



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our house to yours!

2019 has been a year of trying to figure out a new normal for us after the passing of Steve's parents in 2018.

Our new normal includes more activity at church. We mentioned last year that we had both joined the LifeTeam at St Paul Lutheran. Activity in that area has increased. Steve has joined the Board of Elders. St Paul Lutheran sponsors a GriefShare (www.griefshare.org) group for people who have recently lost a loved one (with "recently" as defined by the grieving people). This is an outstanding national program that has been very helpful to us. The church staff person that ran this program at St Paul retired in September. Steve was an assistant leader in the Spring session in preparation to become the leader for the Fall session. The 2020 Spring session will start 2/7/2020.

We continue to enjoy the church seniors group which sponsors monthly luncheons and table games, as well as occasional bus trips and outings to cultural events. Also we are greatly blessed by our home Bible study group.

Steve has enjoyed his teaching assignments at Tarrant County College. He had two sections in the Spring and two in the Fall. There have also been some substitute teaching opportunities. He is not scheduled to teach in the Spring.

Part of the new normal has been time to work around the house, including a new roof and a new HVAC unit. Also, a neighbor's tree fall on the porch, so that needed repair. Most of our time working on the house has been in landscaping. We are now getting some idea how much time Mom and Dad spent on gardening. It seems last year's work has solved drainage issues (PTL), so we were ready to work on planting. Design and planting went well thanks to Vogel Landscape Services (www.vogellandscape.com), whom we highly recommend. Now we just need to learn how to take care of it so we do not need to go through a major replanting process again.

We were hoping that the new normal could include a bit more travel. We had planned three trips for 2019, but other priorities got in the way. (See the paragraph on Peggy below.) We did get one trip in, a long weekend in Houston where we visited with two of our former pastors and their wives, and spent time in a couple of museums.

Peggy had a rough time in the first part of the year, but it has turned out well in the end. Peggy was hospitalized four times in 2019, but the fourth time, the hospital social worker agreed that she should not go back to Ashford Hall as it became apparent that the nursing home was a big part of why she was having trouble. This social worker went above and beyond to find a new place. He contacted ten nursing homes which turned her down – after they viewed reports from Ashford Hall. These reports apparently concealed their mistreatment / neglect of Peggy.

A chain of group homes in south Dallas agreed to take her, and the result has been wonderful! The company name is Sopia Select Residential Care. The person in charge of Peggy's home is Lena Hughes -- just an amazing caregiver. She is a Christian that really looks on her caregiving as a ministry. Peggy has improved enough that she gets out a bit more, which helps dealing with some of the government entities involved with her care. Lena has also taken her out on some errands. Peggy enjoys the change of scenery -- even Walmart and the driver's license offices. This picture shows her first trip to a restaurant in 35 years. The woman in the middle is Lena.



We did get to some cultural activities. We went to several local museums and plays. Last year, through the St Paul Senior Social Group, we learned about a nice community theater in Cleburne, about 40 minutes South of us. We saw *Always...Patsy Cline* and *White Christmas* there, and enjoyed both immensely.

God bless you,
Steve and Nita

Current contact info:
steve@dossin.com
nita@dossin.com
817.840.6224