

Merry Christmas and Happy 2021 from the Eckles household!

It has certainly been an interesting 2020 for all of us. It has been a year of cancelled trips and less family time than we would have liked but God gives us hope that the new year will be better.

The year began with plans for a trip to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal with Viking cruises but as COVID-19 moved in we decided to cancel the trip and were certainly glad we had done so when we saw the hundreds of people stranded on cruise ships.

We also were busy planning a wedding for the fall for our daughter Laura and her fiancé, John. A mountain venue with lovely views and cabins for guests to stay overnight seemed the perfect solution and after a fun day of shopping the perfect wedding dress was found. Then along came COVID-19. Despite cancelling all the plans, they were married early in the spring and we still hope to be able to have a celebration sometime in the coming year with friends and family. They continue to live in Fort Collins, and we are thrilled that they have chosen to stay near-by.

Our oldest daughter, Jenn, is an I.C.U. nurse at Parker Adventist Hospital and as such has been one of the many hard working frontline nurses during the pandemic. It has been a tough year dealing with terminal patients isolated from families, long hours, high stress situations without enough staff or PPE and on top of that she is enrolled in a doctorate program in nursing and taking courses while working full time. She just got her first Pfizer vaccine, and we pray every day that she stays safe and healthy.

We spent most weekends this summer helping John and Laura finish their basement. With the four of us we were able to put up walls, do all the electrical work and most of the plumbing, put up drywall and tape and mud the walls (a process that got as much mud on us as on the walls!). John hopes to finish the painting this month and then once the flooring is installed, they will have an extra bedroom, a full bath and a rec room and office/library area to enjoy.





Like many people we were able to work at a lot of home projects this year as well. We seeded and planted grass around our new indoor riding arena, painted and stained our front porch and railing, painted the bathroom cabinets in our guest bath, spread multiple truckloads of mulch on our berm and replaced most of the fixtures in our bathrooms. We were also able to help Jenn install a new multi-zone sprinkler system in her yard, although cold weather put a hold on rototilling and seeding her backyard.

The COVID-19 restrictions put a stop to the horseshows Sandy had planned for the summer, but she was still able to ride 3-4 horses each day and have a trainer come in to help several days a week. Milo has missed his ability to enjoy singing in the choir and with the Parker Chorale but hope they will resume in the coming year. We feel lucky that with all the pandemic concerns we were able to continue many of the activities we enjoy at home (with only trips to the grocery store and Home Depot!) and still stay safe.



Our biggest joy this year was the birth of our first grandson, Henry, in November. We have been able to spend a good deal of time with John and Laura including a week right after he was born and are loving every minute. We intend to spoil him as much as possible and are looking forward to having him spend his first Christmas with us.



“A Baby Is God’s Opinion That the World Should Go On”

We hope the Christmas season finds all of you happy and healthy with renewed joy in the new year. As we enter the holidays may we all find it in our hearts to love one another no matter race or creed, to respect each other despite our political views and to be thankful for all that God has given us.

Milo and Sandy Eckles