



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Well, this may be a long one!!! Busy Month!! But Fun!! Just to give you a quick summary, Bob & I started the month with a three day Storehouse tour to Greenbrier, in White Sulphur Springs, WV. This was amazing! On the 8th of December, we were invited by neighbors, Charles & Doris to attend *The Taste of Christmas* at their Church, *Christ United*. A large number of church members participated in the presentation, including children, plus, a live baby in the Nativity Scene. On the 9th, we attended the Carolina Forest High School Christmas Show. We never miss any of their shows, and their Nativity Scene always brings tears to my eyes - it is so beautifully done. There were many other events going on in the area to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. For example, there was a Christmas Parade in Conway on the 10th that lasted for one and a half hours! It seemed like every group, business, school, organization had elaborate floats that came through, which included our Chiropractor, Dr. Daniel A. Falk and staff. We enjoyed it very much and the weather was perfect for the event. That same night we attended the Lakeside Crossing Christmas party at the Club House. We sat with friends and neighbors, enjoyed some musical entertainment, plus snacks and drinks. Now with the Christmas spirit uplifting us, Charles & Doris joined us one evening for a ride through some wonderful displays of Christmas lights in North Myrtle Beach and in Conway. We gave the Conway display an 'A+'!! That is not to say the North Myrtle Beach was not good, we just preferred the latter.

No, we are not done yet!!!! So much for the *brief* summary! We also took a day trip with Storehouse Tours, on the 13th to the Governor's Mansion in Columbia, SC. We had been wanting to do this for a while and this was a prefect opportunity. Then, finally on the 25th, Christmas Day, our neighbor and friend Pat joined us in celebrating Christmas. I made a leg of lamb dinner, Pat brought some delicious corn muffins and we all had a great time.

Ok, here we go with some pictures of the above. The first experience was our visit to Greenbrier, which could easily take up this whole newsletter, with an extraordinary history and pictures. You should look it up on the web if this is new to you. It dates back to 1778 as a world class resort. Of the 44 presidents, 26 stayed here at some point in time. The US government leased it for 7 months during WWII, as German, Japanese, and Italian diplomats and their families were relocated from Washington DC. Then again in 1950, a classified underground facility was built for US government members in the event of an atomic bomb threat during the cold war. The facility was a secret location for more than 30 years, until it was declassified in 1992. Bob went on the tour of the Bunker.



Smith Family Newsletter December 2016 - Page 1



After WWII, Greenbrier was bought by the Rail Road and Dorothy Draper was hired to bring it back to it's former glory. She did a fantastic job. The picture on the left was taken of the Greenbrier outside Christmas lights. The top pictures are of Bob & I in one of the beautiful sitting rooms and the other picture is a large room near the main entrance.

The next two pictures were taken at *Christ United Church*. The top picture gives honor to church members who have given service to our country, along with a young Christmas choir. Charles, a veteran of WWII and the Korean War, is the middle veteran standing on the left. The last picture is of the Nativity Scene with a choir singing along side. It was beautifully done.



Conway at Christmas!!

The next set of pictures you will see is of the Christmas Parade in Conway. In selecting from the many pictures we took, I chose the float that carried the team from *Falk Family Chiropractic & Wellness*. I wanted to catch a photo of their float, as he is our chiropractor. The only problem was that we had difficulty catching his attention until after I took the picture, so he wasn't looking in our direction. The next set I just couldn't resist even though it was not a local company, *Express Clydesdales*. I just love horses, so when I saw them coming down the road I jumped to it with the camera. Now on December 9th, at our monthly "Meet & Greet" at our Club House, we had a presentation given by a Mr Jim Hayle, who is with Express Employment, and gave a presentation for our senior population. He is part of this whole operation along with Express Clydesdales. He and others travel all over the country, and Canada with the Clydesdales as ambassadors, for Express Employment Professionals. So, were we ever surprised to see the Clydesdales. They are in all the big parades all over the country like Macy's, and here we have them in Conway!!! So, that is Dr Falk on the front left of the float, with Nicole also in the front center. I don't recognize anyone else as family members are also on the float.

The picture on the bottom right of people line dancing was taken at our Christmas Party at Lakeside. Line dancing is quite popular here and brings back memories of our RV days in South Texas, where line dancing is extremely popular with the 'Snow Birds'.



Smith Family Newsletter December 2016 - Page 2



Let there be Light!!!!

Well, here are a few Christmas lights from the night we drove around North Myrtle Beach and Conway. I guess we can start with the Smith Family Lights! Why not? We did a little more dress up this year for the house - just enough to give Christmas a little warmth. Then on to North Myrtle Beach. Some of the flickering lights don't show up well on my camera, so I picked the ones that showed up the best. Next is Conway lights, which is preceded by their lighted sign. Notice the lighted dash in our car visible, as I was taking the picture from the back seat.

Since there was a bit of room left on this page, I threw in a couple of pictures of decorated rooms at Greenbrier, of which there were many.



Smith Family Newsletter December 2016 - Page 3



South Carolina Capital in Columbia, SC

The Governor's Mansion was built in 1830 by John Caldwell, a prominent SC Merchant, and is on the National Registry for Historic Places. We toured the Mansion before we toured the State House. We came in via the basement of the house and from there, toured the main floor only. Naturally, the house is occupied by our current Governor, Nikki Haley. As we moved upstairs and entered the front room we saw a portrait of her hanging over the fireplace. Then nearby on one of the end tables were pictures of her family. It was a lovely home, decorated for the Christmas Holidays.

From here we went over to the State House where we had another tour. What was interesting here was a relatively new memorial, a sculptured history of the African American History in this Country. It is very impressive, beautifully done, and dedicated to the people of South Carolina in 1901. The last picture below is the entrance to the SC Senate Chambers.



Smith Family Newsletter December 2016 - Page 4

