



FAREWELL TO APPLE...
...AFTER ELEVEN YEARS
IN RETAIL, RICK SAID
"YES" TO WEEKENDS OFF.



A MOVE
JUDY HELPED ELISE
MOVE ALL THE WAY
TO VANCOUVER, B.C.



SATURDAY VISITS
TO CHISAGO CITY TO SEE
JUDY'S MOM, THEO, AND
BYRON, OFTEN WITH JOHN

WATTMAN "WANDERINGS"



Family Gatherings, once again: As the world opened up again, so did the frequency of our getting together (left to right): **Rick and Judy, Andrea, Theo, Mike, Byron, John, Alex, and Anna**, in May, upon Theo and Byron's return from California.

New Normal? [Dateline 2023, reporting on 2022.]

If there was anything normal about life in **2022**, it was that our family gatherings *began* to resemble pre-COVID regularity and comfort. We did not hesitate to get together, but we still asked about everybody's health, and took precautions. Who knows whether hanging out with family and friends will ever again *not* be a big deal.

Judy's branches got a little bit longer this year. She again visited her mom and Byron in **San Diego** (Jan. and Mar.). She also traveled to attend work conferences in **Arizona** and **Duluth**. In a spontaneous mood, she also helped **Elise** move with her earthly belongings to **Vancouver, BC**, then later to visit her there. (Elise reported doing a Google® search for mountains, kayak, and ocean when choosing her destination.) Vaccine adaptation allowed for the resumption of the women's drumming circle, participation in the community band (and an opportunity to perform on tympani!), and visits to her mom on Saturdays in her **Chisago City** summer home.

Rick and Judy still enjoy getting away to the North Shore of Lake Superior, including Gooseberry Falls in May.



On the other side of the ledger, both **Rick** and **Judy** contracted and survived **COVID-19**, and separately, **RSV**. Presumably our cases were milder than might otherwise have been, had we both not had our vaccines up-to-date. (I know not everybody accepts this science, but I will just leave that there, as we do.)

Rick and **Judy** traveled together to **Lake Oswego** on the occasion of his 50th high school reunion. (Is he *REALLY* that old?) We enjoyed visiting with the Wattman clan, and Rick took time to explore old haunts and reconnect with old friends. AND we spent significant time staring at the ocean, just sitting on the beach as we are wont to do.

Wanting to be like **Judy**, **Rick** attempted—but failed—to put together a trip to **Vancouver** to visit **Elise**. He was “misinformed” by an airline phone agent that his enhanced driver’s license was sufficient for air travel to Canada (as his passport had expired) and he was turned away at the airport—actually laughed at by the ticket agent. (Apparently it is sufficient only to *drive* across the border.) He made an abortive effort to quickly modify the trip by flying to Seattle, then bussing to Canada. In the end, he cancelled the whole thing, and rescheduled for a later date when his passport could be renewed. We made that happen in December, and spent some quality time with **Elise** and her girlfriend **Jahda**. For the record, we concur with her choice: Vancouver is lovely, as is Jahda!

The offices at **FaithSearch** opened back up three-days-a-week, and with resumption of campus activities at Normandale Community College, we once again have routines, albeit altered.

One highlight of the year was our needing to purchase a **new stove**. We opted to shell out for a more expensive but highly efficient inductive model. Although we are still paying for it, we do not regret it in the least, and would **HIGHLY** recommend it to anyone. It is as fast as a gas range(!) *without* the combustion byproducts, and uses much less energy. The only downside was having to replace our aluminum cookware, but as most of it was decades old, we did not mind.

Although we didn’t get this printed and sent last year, it is not that we were not thinking of you. With all that “normalcy,” we simply let it slide too long. We send it with this year’s report, begging your forgiveness for not sending this last year, and with continued well wishes and prayers for you and yours this year and into the next.

2022 in a Flash



2022 in a Flash: (top to bottom) (Delayed) Family Christmas in January [1/22]; kayaking on Bush Lake [6/19]; camping at Nerstrand Big Woods with the Wilders [10/23]; boundless joy with Grandson John [ALL YEAR LONG!]; *Les Miserables* with the Bauers [12/9].