

December 2008

In case you have been wondering, we are all still alive and well! And we're finally getting out our Christmas cards after a two year hiatus, though even these are still late. We hope you've had another Merry, Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

I can probably think up some excuses for not sending cards. In 2006 I had a big project at work we were trying to get in before the end of the year. And last year Sharon was recovering from her neck surgery, and just before Christmas we had the big ice storm, and were without power for a week, and then spent the next month cleaning up. So I guess we do have some decent excuses ☺



Joey organized a soccer team in a Mexican men's league, the only gringo team in the league. They really like their bling. This is Joey accepting the *second place* trophy! (First place was about 7 feet tall, and these are all metal – no plastic!)

However I did write unsent Christmas letters each year, so for those really curious and looking for a way to kill some time, I've included copies of those. Sort of a small Christmas letter novella!

Joey has moved out, but has not gone far and is renting a room from a friend who recently purchased a new house. He is still working on his degree, and if all goes well will finish up in Dec. 2009.

Tommy is now a senior at OU, and continues pursuing his Engineering Physics degree. He is also doing a concentration in Computer Science, so probably has another year and a half before he finishes.

Sharon is doing well and is back to normal after her surgery, or at least back to her "normal" aches and pains. We both turned 50 this year, and now have our AARP membership cards. So we can legitimately complain about our aches and pains.

I've survived another year with EDS, though Hewlett Packard bought EDS this year, so I'm now an HP employee. But my job is still the same as it has always been, working on accounting systems for American Airlines. While I'm still active in all the same stuff as before, I am going to retire as Cubmaster in May 2009, so I'll have one less thing on my plate.

More of Sharon's New England family has ended up with Oklahoma ties. Her sister



Our mini-family reunion – Gail (from Siloam Springs), Sharon, Bob (from Guam), Bob & Joan, Sharon's parents from Massachusetts, and Kelley (from Guam) having breakfast before the wedding.

Gail of course lives in Siloam Springs Arkansas, just 90 minutes away. And last year Sharon's nephew Galen spent a year in Oklahoma City clerking for a federal judge. He met a girl while there, and returned just this month to marry Annie. They are going back to Washington DC where Galen works, but we all figure they will end up back in Oklahoma. So we had a minor family reunion, including Galen's parents, Bob & Kelley, who currently live in Guam.



Us at the Clinton Library in Little Rock



The dogs always get excited when Tommy comes home for a visit.



Poody enjoyed Christmas morning!



Sharon at Devil's Den State Park in Arkansas

I snuck in a final trip to Rome this spring, as my flight benefits with AA finally expired this past summer, and we made another trip to Los Alamos for Fr. John Dear's nuclear weapons protest, again bringing our Hiroshima exhibit. We then spent some time traveling around northern New Mexico.



John's self portrait at St. Peter's in Rome

We also were in New Jersey for my Uncle Terry's funeral, the last of my aunts and uncles. He was very Irish, and died unexpectedly but quickly on St. Patrick's Day, wearing his green sweater while eating his favorite meal of corned beef and cabbage. After the shock wore off, it was clear this was the perfect way for him to go. To top it off, he loved his gardens, and since Easter was the same week as St. Patrick's Day the church was still filled with beautiful flowers for his funeral. I took photos of the old house, barn & greenhouse in Summit which you can see at www.johnkennington.net.

Now comes the part where I'll drop a few famous names (at least famous in certain circles!) This past year I sort of turned into the Catholic impresario for Tulsa. For the Epiphany Group (a local group loosely affiliated with Call To Action) I helped arrange for Fr. Tom Doyle, the canon lawyer critical of the church's response to the abuse crisis, to visit Tulsa. Our Bishop had banned him from speaking. He spoke anyway (and as he said, violated Diocesan air space to get here!) and I was not excommunicated (at least not yet!) For our Pax Christi group



With Fr. John Dear in New Mexico

I arranged for a Franciscan scholar from the Netherlands, Dr. Jan Hoerberichts, to speak at the local Islamic Center about St. Francis' visit to the Muslim Sultan during the Crusades. And finally Fr. John Dear, the Jesuit peace activist from New Mexico, asked me to coordinate a visit to Tulsa for his national book tour. All these talks were successful and well attended. For our spring speaker I have been in touch with Sr. Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*.



Audubon has also kept me busy, and I'm leading a group organizing a Lesser Prairie-Chicken birding festival in western Oklahoma. And I can drop another somewhat famous name - I got Sharon Stiteler, better known as The Birdchick (www.birdchick.com) as the keynote speaker. It has turned into a big deal, with advertising in several national magazines. For our bird-loving friends see www.okaudubon.org - maybe you'll want to attend!

We hope you have a Blessed Christmas season! Our email is johnkennington@cox.net. If you really want to see more photos, go to www.johnkennington.net

Love, John, Sharon, Joey & Tommy Kennington



Our pile of debris from the Dec. 2007 ice storm was 6 feet tall, 10 feet wide by >100 feet long.

December 2006

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Bixby! We're way too late for Christmas cards, so we're just doing our letter. We've had another busy year; everyone is doing well, and we don't have anything bad to report.

Joey transferred from Oral Roberts Univ. to Oklahoma State Univ. - Tulsa, since ORU didn't have much of a Computer Science program, which is what he wants to major in. He continues to coach several youth teams and is still the club's Director of Player Development and webmaster. He began a new academy program for Under 10 kids that all the other soccer clubs are copying. He is still playing for our local semi-pro team, the Tulsa Roughnecks.



Tommy is in his second year at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and is now living in an on campus apartment. He's still majoring in engineering-physics, and getting into the interesting classes this coming semester, such as Structural Engineering and Quantum Mechanics! He is also doing some independent study with a professor on something I can't even pronounce, but related to research on results from particle accelerators.

Sharon is still an in-demand massage therapist, and is moving to a new salon in January. Sharon, Tommy & I spent Thanksgiving weekend helping remodel the new shop.



I've made it through another year with EDS, trying to keep my head above water. At least we had no more layoffs or outsourcing in our group. I still keep busy with various Audubon activities, Cub Scouts, and have become more involved in local peace groups and Catholic reform activities.



We did manage a few trips this year. The first was a drive to Austin for a wedding (Joey was the best man) and while down that way visited San Antonio. We next drove to Pittsburgh for the National Pax Christi conference, the Catholic peace movement, where we were invited to bring the Hiroshima Exhibit (which I put together last year for 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.) Here I am at the exhibit with a Japanese Bishop whose delegation was at the conference. We

took the long way there, driving through the Smoky Mountains. I then went to Los Alamos, NM to bring the exhibit to the Hiroshima Day activities and protests there and in Santa Fe. And we finally had a long weekend in NJ in November, seeing John's family and two young nephews.

We still have our Rat Terrier Munchy, and this summer got a new puppy, Rocky, a mutt who is no longer puppy-sized! We hope you have a Blessed Christmas season! Our email is johnkennington@cox.net. If you really want to see more photos, go to www.johnkennington.net.

Love,
John, Sharon, Joey & Tommy Kennington



December 2007

We hope you've had a Merry Christmas! It's been a busy year, and we seem to keep busier even though the boys are all grown up - so much for slowing down! While we did write a Christmas letter last year, we never did get out cards, so we've included that one also, since it was already done.

Joey still lives at home and is continuing to work on his computer science degree at Oklahoma State Univ. - Tulsa. It may be slow, but he keeps making progress. At the moment he is coaching 4 youth soccer teams along with his other duties with his soccer club, making some money. He and his girlfriend Carmen are inseparable!



Tommy is now a junior at the Univ. of Okla. (OU), and this summer got his own off campus apartment, so he has officially moved out. But he is home for a few weeks now over the holidays. He worked at OU this summer on a project to improve a computer program that analyzes data from the Fermilab Supercollider. He got to spend a week there, near Chicago, to visit the facility and work with a colleague on his project.

Sharon is doing well, but did need to have surgery in August. She had a bad disc that pinched a nerve in her neck, and she had to have a spinal fusion. The surgery went very well, and she was only in the hospital one night, and is almost back to normal. While waiting for the surgery, and after getting pain medication, Sharon passed the time by reading all seven Harry Potter books in a row!

I've survived another year with EDS. We have again outsourced, but this time to Argentina, since they were even cheaper than Rio. Those few of us left are kept way too busy. I'm still active in Audubon, Cub Scouts, local peace groups and Catholic reform groups.

On behalf of one group I invited a speaker for 2008 who has stood up for clergy abuse victims, Fr. Tom Doyle. I asked our Bishop permission to have him speak, and he replied that our group is not allowed to use any Diocesan venue, and furthermore Fr. Doyle does not have his permission to speak in the Diocese. Of course we're still bringing him here!

Sharon and I went to Rome this Spring, and had a wonderful time, despite sore feet from walking what seemed to be a hundred miles. I also went to Los Alamos again with the Hiroshima exhibit. If you're interested, there's a link on the web site below to a column I wrote about the exhibit in our

Diocesan newspaper. We had a long driving trip to New Jersey, Connecticut and Maine planned for September, but we had to cancel that due to Sharon's surgery.

We added a kitten to the house that Sharon found in the parking lot at her work, and Poody (as in poodycat!) has turned out to be a very sweet pet, and gets along with the dogs.

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Love,
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