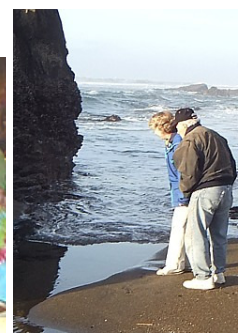
Nephew William's new business



Karen & Shelley



Girl's night out

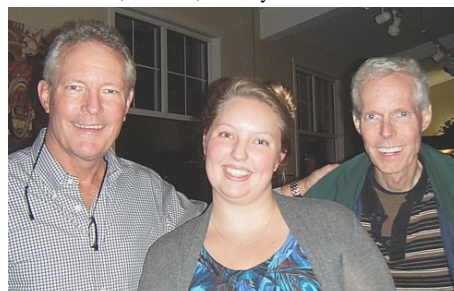


Marc & Kathy

Some Terry Music



John, Maddie, & Gary



Don't mess with Chris

