



2019 Christmas and Holiday Greetings

Jim and Pat Magle Jones

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our only planned trips in 2019 were two weeklong bicycle trips, the Tour of Minnesota in June and RAGBRAI (bike across Iowa) in July. However, we had to cancel the June tour when Pat's father's health declined. We visited him before the scheduled tour, extended our stay to help get him into a hospice facility, and stayed to the end. It was a very fast decline without much pain. Just 3 weeks earlier he was vigorously showing Mark and Erica around the farm when they stopped by for a visit. Pat and her siblings were able to be with him at the end. He passed away on Father's Day, June 16.



We did our fifth RAGBRAI in July from Council Bluffs to Keokuk, Iowa. We went with 11 riders on the Graceland team and over 30 thousand bikers on some days. To our relief the excessive heat index leading up to RAGBRAI dissipated until the last day when it reached 107 degrees. Rather than return home afterwards we drove on to Michigan to see how Doris, Pat's stepmother, was doing and to take care of some trustee matters.

In April, Jim's second cousin from Australia, Tim Prescott, came over to attend our church's world conference in Missouri and we got to spend time with him as he made the rounds to visit other relatives and friends. He traveled across the western U.S. by Amtrak to see the countryside and other relatives in California. His wife Marion encouraged him to make this planned trip despite her facing some serious health challenges. Our prayers were directed to her and others in Tim's family during his visit.



This year we both attended our 50th high school reunions, Pat's in Caledonia, Michigan, in September and Jim's in Lee's Summit, Missouri, in October. They were fun and enjoyed reconnecting with old friends, some who we have not seen since graduation. It was also sobering to see the list of who have passed on from the class of 69.

Jim is busy as secretary/treasurer of the cemetery board. He sells lots and manages the records and the website. He's been scouring historical documents to correct missing or incorrect records and was acting Sexton during a transition between the old and new one. Pat is president of a federally subsidized housing board, which draws her into all sorts of government, administrative, and renter issues. She also chairs the Lamoni Trails Commission and helped acquire grants to extend and improve our concrete paved trail.

A big change in our lives is to have our grandkids living just two doors away. We love seeing them frequently and being able to help with transportation and sitting. Parker is in kindergarten and Marley in pre-school. Pat is no longer on the CHCSI Board so that Becky could apply to work there. Becky is the behavioral care coordinator in Osceola, Iowa, CHCSI new expansion into behavioral health services. Mark and Erica continue to live in Iowa City, but have spent a lot of time recently to be near Erica's parents during various surgeries and rehab. Mark has done more animation workshops for schools and work as an art director on upcoming independent films.



Best wishes for a happy holiday season!
Pat and Jim



Tim Prescott from Australia visits Iowa relatives (April)



Snack time for Marley (with "Giraffe") and Parker



Magle family gathering at Father's funeral in June



Snow fort in February



"Tire dip" at Mississippi



Marley prepping for cider day (in October)



Cider making using Pat's childhood cider press, refurbished by her father



Preparing to make Thanksgiving dressing



Fall cookout in backyard



Parker's Christmas cookies