

December, 2011

On the Road Again

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CHRISTMAS AT THE MOORES IN FLORIDA!

One of our great joys and part of our Advent preparation is setting up our Christmas villages--this year with 70 buildings, approximately 350 figurines and four trains. Preparing it is like setting up a fanciful model train layout. First the 6 level plywood platform must be placed and secured. Then the first wiring segment, the placing of the 56 streetlights and 28 spotlights. Following this comes the laying of the train tracks, each of the four with a separate switching circuit. After this follows the placement of the buildings with lighting and appropriate background scenery. Lastly, the placement of the figurines. The electrical control panel has eleven wireless remote switches each controlling different segments of the display. Every morning it's quite a joy to switch everything on, start the music and enjoy the magic. We have open house celebrations throughout December, featuring coffee and homemade cookies baked by Sharon and her sister, Lorna. It's a joyful time we have as we receive Him and our guests...as His little children.



Red Bird!

This past September we enjoyed a most wonderful experience of ministry. For 10 days we had the opportunity and privilege to serve as volunteers at Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. Our particular area of service was in the K-12 Red Bird Mission School. It was the week of their homecoming, celebrating 90 years of service in this part of southeastern Kentucky. Sharon had the job of counting Campbell Soup labels and "Boxtops for Education," both amazing sources of income for the school operation. Fred assisted the Senior English teacher and also helped the music department produce their homecoming musical play, "The Rocks Cry Out." He helped with character development, stage presentation and also with scenery construction. Returning alumni and parents were there with "standing room only" to see this production. We plan to go back again next September. Red Bird has become part of our family!



Searching our Ancestry

We have probably all been curious at sometime about our historical ancestry, and perhaps some of you have researched your family history. One way to start and to pursue that study, we have found, is ancestry.com. We have researched the Riggs and Graham families (Sharon's background) and the Mohr and Bathurst families (Fred's background). This is an ADVENTURE! We have two ancestors who fought for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, one of them a drummer and the other a Lieutenant colonel. Both have DAR certification. We have found 7 Scottish Earls on Sharon's side, two Scottish Kings and a very well documented line which traces Sharon's mother's family back to Charlemagne. On Fred's side we have found Johann Philip Boshm, who brought the German Reform Church from the Rhineland Palatinate to Pennsylvania. That movement eventually became the United Church of Christ. Our son, Kirk, is a UCC pastor, perhaps destined to be such by his ancestor, Johann Boshm. Amen!



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Our Most Popular Shows

During the last two years our most popular shows have been:

"Grubstake MacGregor and Colorado Gold"



"Back to Broadway"



"Retrospect"



"Tumbleweed Tunes"



and "Gemuetlichkeit" (Octoberfest)..

There are 5 minute video links for all of these shows on our website. Find one that you like, give us a call at 630 920 3798 and let's see if we can find a time to entertain your group! Our website is programsunlimited.org



Betsy

Introducing a longtime and faithful friend, our Chevy Express van, We call her "Betsy" as a remembrance nod to the family favorite car of Sharon's mother and father. That car was referred to affectionately as "Betsy." Well, our Betsy has been serving us now for 7 years and 176,000 miles. We have used this van to take 8 grandchildren camping, we have used it to carry show equipment and props, to travel to Colorado for 7 summers, and the van is still running well, it is comfortable and safe and has not a spot of rust. Even if at some point we should have to replace the engine, that would be much less expensive than a new vehicle. Also, high top vans are difficult to find these days. We have recently modified our vehicle to a "halfback" with a large cargo area, and this makes pulling that little cargo trailer unnecessary! "Betsy" is still our best transportation and friend.

Wesley



Recently we had the opportunity and privilege to present "John Wesley" at the 175th anniversary celebrations of two Illinois United Methodist churches. At these celebration worship services our "Wesley" shared with the largest audiences in the history of our presentation! Our thanks to the First United Methodist Church of Naperville and the Libertyville United Methodist Church. It was truly a joy to keep the spirit of John Wesley alive!



Grubstake Lives!

Two of our grandchildren, Marianne Moore and Allie Caruso, both of whom have worked with us at Peaceful Valley Ranch in Colorado, have seen "Grubstake MacGregor" in action many times. In fact, they could probably do the whole show themselves! While traveling with us to and from Peaceful Valley in the past these two play "stump the granddaughters" and can finish with the punchlines of all Grubstake's stories. We cherish our years at PV with these girls. Check out peacefulvalley.com for info on the ranch!

