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# Merry Christmas from the Klines - 2022



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And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ...When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

*Matt 1:19-22, 24-25*



"I believe in a little baby boy." Funny how this line has stuck in my head for 40 years. Of all the ways to send Jesus, why this? It's a children's story, with angels singing, shepherds kneeling, cattle lowing, a bright star in the sky and wise men on camels. A pageant for the kids to play.

But believing the story brings another dimension. Mary and Joseph believed, and welcomed Him. Wise men believed, and searched for Him. Herod believed, and feared Him. Disciples believed, & died for Him. To truly believe requires a response.

I believe in a little baby named Jesus. What do you believe?

I believe in a little baby named Jesus.  
I believe in a little baby boy.  
Born in Bethlehem of a virgin, Mary,  
Bringing to the world a Father's joy.

Glory be to God in the highest.  
Peace on earth to men of good will.  
For to us a child is born this day in  
Bethlehem. Jesus, we welcome you.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.  
An angel of God announced his name.  
A star in the sky shone over his birth-  
place, shepherds and kings to him came.

Glad tidings of a great joy,  
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"  
Messiah is come, even Christ the Lord.  
Jesus, we welcome you.

For our eyes now see your salvation,  
Prepared this day for ALL people,  
A light of revelation to the fallen,  
The glory of Israel..

Lion of Judah, Holy One,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,  
Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of  
Peace! Jesus, we worship you.

*I wrote and set this simple poem to song in the early 1980's when we lived in Charlotte. Marsha Lacy Gallardo sang it with me. Phil*

## 2022 Milestones.....

We post invitations on our fridge beside the calendar. This year the invitations were different. Graduations almost dried up, while weddings and baby showers covered the door. There were those who didn't wait, those who couldn't wait, and those who waited so long we almost gave up! But love and a desire for family runs through them all.



Above: Mike & Shelby's little guy, Clay, arrived at just 33 weeks on July 12. After a month in ICU, he joined brother Wyatt on the farm.

Below: Erik & Lauryn's lil' pumpkin, Simon, took his time for a home delivery on July 9th, but then was rushed to the ICU as well. As you can see, he's doing fine (as are first time grandparents Bob & Linda)!



Above: Jake & Kelly celebrated with a lovely outdoor wedding on Sept. 24 (with their son, Milo)



Below: A snowy day in Nottawa added to the excitement for Liz and Zac's wedding Nov. 19.



Above: Shane & Jamie couldn't wait, so they eloped on Oct. 14. They'll double tie the knot on the same date next year.



Above: Lee & Sherry's eldest - Adrian - kicks off the next generation of Kline family graduates.



# Together: the Story Continues

Top left: At Paul's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party in April

Top right: Taking the walkers for a walk at Birch Meadows.

Below: at Joyce's 90th "Poems & Pies" Birthday party Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>



## FROZEN CRANBERRY PIE

You thought it was my favorite, all those years ago.  
Cranberry pie on my birthday? I couldn't tell you "no."  
So, come every birthday, you seldom missed a beat.  
"Cranberry pie! My favorite!" I'd feign surprise and eat.  
It's not that I didn't like it; it really wasn't bad.  
And I would rather eat it, than ever make you sad.  
'cause when it comes down to it, I didn't exactly lie.  
Apple, peach, blueberry... It's not about the pie.  
When love surrounds it's making, now I clearly see.  
Frozen cranberry pie! Mom, you made it just for me.

*(Phil's poem for his mom's 90th birthday party)*

In 2004, Dad and I spent a week rafting the Grand Canyon. It's the only time in my life we did something for 'just the two of us.' We had a great time, and when we returned I suggested we plan another adventure. But Dad declined, saying "I could never be away from your mother for that long again."

Being together. That theme has been a constant. After mom shattered her elbow on her first night in Arizona last January,

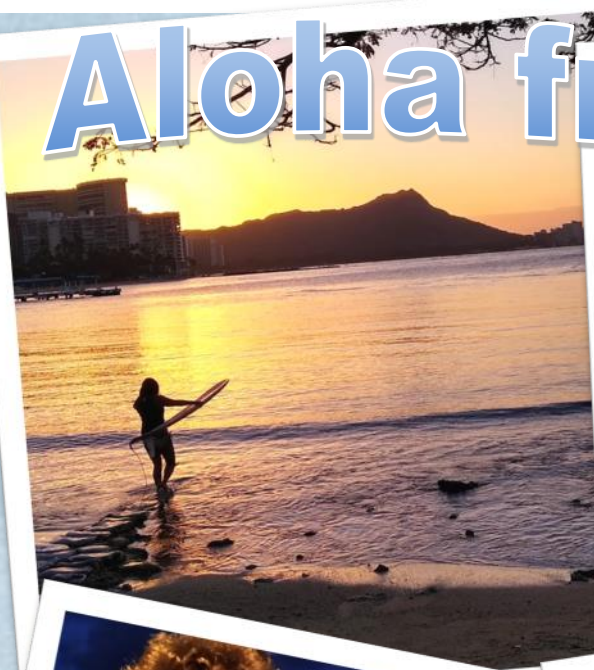
the family pulled together. Kevin, Carol, Keith, Phil, Kathy, and then Kevin again, traveled to Arizona to help out. In weekly zoom meetings we discussed the options. It became clear they needed a safer environment. So when Birch Meadows in Three Rivers offered a rare two-person room, mom and dad agreed to give it a 3 month trial. They flew home March 31.

What a blessing! The staff at Birch Meadows has been amazing, and mom and

dad are truly loved. After 3 months we again discussed the options. With winter ahead, they decided to stay at Birches for now. It's their first Michigan winter in many years, but like everything in their life, it's ok as long as they're together.

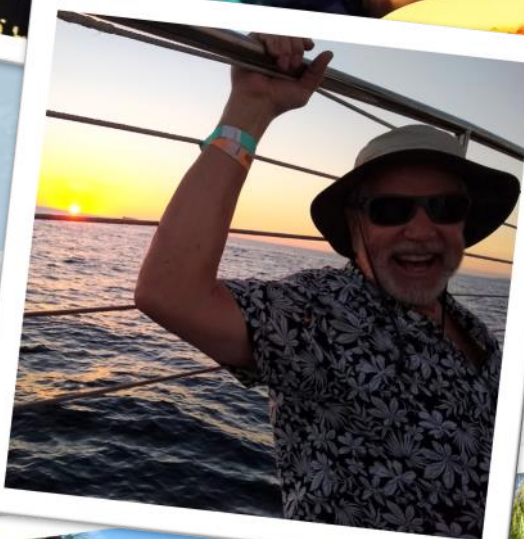
And together, we have celebrated birthdays and weddings and babies and more. When they hugged for the anniversary dance at Elizabeth's wedding, their 68 years together won the prize. We agree!

# Aloha from Hawaii



## Hawaii Vacation Checklist:

- ✓ Watch sunrise from Diamondhead
- ✓ Hike to Manoa Falls
- ✓ Visit Pearl Harbor
- ✓ Celebrate Tama's birthday dinner at Beachhouse at Manoa Surfrider
- ✓ Eat traditional food at Helena's
- ✓ Snorkel with sea turtles
- ✓ Try Shave Ice & Hula Pie (at Dukes)
- ✓ Tour Wiamea Botanical Gardens
- ✓ Watch surfers on North Shore
- ✓ Hear traditional music & dance
- ✓ Sunset Catamaran Sail





### Florida without kids:

1. Visiting Keith & Virginia at their home in Tenn.
2. Tea at quirky Sunrise Coffee in Madison FL.
3. Two weeks at Westgate. All by ourselves...
4. "Illiana," best beer at Rockpit Brewing.
5. Overnight in St. Pete Beach at Hotel Zamora
6. Dinner with cousin Larry & Donna Jackson
7. Frank Lloyd Wright campus - Florida Southern
8. Strawberry shortcake at Parksdale's Plant City
9. Lunch with Tim & Staria B. at the Columbia Restaurant in Celebration.
10. Listening to Taryn Papa at Ole' Reds, Orlando
11. Joe Alterman Trio at Timucua, Orlando.
12. Bach Festival performance of Mendelsohn's "Elijah" at the new Dr Phillips Center, Orlando.
13. Enjoying view from updated Cocoa Beach Pier.
14. Valentine's Day lunch at Peperoncino Italian.
15. Biking on the West Orange Trail.
16. Hanging out with the Coles at Westgate.



### Seeking Normal....

Hawaii was fun, but it was far from a "normal" vacation. Our direct flight was replaced with a stop in L.A. to provide proof we were vaccinated. Waikiki was quiet, foreign tourists absent. Many places were closed, transit limited, masks mandatory, homeless everywhere.

Our trip to Florida was better, but for the first time in 25 years we were alone. We thought it'd be great, but we missed our "kids." Everyone was short

staffed and limited services. On Valentines Day, restaurants were all booked, and we were lucky to find a late lunch. Concern for my parents weighed on us. Weekly zoom calls with my siblings brought focus. We had to accept there was no going back to the way things were. It was time for a change.

As we planned summer activities at the resort, we wanted everything to be the same as before, but they couldn't be. The world had changed. So had we.

### Phil's takeaway:

1. Life changes. If it's not "covid," it's something else. Change is the norm. Accept and adapt.
2. I'm not ready to retire. I need the discipline & satisfaction of work.
3. To quote the bard, "Serve God, Love me, and mend."\* Healing comes as we refocus our thoughts and priorities on God and family.

\*Much Ado About Nothing, act 5, sc. 2



TOP: Arizona fruit pickers Joseph & Josh; with Mom & Dad in Sun City; volunteering at the Melting Mann bike race.



CENTER: Thumb getaway: Kayaking to Turnip Rock; with Jeff & Danielle Nash on Port Austin breakwater.



RIGHT: Kal-Haven Trail bike to South Haven with Shane & Joe B.; "researching" our Luau Party in South Bend.

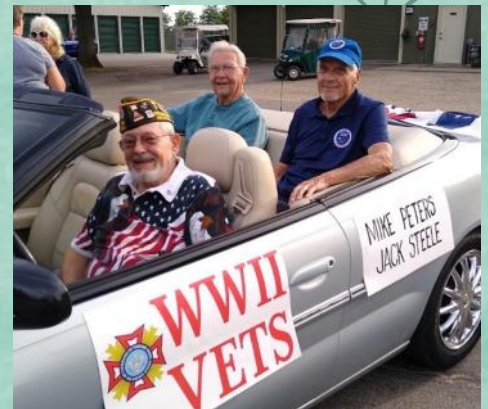


Bottom: Tama walks beside the Birch Meadows float at Water Fest in June; Kurt welcomes Mom to Birch Meadows; visiting Amanda Skye in Goshen.



## Resort Highlights:

- Covid restrictions canceled. Activities at clubhouse resume. COA lunch and BINGO resume in January.
- Demand for homes has never been higher; prices reflect the demand.
- New ministorage fills quickly. Two new homes replace older ones.
- New chairs for the clubhouse fireside room and library are welcomed.
- We're back! Gospel concerts and Pancake Breakfasts well attended.
- "Fake" couple Jim & Karen bring laughs to Love & Marriage contest.
- Petting Zoo is a hit at Kid's Fun Day.
- Biggest July 4th parade ever!
- Joseph continues to learn the ropes; earns wastewater operator license.
- New exercise classes with Connie, L'Tanya, and Ann!
- Monsoon washes out our Hawaiian Luau party (with smoking volcano)!
- Great turnout for 1st Halloween golf cart parade & chili lunch.
- Crew enjoys pumpkin decorating contest at Gull Meadow Farms dinner.
- We say goodbye to the Squires: Don has been our MacGyver for 20 years.
- Tama cooks 98# of turkey for Thanksgiving Dinner. It's all gone!
- Vicksburg Choirs return to entertain at our Christmas Dinner.





## Mount St. Helens Report *by Joseph Kline*

In late July, Dad and I joined Aunt Virginia's research team to Mt. St. Helens. I never imagined we'd take so many pictures of the same mountain, but Mount St. Helens was a beautiful centerpiece of the areas we explored.

Our camp was at the base of a winding gravel road that zigzagged down the mountainside. The Debris Avalanche Field, where the mountainside landed after the eruption, was miles of moss-covered rock, hummock hills, and alder tree forests. The research plots we helped with were far off the path, away from the public spaces. And above it all loomed the iconic mountain, Helen herself.



As part of a scientific survey, our day began with heading out right after breakfast. This meant 2 or 3 hours of hiking, and, for half of the plots, it demanded fording a rapid river. Only then could we begin, with one team locating, marking, and taking samples of the plots, (each defined by a single piece of rebar, often hidden in the undergrowth) and another team methodically measuring the plants in a radius around it. We were most often with the plot teams; there were thorns and biting flies and all kinds of terrain to overcome, but I enjoyed the satisfaction in the hunt.

By 3pm, it was time to turn around and repeat our long hike (partially) back out of the wilderness. Camp had no electricity or running water. Only a lucky few had cell service. The mosquitos were never-ending. The only place to sleep was on hills of rocks. Bathroom? Don't ask.

But the nearby river could help cool the summer's heat. The sky at night was ablaze with stars. We found skeletons of elk and heard calls of coyotes. There were amazing people with us, and it was a privilege to get to know them. The food was spectacular, defying all the limitations of the wilds. And the cause was a good one, studying the biological succession in the recovery of an area starting from nothing. They've learned so much from watching the environment come so far, and I can only imagine what it's like for those who have watched it all grow from the nothingness of a barren plain.

In summary, it was an incredible experience. We hiked more than I thought possible and collected good data for the ongoing 42-year study. I'm very glad we were able to go, and very thankful we made it back safely.



**Above:** with Keith & Virginia, river fording, lava rock, survey stake.  
**Below:** Refreshing swim with Virginia's granddaughters, Keith & Carol  
**Right:** The debris avalanche ran 14 miles down the river valley behind us. It has eroded over the years, making survey plots difficult to find.



For more info on Virginia's work, see this article:  
<https://news.yahoo.com/renowned-scientist-returns-mount-st-120000065.html>



# Escape Adventures: White Rim Trail

## Canyonlands N.P., Utah



90+ miles of sand, rock, and gravel, 8,000 ft of climbs & descents, sun light and star gazing... Our October week in Canyonlands was an adventure in dirt and sky. Back on the bike after breaking his collar bone last year, Joseph was a strong climber, but still nervous on the steep descents. Thankfully, his one accident left him unbroken and smiling. Our outfitter lived up to their reputation for great guides, fantastic routes, excellent food, and one-of-a-kind experiences. Each day's ride ended with a big climb. Despite cold nights, Joseph slept on his cot under the brilliant stars. Back in Moab, we enjoyed exploring town and toured Arches N.P. before flying home. There is so much more to see and do, and we hope to return someday.

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## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

### Out of darkness...

Last year, our Christmas letter theme was "The Elijah." When I discovered it was to be performed at the Bach Festival while we were in Florida in Feb., I jumped at the chance. It was so powerful, I wept thru much of it.

These emotions have been part of my journey all year. Through all the controversies of covid and the recent elections, I've struggled to find balance between my faith and my actions. The hateful attitudes on both sides repulse me. Where do I stand? How do I take a stand?

Oddly, I rested on the Apostles Creed. I've had it memorized since I was a kid, growing up in the Methodist Church.

Reciting it now helps bring my faith and purpose back into focus. It's the big picture, the eternal plan, the longing for Christ's return.

Yes, the issues we face are important ones. I believe we have a moral duty to defend the young, the innocent, elderly and disabled. The unborn. But I'm mindful that we are sinners, and all creation groans\* for His appearing.

I'm groaning, but I'm also longing. Believing the One who called us out of darkness, into His marvelous light.

We're so thankful you are part of our journey. And the journey continues. We look forward to the day when we meet again. Love you miss you! Phil

\*Rom 8 KJV: <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.



Medieval Credo Apostolorum, dated c. 1300 (Bibliothèque Mazarine ms. 0924 f. 150v).

Some traditions believe each of the 12 apostles wrote an article of the Creed, but this is unlikely given it's late adoption. It is a shorter version of the Nicene Creed from AD 325

Made  
for you,  
with love  
from the  
Kline Family

~ December 2022