

Dear Family,

January 3, 2022

May I be the first to wish you all a healthy, bless-filled 2022! Praise God, the New Year has begun peacefully here in the hill country!

As you all know by now, mom passed into the arms of the Lord on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Both Ray and myself were at her side as she breathed her last. I was holding her hands praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet as her spirit joined all of our loved ones in heaven. It was my honor and privilege to care for her until the end. We celebrated her life at a Memorial service on November 13<sup>th</sup> and I thank all of you who were able to attend as well as those with whom I know were there in spirit and love. I miss her dearly, but more so, I'm delighted for her that she's finally free. Therefore, I'm happy for her more than anything. I know we will all be together again someday, perhaps sooner than we think!

John started a new job right after Thanksgiving as Director of Facilities for a Catholic Charities run Drug Rehab (also homeless and victims of abuse) center in Monticello. It's a challenge but at least his days fly by quickly and he's fulfilled working in a position where he knows that he's really helping people. He prayed for it and BOOM, it happened so quickly it was almost whiplash!

Arianna and Isaac are doing well. She bought the small house from my brother Steve that she'd been renting from him for the past two years. She's currently working as a Legal Assistant at a local Lawyers office. I continue to watch Isaac who will be 3 on February 4<sup>th</sup>. I don't know whether to say Isaac is keeping me young or making me old! I feel young running around and exploring with a toddler, but when I get into bed at night exhausted and achy, I start to feel a little old!

Kaylin and her fiancé Dustyn are planning on getting married on August 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be starting her final semester as a Bio Tech/Chemistry major in a few weeks. After getting married, they will begin a real adventure since Dustyn is going to school to become a Forest Ranger/Game Warden and he could be sent anywhere in the state to begin his career! Kaylin is planning on attending Graduate School but at this point has no idea where she will even be living. I remember those days ~~being~~ **young and free!!!**

Matthew, Mark and Luke (16) are Juniors this year. Matthew and Luke are attending Boces for Auto Tech and Auto Body and they love it! Mark is remaining on the standard High School track. **If they aren't at school, after school sports or serving the Latin Mass at church, chances are you can find them pulling apart one of their quads or dirt bikes out in the garage.**

Prayers for God's blessings upon all of you and your families. Keep sending the happy news of weddings and baby announcements! It's the best kind of smile therapy! **Above all, keep the faith as this is the ONLY THING that will keep us sane in a completely insane world!**

~~Love,~~ *John, Terence, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark, Luke & Isaac*

Happy New Year, all! Let's pray for good health and calm days for all in 2022! ;

Not much new with the Drehers. We've been lucky in the latest omicron wave.

I'll work full-time until I make the official moves to retire, but maybe by June it will be done and I'll shift to part-time library work. That should be a little weird after 34 years. George still coaches track – and outdoor practices make for a *fun* winter season.

We did manage an adventure – our first (and only) trip to DisneyWorld! We went with Matt's family and Frank. George and I trained down and drove back, visiting a few friends on the coast along the way. DW was fun, of course, but our daughter-in-law made it "magical" by doing all the planning, ride and dining reservations, etc. We stayed at the Beach Resort and the weather cooperated for plenty of pool time.

**Kate** returned to Mexico in September after 15 months with us. She did get back up for the holidays and flew back down on Jan. 11. Too bad – omicron is hitting MX now and she has to work from her apartment even though she is 3 minutes from her office. She could easily be working from here.

Granddaughter **Claire** just turned 8, and **Nate** will be 6 in April. School is much more on-site this year, but it's still not "normal". Wish they would slow down growing up a bit! **Carolyn** continues to work from home, but **Matt** and **Ian** go into their offices several times a week.

We did manage some Clines family gatherings in 2021, but we canceled our Christmas party once again. It was fortunate that I could get to Aunt Claire's Mass in November and reconnect with many of you. I can imagine the May family greetings from her siblings and parents she received.

Winter has arrived with storm "Kenan" and we are digging out of a foot of snow in frigid temps. Sorry for the delay in getting this on its way. Thanks to all for sharing your news - achievements, challenges and happenings. This round robin will remain a legacy of all our parents! Onward, May Family!

*Love  
from the Drehers*

Dear Family,

February 9, 2022

We were off to a bad start in this New Year. The beginning of January I came down with a very serious case of sepsis from a UTI I didn't know I had. I was hospitalized for a day and have been recovering slowly but finally feeling more normal now. All is well with Augie. The family is well. Andy started a new job after too many years in retail and is sounding so much more at ease; we were beginning to worry about him with our family history of heart disease. The others are settled at jobs they can tolerate. We get to see Paul every 6 weeks as his job brings him close to us for an overnight visit. It has been way too long since we have seen his family though and I miss them. We do get to see Michael's little ones once in a while and the smiles don't stop while they are here. August is 5 ½ and Bruce is 2 ½.

It is so good to hear from everyone and to stay so connected with our wonderful family. Wishing all the family health and happiness this year as we continue to pray for an end to COVID!!!

*Love Ronnie + Augie*

Ah, winter in Milwaukee!

Feb. 16 / of '22

My 54th, I just calculated, and yes, it always seems like the gray cold will never end...

But amazingly, this winter has been relatively snow-free. And nothing can really ruin things as long as the Marquette U. pool stays available for this geezer alumnus!

And wow, the temp today is up in the 40s (briefly), so I'm getting plans made for trips back East in spring and summer... and soon it won't be 15 degrees every day, even in MKE!

Stay warm,

Frank

February 22, 2022  
"Tuesday"

Dear Family,

The Letter arrived on the day after we returned from our trip to Barbados, that included a 7-night Southern Caribbean cruise (750 passengers on a ship that normally carries 2000+). This was our second cruise since the industry's return to sailing. Our first was in late September (2480 passengers on a ship normally holds 5600+). The cruises went well, however, there was a lot of angst concerning COVID testing that needed to be performed and results received within a short time prior to travel, and, for Barbados, additional tests at the pier before the cruise, and at the end of the cruise to reenter Barbados & the US. Additionally, went on the 7-day trip to Sonoma in November as I mentioned last time, however, we went alone as Ed & Janet Ebert, and Janet's sister & brother-in-law bailed out of the trip because their flights were switched to ridiculous times, that the airline said could not be improved upon. We also spend a week, including New Year's Eve / Day in Gatlinburg, TN & Asheville, NC.

We returned to the theater to attend several local productions and two "Broadway in Richmond" shows (*Anastasia* and *Come From Away*). We were given tickets to attend a Gladys Knight concert at the same theater where the Broadway shows are presented. For the Broadway shows, we needed to show our vaccination record (or a negative test result), and wear masks at all times when inside. For the Gladys Knight Concert, there were no vaccination/testing requirements, and mask wearing was 'encouraged'. Curious...

Local venues continue to open for plays, concerts, and parties; each with some level of restrictions, but we continue to get out and about. Looking ahead, we have another road trip to Asheville (Biltmore Estate) & Gatlinburg (with the Eberts) in March, booked a 9-night Eastern Caribbean & Bermuda cruise out of Cape Liberty, NJ in July, and a 12-night British Isles cruise out of Amsterdam in August that we intend to extend with visits with several of Danie's cousins in France. We've had to block out several time slots for puppy sitting, as Claudine & Laughton plan some much deserved away time.

In spite of the pandemic, construction in our area is booming following years of slow growth. There seems to be urgency to fill-in any available space in the West End of Henrico County. Our area, referred to as the Innsbrook neighborhood was an early mixed-use development of office, retail and housing. As originally conceived, each use is in its own space (2 miles from my driveway to my former office parking lot). However, the current thinking is to convert the area to *urban* mixed-use, where all are combined. As a result, office building parking lots are being reduced in size and parking garages built, and apartments / condos with some retail on the ground floor are being built in the freed space. Over 3000 housing units will be added in the 630-acre office park in the next 3-5 years, with more to come. Not one additional road is being contemplated (or even possible) surrounding this development. Oy!

Danie has been dealing with Dupuytren's Contracture in her right hand for some time. She had surgery in 2002 on her left hand, however, the doctor she saw in October declared that the condition in her right hand wasn't bad enough to warrant surgery at this time. Recently, Claudine suffered from a frozen shoulder after a fall (tripped on a dog). It was noted that both Danie and Chris have *also* suffered with frozen shoulders in the past... Chris is continuing to undergo therapy. Claudine's doctor mentioned that there is a clinical trial being set up that will look at the use of an injected drug that is currently used for Dupuytren's contracture, to aid with relief from a frozen shoulder. Claudine was not referred to the trial, and in fact underwent outpatient surgery to remove scar tissue in her shoulder. However, it is interesting that there may be a connection between the two conditions that might be impacted by genetics.

**Danie:** Because of the surge in the Delta variant in August, Danie returned to making several more facemasks for herself and others. However, she quickly went on with her multi-day quilting retreats and classes. The Omicron wave has barely impacted her comings and goings. She will be heading to Hampton, VA for the Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival this week, Smith Mt. Lake in April for the Virginia Consortium of Quilters "Celebration" in April, and is planning a "quilting girls' trip" to Missouri in June.

**Claudine & Laughton:** Not much new here... They took several days to go to the beach in September and we were pressed into puppy sitting duties. Laughton is currently looking to at least April before he would return to the office, and now it appears that such a return would be limited to as-needed basis (e.g., where face-to-face meetings are deemed more appropriate than a Zoom meeting). Claudine pops in the office

