

Happy 2022 from our Blue Boat Home!

COVID-19 continued to dampen our travel plans, but we did OK. We both got to visit Becca's and Diane's families in Pittsburgh, plus we had a few trips to Bartlesville and Emporia, a weekend getaway to Des Moines, and the Kansas Art Therapy Association conference in Topeka. We hosted friend Matt and nephew Nicholas. We said goodbye this year to Jessie's grandpa Dale. We both served as church youth advisors, and we made some more improvements to the house.

Ben:

Perhaps my biggest news of the year was that my chronic lymphocytic leukemia returned, so I had six months of immunotherapy, and now I'm back in remission, probably for good. I'm feeling great now and staying healthy!

I broke ground on a backyard greenhouse of my own design and then had to build only a third of it for permitting reasons. In June I hiked some more of the Appalachian Trail with friends Diane and Helen (age 4). In August I helped friend Marisa move from Austin, TX to Minneapolis, MN, stopping to visit old friend Chris on the way.

My work situation has settled down to a few clients: primarily Share Good Software with a little remaining work for the UUA and Creighton University. I taught my soil ecology class in Spanish in the spring and in English at KU in the fall. I continue to serve on the boards of Green Omaha Coalition and Benson Neighborhood Association.

I'm hoping to do some more biking in 2012 and continue to grow the garden.

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Jessie:

I continued to work at the HeartlandTherapeutic School, where we have been in-person since August 2020. I began seeing private-practice clients in person again and taught online for Emporia State and the University of Nebraska Omaha. I also finished my book draft (due out September 2022) and published an article online in December 2021 (to be published in a print journal later), both based on my dissertation but with practical suggestions for clinical applications of my research. I also continued to present remotely at conferences.

In addition to the trip to Pennsylvania, I flew to Texas to visit my close friend Christine. I enjoyed seeing the art car museum in Houston as well as some of Christine's favorite places. It was great to get away from home for a bit—during the short reprieve from raging Covid!

I'm hoping to travel more soon... and to properly celebrate my 42nd birthday (and gaining the knowledge of life, the universe and everything) with a party! ...fingers crossed.

Stay safe and healthy, everyone!

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