



Christmas 2014

We could not have known, as we celebrated Thanksgiving 2013 with [Forrest's two sisters](#) and brothers-in-law, that our next thanks-giving together would be at sister Lorraine's memorial service in March. Her death came just four years after a diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. This Christmas is bittersweet as we remember Lorraine's love of the season.

But 2014 brought us joy, too. It was a rare treat to have Brian's and Abbie's families with us for a week in the Adirondack Mountains, ending with a 95th birthday picnic for Lynn's mother in Ithaca NY.

Brian continues to enjoy his work with the Regional Transportation District in Denver. We just wish he weren't so far away! His girls are growing up quickly. [Amelie](#), at 3 ½, is quite the fashion plate, and 15-month-old [Hazel](#) recently claimed their piano keyboard as "My!"

We see the [Blacksburg grandsons](#) several times a week, to our delight. On Tuesdays, we pick up Kyle (age 9) from the after-school daycare center where Abbie is an administrator. We also help with a Wednesday after-school church program for his age group, where he loves choir practice. Garrett's favorite middle-school class is art - we enjoy watching the creative process when he does homework at our house on Thursdays. The boys alternate Friday overnights with us - one-at-a-time is learned grandparent wisdom!

We were away from home frequently, traveling to places and events that have become retirement traditions. February found us in Naples FL, house-sitting the condo of friends who inexplicably enjoy winter in our Blacksburg house. Summer trips included a week in [Chautauqua NY](#) and another in [Montreat NC](#). Family schedules didn't mesh for our annual beach camping with a grandson, so Kyle had to settle for a [Jellystone Park](#) weekend in Marion NC. (We prefer the beach, but don't tell Kyle!) The October [Storytelling Festival](#) in Jonesborough TN was the last of these favorite annual destinations.

Unable to drag Forrest from the garden for any more travel time, Lynn was "forced" to travel over 4,000 solo miles towing her tiny [Alite](#) camper. Her longest trip came first, as she led a May caravan from Myrtle Beach SC down the Atlantic coast to a national camper rally in central Florida. Charleston, Savannah, Beaufort, and St. Augustine are beautiful in the spring.

We know we're grown a year older since last Christmas. Lynn had cataract surgery in March, although she actually feels younger with no glasses. She was able to see, if not recognize, her high school classmates at a 50th reunion. Forrest had no such age-related milestones this year, although his garden and compost activities were accompanied by a few more aches and pains than previously.

Our 82-year-old house is also showing its age, requiring deck and sunroom replacement. Home improvement projects were much more fun when we moved in 36 years ago!

But we have no cause for complaint. Our old house is warm and dry. We have food, health, security and love. If only all the world's children could see such a future for themselves - that is the hope of Christmas, and our New Year prayer.



Lynn and Forrest

Lynn@TeaHaus.us
FWThye@gmail.com