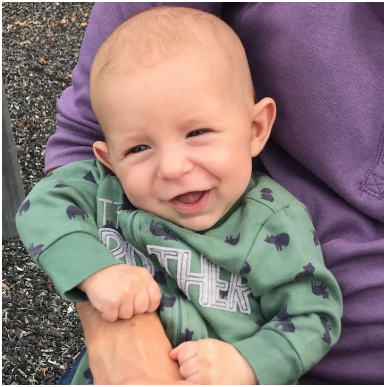


2020 OUR THIRTY-FIFTH EDITION

Lafayette Lagniappe

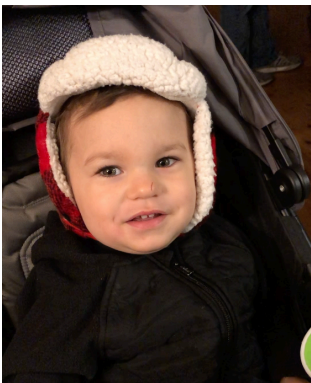
WHAT STARTED OUT AS A PROMISING YEAR...AND WE MADE IT!



Meyer at 4 months



Julie, Trevor Lemaire



Welcome Meyer John Lemaire

Julie and Trevor welcomed their second child Meyer in July. His big brother Emmitt was 1-1/2 and on first sight started calling him “Mahmo” which is cute. We wonder if it will stick though childhood. Meyer is a happy baby so far, and seems interested in everything with his big eyes focused on ours.

Emmitt is now two and has begun asserting his wants strongly. He is speaking in bursts of sentences, like “I mopping the floor.” If only the mop actually cleaned anything, that would be great. But he cleans with gusto anything and everything, so maybe one day...

By the way, it is really difficult to get a good photo of Emmitt, because he is so busy all the time, and camera-aware. So we have lots of videos of him...blurry videos. His favorite thing right now is “golf” and he enjoys it indoors and out. He is fairly consistent in swinging and hitting the ball, so we expect great things. He also loves books, music (piano guitar) and playing outside pushing his bubble mower or throwing the ball to Banjo the dog.

Since March, Julie is home with the two boys, getting help from Trish and from Mimi. Trevor managed Pete’s restaurant during shut-downs, and Phase 1, 2, and 3.

They celebrated their 4th anniversary in November with a gourmet meal at home prepared by Chef Julie.

Celeste Prejean arranged a “Comeaux Family Reunion” with most of the cousins that are still around: Celeste, Marc Comeaux, Denice Comeaux Skinner, John,



Regina Comeaux Dauphin, Rene Prejean, Richard St. Julien, and Mike Randolph. Five more cousins were not able to make this event, but we think of them. Joseph, David, Gordon, Kenny, and Jerry.

David and Desirée are finding new reasons they are perfect for each other, 13 years into marriage, as they settle in to parenthood (as if that's possible!) In January, they took 3-month-old Autumn with them out to sunny San Diego and enjoyed the city and coastline. When COVID lockdown began, the weather in Lafayette could not have been better - beautiful mornings in the hammocks and all day working at home with a happy baby. In the fall, they began a home renovation to expand their master bedroom and back patio. Autumn recognizes and repeats 8 distinct words, is learning how to walk, and just loves playing with her cousins and friends. David works from home for L3Harris managing boat projects. Desi continues working for golfballs .com also remotely. They are getting help raising Autumn from Cindy and Mimi also.

Michelle now works two jobs: copyediting and teaching French remotely. **Jon** keeps raising trucks—a full time job for sure. He built Lily a new bed that incorporates her dresser and a private reading nook with lights. The Scotts took every opportunity to do Houston and Galveston activities such as Christmas lights and fair rides at night. She and Jon celebrated 12 years of marriage in October.

Lily and Zoë are growing up in Richmond, TX and we are so sad we can't see them as often as we wish. Lily is 9 in 4th grade, and Zoë is 7 in first grade. They attended school in person at first, then via Zoom, then back in person at the end of the year.

They also love reading. Lily constantly has a book in her hands. And Zoë loves to cook. They both adore their new kitty (pandemic pacifier), making puppet shows, card games, and arts & crafts with Mimi or Daddy. They spent several weeks with Mimi and Pawpaw at the same time and separately over the year. They worked on projects like knitted shawls, dream catchers, and painting. We also had some fun times at CoComeaux.

BEFORE the Pandemic

John and Phyllis are still working on final edits of our second novel "Winnie and the Trouble with Trolls" which we hope to publish in 2021. The artist, Mailys, is creating new,



David, Desirée, and Autumn Comeaux



Jon and Michelle Scott



updated illustrations for it. She began an internship in Stockholm, and they liked her so much they hired her to do commercial art prep. Then the pandemic hit, but she continues to thrive in Sweden.

We held a book signing event in Houston Feb. 1 at Barnes & Noble Copperfield, just before the pandemic closed up everything. Michelle was the force who spearheaded that and we appreciate it so much.

Lauren Schneider came for a visit just before the lockdown started. I think Emmitt wanted to go back to California with her, they got along quite well.

Faye came in and surprised Phyllis with a birthday party at Ground Pat'i. We decided to chill instead of attending the Mardi Gras parades.

Phyllis' cousin Pam passed away, and her sister Bonnie and daughter Brooke gave a celebration of life event for her. It was a touching tribute.

We were able to enjoy the company of Uncle Howard, Faye, Francine, Tony, and Beverly at Beverly's house for a nice dinner and cards.

Jon and the girls came to Lafayette for Autumn's baptism which took place the day before the closing of churches and businesses.

AFTER the Lockdown

The pandemic kept us inside and closed up much of the year. We had two meals at the Petroleum Club and then cancelled knowing we would not be able to benefit from our membership.

We said good luck as Phyllis' brother Tony moved to Tennessee to start a new job.

Phyllis and John were able to attend some Mass celebrations during the year, but as the pandemic increased we used the online streaming Mass more and more. We missed attending the symphony with Bud and Cathy, but did stream two of the performances.

One good thing happened at the lake: we finally have a new boat house to replace the dilapidated mess that self-destructed over the year. We stored our party barge in it, and it will be great fun to enjoy. On July 4 we had a little parade at Toledo Bend with about 1,000 other boats.



Phyllis and John, retired couple
Married 42 years



Lion, Unicorn, and Dorothy at
Halloween



The lake house suffered this year as a leak ruined all the floors and lower cabinets. We had a difficult time finding contractors to work because Hurricane Laura hit the next week. Workers were booked on hurricane repairs all over Toledo Bend area. And we are still waiting on a roof for our home on Martele Blvd because the hurricane took off so many shingles. We've had tarp for four months now.

At Halloween, Michelle and the girls came to Lafayette, so that was a fun time. I wish I could post more of the hundred photos I took, along with the videos of "pin the nose on the pumpkin." We also had an early celebration of Autumn's first birthday while the Scotts were in town.

Phyllis' sister Faye and her friend Jeff Stimac visited us for Thanksgiving and Christmas. And we did have another occasion where the three Allemans (Phyllis, Faye, and Tony) could get together and play the Sweep card game with Tony's friend Beverly.

August through December was mostly focused on Lake House repairs, choosing floors, cabinets, paint colors, contractors. Faye was a help to us in choosing the right selections of good quality. John and Phyllis painted like crazy. John wisely had a remote garage door opener installed with a new security system, so that workers could show up even while we were in Lafayette.

Like everyone else, our lives have changed drastically. **Phyllis** is no longer able to do all of her ministries at church and bible study groups. She uses Zoom and GroupMe apps to keep up with her prayer groups. She has filled her time with sewing masks for the entire family, Faye and Tony included. She is kept busy entertaining and babysitting grandkids. There may be a book in her future, as she collected her spiritual writing into a format ready for editing and publication. She did make a beautiful sunset painting, and she's trying to stay fit without trips to the gym.

People very close to us contracted the COVID virus, but we will not name them in this newsletter. But you know we prayed for you daily, and so far there seem to be no lasting conditions or consequences.

We sorely miss many of our friends and hope that 2021 will bring relief, health, and restoration to the public in general and our family.

Be of good cheer, Love, John & Phyllis