

# COMFORT AND JOY! ~ CHRISTMAS 2021

## *Tidings of comfort and joy!*

One of our favorite elements of celebration at this time of year is the songs of the season. Our older son Christopher has renewed his interest in music and has taken several classic Christmas carols and created new arrangements for these songs. His version of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* effectively captures recent events in our lives. It's a little quirky, sometimes unexpected, and is full of surprises, but the underlying melody still remains.

During a much anticipated and long overdue vacation to the mountains in March Larry started developing chest pain, shortness of breath and dizziness. His symptoms did resolve with rest, so we completed our trip and began a six-month sojourn through multiple doctors' offices and testing venues. He was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and underwent a procedure for stent placement. He also had symptomatic anemia that required multiple transfusions. Despite these interventions, his symptoms continued, so he underwent an aortic valve replacement, followed by months of cardiac rehab. He has made some major lifestyle changes, dropped 32 pounds, and feels better than he has in decades.

We are so thankful for the comfort and joy our family and friends provided during the difficult days of this past year. We are also grateful for all the medical professionals who worked together to provide a positive outcome for us. We have been amazed at the unexpected sources of support we have received this year with the addition of our rescue dog, Dibley.



WHITewater FALLS, CASHIERS, NC



THE HEART NEBULA

Larry continues to find comfort and joy in his photography, constantly honing his skills in both taking and processing pictures. He has also renewed his passion for astronomy and ventured into the realm of astrophotography, using his telescope as an enormous lens for his camera. The link to his gallery is at the bottom of this page.

Wendy has had to balance her roles as wife and nurse as she continues to support and encourage Larry through his medical issues, while trying to maintain some sort of normalcy and even comedy in their lives. Dibley has certainly assisted with the comedy! Wendy finds great joy in daily conversations with her mom, walks with Dibley, and time in her garden.

Our younger son Timothy wrote the lyrics for an Advent song that also bring comfort and joy as we remember his brief life, especially at this time of year.

Sing, shout, give praise. Sing for all you're worth.  
Tell of Messiah's holy birth.

**Take off sadness, put on mirth.**  
Our Lord brought us peace on earth.

Sing your praises, sing Emmanuel.

May the coming of the Christ child bring you comfort and joy and equip you to take off sadness, put on mirth in the days ahead. God's blessings to you in 2022!

Larry Wendy  
Dibley