

Blessings to you this Christmas season!

We celebrated Christmas a bit early this year. Shawn came up for Thanksgiving, so we celebrated Christmas with him on Black Friday. That was after Rae had done her annual shopping, of course.



Overall it's been a good and mostly uneventful year. No big drama, unless you count the deer Chris hit the week of Thanksgiving. He's fine, but the car was totaled. We'll be searching for a new car for him after the first of the year.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary this year. Health-wise we're hale and hearty. We're still very involved with our church—especially the children's ministry. And, we have the blessing of watching two of our honorary grandchildren on Sunday evenings—Psalm (now three years old) and her little sister Ember, who will be eight months old by Christmas.

Chris is enjoying his job in foundry maintenance at Ford Meter Box. Every day is a little different, and he's become the go-to guy when it comes to figuring out how to do something different. He also helps out friends whenever they need a fix-it guy.

Rae continues as an independent consultant with Pampered Chef, and she loves it. She's also doing very part-time work for Bickford of Wabash (an assisted living facility) and serving as personal secretary to our pastor. She does a lot of networking and enjoys helping people connect with one another.

Shawn is still living in Cedar Hill, Texas, just outside of Dallas. He's doing well with Chase. He serves as an assistant pastor with his church, which is growing quickly. They've tripled in size in the past year. He teaches their beginning doctrine class and leads a small group of just under 20 people. His duties have grown to where he made the decision to step down from the worship team, though he still enjoys writing, singing, and playing music.

That's the news from us—uneventful, though never boring. We are relishing our lives as The Furry Guy and The Weird Little Woman with Flippy Red Hair. God is good, and we appreciate His abundant blessings.



We pray that He is blessing you and your family as well. Remember that you can stay in touch with us on Facebook; just look for Rae Black Bates. (Rae keeps Chris informed.) Or, you're welcome to call and try to catch us at home (765-985-2123).

Merry Christmas!
Chris & Rae Bates