

Merry Christmas, 2018!

Life continues to be exciting for us! It has been a year of travel and family weddings, starting with nephew Spencer marrying Lauren in February!

In May we went to Columbus, Ohio. My mom, sister, and my niece Jamie joined us there for my consecration as a deaconess! In the United Methodist Church, a deaconess (or home missionary, for men) is a laywoman who is called to a lifetime of love, justice, and service. My class of 24 women joined about 400 other deaconesses and home missionaries in this wonderful community of dedicated Christians!

This was followed in June by being commissioned at annual conference in Redlands. Bishop Hagiya appointed me to DisAbility Ministries Committees at both the denominational and conference levels. This is the same work I have been doing for 6 years now, only now it's officially recognized. I am incredibly grateful to God for calling me to be a deaconess!

Dale served on the media team (sound) at annual conference for the third year. He enjoys this work and the team is a special group of people who work hard for very little recognition. He is also a voting delegate, representing our church in the business of our conference.

I made my second trip to the Philippines last summer, spending three weeks in Manila. In 2017 we were a team of 2 people. This year we had 6, including my sister! Among many other visits and meetings, I met up with some of the students from the school we stayed at in 2017. Those students have sacrificed much to get their education. I love them more than I can say! I also got to meet many deaconesses and visit the famous deaconess school, Harris Memorial College. It is so great to be counted among so many people doing God's work!

Dale's mom turned 98 and Sharon's mom turned 90 this year and we celebrated these momentous occasions!

At the end of September we went to Incline Village, NV for niece Sharry and her Joe's wedding and spent a few days exploring Lake Tahoe and riding the tram up Heavenly Mountain in South Lake Tahoe.

In October we went to Des Moines, Iowa for the CEF (Christians Engaged in Faith Formation) conference, where I taught two workshops on including children and adults in Christian Education. We had a free day, so we took a tour of the Bridges of Madison County and visited John Wayne's birth place. Not a long trip, but fun!

In November we moved Dale's mother to assisted care.

This year has held it's challenges as well. In March I took a bad fall and landed right on my knee, causing a disc in my spine to rupture. I am finally close to getting help for the pain. I hope I will be over it by Christmas!

Dale continues to serve on the Trustees at church and is the point person for anything to do with sound systems and technology. There is always something for him to work on!

Both of us still sing in the choir. I had a very short solo in the June concert and he had a longer one, singing Edelweiss from Sound of Music. He will have a solo in the Christmas concert as well.

Dale and Sharon

