



**Christmas 2021
February 2022**

*May the blessings that surround
the birth of the Christ Child be
with you and your family .Join us
as we pray for peace on earth.*

**Hoping you had a
Merry Christmas
and Wishes for a
Happy, Healthy New
Year!!**

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This letter IS a tad late so maybe we should call it our Valentine's letter. Once again our year was dominated by COVID-19 and the challenges dealing with all that getting older entails. However, we have had so many blessings that they are hard to count. We survived both big freezes last winter unscathed. We were so thrilled to get our vaccines and immediately flew to Alameda, California, in March to visit the Riveras and share my birthday and Easter with them. May saw us at the cabin in Georgia and on Cape Cod. Barb discovered the miracle of cataract surgery in June that made her apologize to Phil a thousand times over about all the disagreements about what color something is! In July we visited our cabin in North Georgia on our way to spend the rest of the summer through October on Cape Cod at the Buteras' extra cottage across the patio from them. Susannah and the boys flew to Massachusetts and spent the week with us in the little cottage. Such fun! We also enjoyed seeing the granddaughters. Chloe, now 19, is living near Boston and working as an EMT in Plymouth (where her Grandpa Phil went to high school). Camille graduated from Smith College in May and is pursuing a master's degree in the UK at Oxford.

We managed to fly to California again in November to spend Thanksgiving with Susannah, Luis and the boys, who now 5 and are the big kids in their fabulous pre-School. We got home long enough to satisfy all our doctor appointments and headed back to the cabin and the Cape for Christmas and New Year's. Both Chloe and Camille got Covid right before Christmas. Camille had flown to Boston and immediately had to quarantine in a hotel in Orleans, less than a mile from the Butera cottages in Eastham while Chloe stayed at her apartment. We finally got to be all together on New Year's. Gwyneth's husband Rob manages to spend almost half time at the Cape while working as a VP at Georgia Tech. Phil keeps busy at the Cape playing with the Butera dogs, Phelix and Phelicity. Barb tries to stay sane by walking on the trails wherever she finds herself and still volunteering with the ACM, her professional society on ZOOM, as chair of its history committee.

We hurried back to Texas so Phil could start an intensive physical therapy program to aid in dealing with the effects of his Parkinsonism. Meanwhile we sold our beloved cabin in the North Georgia mountains to our next-door neighbors there who wanted it for their family. They are encouraging us to visit often and leave our things in our old bedroom. We are so grateful. We hope to head there next week and then on to the Cape for another visit.

We truly miss going to church in person and singing in the choir. Between trips and emerging Covid variants were able to worship with our church family a few times. We also were fortunate during the summer to attend outdoor services on the beach on Cape Cod.

**Peace and Love,
Phil and Barb**





Snowcocalypse Texas 2021 Shoveling fun if happens once every 20 years. Phil's trusty 1997 truck



Easter decorations (Miles in blue and Leo in gray) with Grandpa and Grandma



Miles in blue, Leo, Phil and Barb As they say in Massachusetts "Lobstah"



Gwyneth, Rob and Phelicity on Rock Harbor Beach Chloe, EMT



Phil's birthday at Eastham cottage with Phelix, Gwyneth and Chloe



Thanksgiving in California Leo, Miles, Luis, Susannah and Phil



Phil, Barb and Camille at Corn Hill, Cape Cod

