



**December 2016**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**and a Happy New Year!!**  
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*May the blessings that surround the birth of the Christ Child be with you and your family this holiday season. Join us as we pray for peace on earth.*

We are writing this letter on a rainy day in North Georgia where the wildfires and drought here in the mountains make it a joyful event.

2016 was a year for family and travels. Our biggest news is the arrival of our two newest grandchildren. Susannah and Luis Rivera welcomed Leonardo Xavier and Miles Alexander into the world on August 30.



*Miles and Leo*

We had many more joys this year and a few trials but we'll concentrate on our blessings!

We began the year at our North Georgia mountain cabin with our daughter Gwyneth and her family – husband Rob and girls Camille (now 18 and Chloe now 14).

Late in February we returned to the cabin and then headed from there to Memphis where Barb received an award for lifetime service to ACM-SIGCSE, the international group for computer science educators. Phil, Gwyneth and Susannah all came for the festivities which included a family visit to Graceland!



*Phil, Susannah, Gwyneth and Barb*

As soon as Barb and Phil got back to Texas, Barb had two quick trips – one to San Francisco for a Computer

History Committee meeting and one to a Board meeting in Chicago.

April included a trip to visit Phil's sister Belle in Massachusetts and right after that a trip to California to visit Susannah as well as Barb's brother Jim and wife Marty who were staying a month in Sonoma wine country.

Phil and I spent much of May at the cabin, enjoying the mountains and visits to Gwyneth and family.

Mid-June Barbara had a meeting in San Francisco and Phil went along. We both enjoyed staying at the Palace. Phil explored many of the small parks in public places downtown. Barb got to dress up for the banquet. Of course, we spent some time with Susannah and Luis!

In July Barb drove to the cabin from which she took two big trips. The first was to a meeting in Arequipa, Peru followed by tours including Machu Picchu. Since Camille had gone to Sweden two years before, this was Chloe's turn to go with grandma.



*Barb and Chloe at Machu Picchu*

Back in Georgia, Gwyneth, Chloe and Barb flew to San Francisco to a baby shower for Susannah.



*Susannah's shower*

Back to Texas Barb went her brother's retirement party in Laramie. She got back and she and Phil headed to California for yet another meeting where they stayed at the Mark Hopkins and of course spent time with Suze and Luis. We went home and of course a week later Leo and Miles arrived. Barb went back for two weeks, and then headed home before going back to SF for the month of October. Phil came out for a week and enjoyed meeting the babies.



*Phil and Leo*

Barb had a couple of more trips including a November one to NYC but got home in time to vote. We live in interesting times to say the least.

We spent Thanksgiving with the Buteras but got back to Blue Ridge where Barb again played her euphonium in Tuba Christmas and again in church.

We look forward to the babies' first Christmas in San Francisco and a New Year's celebration with the Buteras back at the Georgia cabin.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas Season and a blessed new year.







Gwyneth, Phelix the dog, Camille, Rob and Chloe for cabin Christmas on New Year's Eve



Luis, Leo, Miles and Susannah (borrowed pic)



Barb in Blue Ridge UMC brass



Miles and Leo (photo by Susannah)



Belle Wilson, Phil's sister



Barb, her brother Jim and his wife Marty



Phil got new teeth!



Camille choosing her family's Christmas tree



Our Blue Ridge Cabin

