

2019 OUR THIRTY-FOURTH EDITION

Lafayette Lagniappe

THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THIS DECADE! WITH 2020 VISION!



Dave, Des, Autumn



Lily, 8, & Zoë, 6



It's always a struggle to put just the right picture to represent the 450 pics we have of Emmitt. This one fits his easy-going personality. As of mid-January, he is a crawling zooming kid, but not yet walking except for holding on. It will happen any day, and then look out. We enjoy him every Wednesday as Julie and Trevor are at work, and he has sitters other days, or Trevor.



Welcome Autumn Comeaux

David and Desirée welcomed their first child Autumn Renée in November, and our fourth grandchild. We are over the moon with all this love and joy. It was actually a banner year for a baby boom: All told SEVEN couples that are their friends had babies in 2019.

David and Des were able to take a 'babymoon' vacation to Italy in the summer. If you don't know that term, it applies to a couple who are expecting but go on one last vacation before the baby arrives.

Much of the first part of 2019 was delight over our newest, and nearest grandson Emmitt, born Christmas eve, 2018. Michelle, Jon and the girls were able to stay after Christmas 2018 and celebrate with new Mom Julie and new Dad Trevor. Aunt Pat came from North Carolina to see us also.

Pat's visit also gave us a chance to have lunch with all of Zella's five children: Diana Lee, Pat, Richard, Regina, and Johnny. Photo is on John's Facebook page.

Our visit to the Lake House in January gave us a chance to perfect our raking skills, as Phyllis and John raked 39 piles of pine needles. Phyllis also was able to complete another in her latest series of Landscape paintings under the tutelage of Bob Ross via DVD.

We hosted our granddaughters for some 6 weeks in the summer while the Scotts packed up to move to a new home in Richmond, TX. We made sure that Lily and Zoë had plenty of activities such as the Children's Museum, crafts, science experiments, pool time, star gazing, and Lake House activities while they visited. Mimi read them our book *Winnie and the Mystery of the Missing Moonstones*, and then Lily read it again at LEAST 4 times in the next few days.

In February and April we removed the last carpets from our house and installed wood flooring. The floors are good quality and look great. Unfortunately, we were unaware that a roof leak (that was supposed to be fixed 4 years ago) was still an issue, and the floors (and wall insulation) in the girls' bedroom were ruined and had to be replaced. Tearing up a just-installed glued-in wood floor is not an easy task. It also involved removing the leaky dormer from the roof. In other news, one of our AC units went out and had to be replaced, and the salt cell for our pool needed to be replaced. Lafayette repair services are booming thanks to the Comeauxs.

John's college friend Mike Broussard moved back to Lafayette from West Virginia, so it was great to see him again after 40+ years. We had kept in touch with the newsy newsletters you are fortunate to receive. We also reconnected with David Duhon, a Chem. Engr. friend of 40+ years ago. He's in Toledo Bend living the fishing life.

Pennsylvania Here We Come, for two big events. One was to visit our friends Jason and Laura Sowels and the 4 lovely girls in Pittsburgh. We saw a frozen great Lake Erie, an eerie sight for these Cajuns. Another was to attend Adam Credeur's wedding in Philadelphia, which gave us an opportunity to see some historical sites. And in a wonderful coincidence, our son David was there for a meeting, and we got to meet up for a supper.

We had an April Crawfish boil when the Scotts visited again. This was also near Easter so we dyed our traditional Easter Eggs. Lily was able to celebrate her birthday with us also on April 21st.



Lily's First Communion

Lily made her first Communion at her church in May, so we attended along with Nanny Faye. Julie and 4-month old Emmitt, who traveled the 4-hour trip. John drove Julie and Emmitt on the trip to Houston, and Julie and Emmitt did solo on the return while John returned with Phyllis.

Our novel "Winnie and the Mystery of the Missing Moonstones" was published by Crimson Dragon Publishing on Sept. 6. We had a book signing at Barnes & Noble, and we've been telling everyone about it. The grandchildren helped me create a marketing promotional video by reading the novel while I recorded video, and turned that into a one-minute clip. I got music from the Audio Jungle website. (I was going to ask David to record it, but in the end it was cheap and easy to buy it.) You can search for the



improved version by Crimson Dragon on YouTube. Type in the full name of the book.

We attended the Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge in November, which was an eye-opening experience. Thousands of people came downtown to see the booths and look at the books for sale, children's activities, and food booths along with live music in front of the Louisiana State Capitol Building.

May was the last time we were able to enjoy the water at Toledo Bend. The girls went fishing off the pier, and Jon took them for a paddleboat ride.



Since then, the water has been incredibly low (they had to make some dam repairs) so no fishing, and the boat house is in bad shape.

That just happened to be when we decided to buy a boat. It's a pontoon boat like a party barge, with room for everyone. It's called the Sun Tracker 20'.

Our home was the location for Desirée's baby shower in September, the day after the novel release and book signing, and two days before we departed for our Pilgrimage. Yes, as soon as we found out that our son and his wife were going to Italy, we decided to stop putting off our own trip, and celebrate our 40th anniversary before it became our 41st.

We explored the 206 Tours website and found a two-week Pilgrimage to Italy which included holy sites and churches, great food, and free time to



explore on our own. We made lasting friends with the 25 other pilgrims.

We landed in Rome and visited Monte Cassino, Mugnano, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Assisi, Gubbio, La Verna, Siena, Florence, Padua, and Venice. Pope Francis recognized us from Fatima, so we got re-aquainted. (Not true, he just waved as he went by in his Pope-mobile.) Two take-aways for us were: Assisi was the most relaxing and our favorite place, like stepping back in time; and Pompeii was the most surprising as a restored ruin from the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

When we returned, there was still plenty to do: visit the Scotts in their new home, and celebrate Faye's birthday at a party hosted by Francine.

Phyllis' 45th high school reunion was in October, so she got to catch up on old friends.

We enjoyed a visit from Betsy and Eddie of Fredericksberg fame, who were able to see our newest grandchild Autumn. We had a bit of supper at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. We also hosted Tony and Beverly at the Club for his birthday dinner. We have gone dinner dancing also to hear our favorite dance band Kenny and the Jokers (and their famous song *Holly Beach*.)

John stayed active in the Knights of Columbus by participating in the Autism Awareness walk in the Spring, and the Down Syndrome Buddy Walk in the Fall. He also helped with the annual Garage Sale in November, and enjoys the monthly pancake breakfasts (hosting *and* eating.)

Phyllis facilitated two more sessions of the program "Catholics Returning Home", which takes a lot of dedication and time to welcome those who wish to renew their faith but have many questions. It is successful because the attendees from the first session came back to help in the second session. And all of them later attended the A.C.T.S. retreat to help them grow further. (A.C.T.S. stands for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.)

Phyllis also teamed the February A.C.T.S. retreat which ended on her birthday. And she was asked to be a co-director for the retreat, which entailed lots of prep and planning. The team formation takes 13 weekly meetings.

She also keeps busy with the Cornerstone Communion ministry and Mass at the nursing home every Wednesday. (John is caring for Emmitt while she does this.) She volunteered for and really enjoys doing the Alzheimer's unit as she feels blessed by the opportunity to bond and interact with them, though many can't speak or comprehend. She witnesses the impact of the grace they receive in Holy Communion.

John & Phyllis hosted a 20-week Bible study on the book of Acts of the Apostles in our home, which Regina attended, along with our neighbor Chris Credeur. Phyllis has participated in other studies at church. She also attends a weekly A.C.T.S. prayer meeting when we are in town, as well as her annual December women's retreat at the Abbey in Covington, Louisiana.

We keep up our season tickets to the wonderful Acadiana Symphony Orchestra where we hear the classics with Bud and Cathy. One of the featured performances was with Lauren Daigle, a local girl gone global with her Christian repertoire.

We attended a Michael Bubl  concert in Houston given to us as a present by Jon and Michelle. Bubl  had taken a couple of years off from performing while he dealt with his young son's illness, so he

spoke about that during the concert, which was very moving.

With the joyful Sing-along in December, (including many friends and their babies, and Pat and Rich from NC) we wrapped up another fantastic year. God's blessings and graces seem to overflow with us, and we are so grateful.

But wait, there's more! Julie and Trevor are expecting their second child in July, so more babies means more love. Emmitt will be a big brother!

Until next year, keep us all in your prayers.

Love, John & Phyllis



St. Joseph Abbey, Covington, LA