



Happy Holidays!



Dear Friends,

We've now completed more than a full year in Greenville and it's been a real pleasure to see a full change of seasons. We are truly enjoying our new home and location. Our travels this year have been minimal save for family trips as we wanted to focus on exploring the areas closest to us.

The year started off with an unusual (for SC) amount of snow over Christmas and in January. At one point we had about six inches and, since the county has only one snowplow, we pretty much stayed put for a few days. It was fun to have a White Christmas!



In addition to having my mother here from FL, our Austin friends Jackie & Peter drove up the day after Christmas from their family holiday in Charleston to visit. We braved the snow and a bit of ice to show them around town and one of our favorite waterfalls, Upper Whitewater Falls.

Our friend Barbara then visited us for a few days in January and Jane's mom and sister arrived in early April. The local economy was much helped by both!

In early May, Houston's most notorious motorcycle gang, The Mild Ones, motorcycled to Greenville for a visit. We had a great time riding through the mountains and seeing the sights of Upstate SC including the some waterfalls, the BMW factory, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Biltmore estate in Asheville. We were exhausted after a non-stop three days but sorry to see them go.



Our niece, Jennifer, married Michael over the Memorial Day weekend and we travelled to Washington, DC for the event. The weather was great and I got to roam around the city for a day while Jane helped with preparations. The ceremony and reception were held at a house once used by President James Monroe while the White House was undergoing repairs. It's now an art club. On the way home, we stopped in Luray, VA to see my old college friend, Bill, and his girlfriend Karen.



June brought a visit by our Dallas friends, Sarah and Dave. As with our previous visitors, we headed out to see the Upstate and the Biltmore in Asheville. Dave and I took the BMW factory tour while Jane and Sarah shopped. We also took in a Greenville Drive baseball game at beautiful Fluor Field. That's Drive mascot Reedy Rip'It seated with Dave, Sarah and Jane. We also attended a Greenville Chautauqua event with an



impersonator playing naturalist John Muir.

Labor Day week saw us once again on Sanibel Island, FL at our timeshare. As has become tradition our Boca Raton friends, Chris and Ken, joined us for the first few days.

For our anniversary in October we meandered up the Blue Ridge Parkway to Blowing Rock, NC. We spent a day and night exploring the town and shopping in the stores. The leaves were in full splendor and we know this is a ride we'll be taking every year. October also saw a return visit from Jane's mom and sister, Ruth.



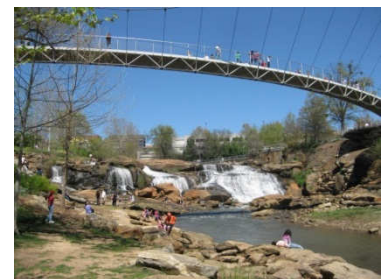
Thanksgiving found us with Jane's family in Pittsburgh. We had a fine time and decent weather for late November. As long as I've been away (about 40 years) it still feels like I'm going home. It's just fun to drive around and explore all of the places I knew so well growing up.

We'll be heading to FL to spend this Christmas with my mother. She fell and broke her shoulder in July right before she was coming to Greenville. While she has recovered well, it's not the best time of year to be trying to get around in airports. We hope she'll be here in the spring.

We joined the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at Furman University (OLLI @ Furman) right after arriving last year. They have excellent programs for retirees with over 300 classes being taught each year. We have taken classes on the Civil War, the history of Greenville, and astronomy. We both signed up for the Spring and Fall hiking classes. We met lots of new folks while on the trail and the classes also helped us find several great new places to hike and waterfalls we hadn't seen. Now if I could just remember the names of all those wildflowers! This year was special as funds were raised for a new 22,000 sq. ft. building. Then the Osher Foundation recognized the program with a \$1 million grant to help fund the endowment.



We have both gotten involved in our new neighborhood. Jane helped organize a women's book club and several of the neighborhood women also have lunch together monthly. I was drafted onto the Architecture Board and at the homeowner's meeting last month I was elected to one of the vacant Board seats. Jane is also volunteering with Greenville Chautauqua.



We go downtown frequently to walk, eat, shop, and attend the ballet and Broadway series shows. We do a lot of hiking and some motorcycle riding.

For those of you who know him, our cat Napoleon continues to do well. He's a constant source of amusement to us. We did have to fence in our backyard to confine him since there were several sightings of a coyote in the area.

See more of Greenville and our travels at <http://www.jmbissell.com>. Come and visit us - we'd love to show you around! Have a great 2012!

