

Lamar Freed and Susan Moyer 8125 Fairview Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The story so far: Lamar and Susan desperately ponder the serious questions regarding life that were posited last year at this time. Must we go anywhere on vacation? Must we fly? Can we eat out on an impulse? And do we look up from video games to answer questions?

Sadly, there seems to be little progress on these questions. It does seem that pausing the video game to answer a question is valuable, particularly if the question has been asked 3 times already and the resulting grunts and mumbled "just a minute's" were insufficient. And it is also clear that only minimal planning is required to avoid eating out on impulse, so long as franks (no fat) and beans or Deuteronomy soup (if you don't know, you may not want to) is available. But the flying...

In the Spring we had a great time driving the back roads of Pennsylvania during which time we saw aunts and uncles and a few cousins as well as Pittsburgh and Cayahuga NP (It wasn't on our list, but why not take a look at it?). Chalk up one vote for no flying. But then we went to Wichita (it is not a tourist town) to see friends and one beloved cousin using the nation's airways and the flying didn't completely ruin the whole experience, so this jury of 2 is still out. We will keep you posted, as I'm sure you are sitting on the edge of your seats in anticipation.

In between we worked. Susan at a steady pace and I at a steadily reducing pace, though not reducing as fast as anticipated. Before things really started to be light I picked up some responsibilities with the MS Society, continuing a monthly men's group, a monthly telephone consultation with Delaware Valley MS support group leaders and most recently doing an 8 week series for people newly diagnosed with MS. My goal of being a full time household manager remains unchanged, though I will expect to continue to volunteer with the MS Society and, I suppose, will continue to be unable to say no to new patients who have MS.

The year has not been without sadness. We have lost some who were dear to us. There have been disappointments both for ourselves and for the world we live in.

Yet surrounded by the songs of Advent, blessed with the fellowship of friends and family, nurtured by spiritual food for the journey, and anticipating unexpected satisfactions and joys in 2012, we enter into this new year with a little optimism and a great deal of thanksgiving.

And we hope that you, too, find yourselves with sufficient sustenance and just a touch of the unknown so that your 2012 will be one of comfort, joy and the occasional wonderful surprise.

And maybe next year's story will involve a train...

Love,

Lamar and Susan