



## **Merry Christmas 2024**

## **Happy New Year 2025**

*Here it is December already, the Thanksgiving turkey is history and I am at least a week late starting the annual Christmas letter! So I will just give some highlights of 2024 in Purdumville.*

*What a start for 2024 - Jan. '24 proved to be the coldest, snowiest in at least a decade. While not many records were set, the cold and snow resulted in two Sundays when church services were canceled. My planned trip to Wichita for eye doctor appointment had to be rescheduled due to icy road conditions. Our quarterly Area Agency on Aging board meeting had to be conducted via Zoom due to the weather. Kansas Day (Jan 29) was finally nice enough to allow a shopping trip to Hays.*

*No snow yet in Feb. made the trip to Wichita for my second treatment for macular degeneration with no weather problems. Gave the morning message at Cedar on the 11th - roads were all clear temperature in the mid-40s.*

*Celebrated 84th birthday on Mar. 6, got third treatment for my macular degeneration on the 8th, preached at Cedar on the 10th and enjoyed a wonderful 63rd anniversary dinner at the bowling on the 11th - March was a busy month!*

*Willardene had an appointment with the heart doctor on the 4th - told that since she wouldn't take any medicines she didn't need to come back - great news as far as she is concerned. My 4th eye treatment on the 5th - resulted in blood-shot eye for nearly two weeks. Preached at Cedar on the 14th - reminded people that the next day was tax return filing day.*

*We enjoyed or more like endured a rainy, stormy spring visit to Tyler, TX to see the roses. We enjoyed a visit to the American Freedom Museum. Our return trip home was under mostly sunny skies.*

*We spent the week before Memorial Day in a resort on the shores of Lake Conroe, TX. Back home for Memorial Day, we enjoyed having Jonathan and Martha; Walter Eades; and George and Beth Jones as guests for the Holiday.*

*To celebrate Juneteenth, We traveled to Rock Springs, WY, to visit Willard and family. Enjoyed visiting historical museums in Green River and Rock Springs - both were reminders of how important mining is in that part of WY. Isabelle was baptized in the river in Green River City Park - so grandma made Willard take us to the place so she could see the spot.*

*We enjoyed hosting Willard and family for the July 4th week. Lots of fireworks were purchased - enough to put on a two-hour plus show of sparks and bangs! Willard is a great outdoor chef and grilled burgers and steaks for the family at least twice.*

*August means Fair week - another major event in Stockton. We had several visitors during the week; entered two paintings from Isabelle in the open class, one of which earned a red ribbon! Willardene raided the library's free book display to collect a box full of books for Isabelle and Violet. The races we planned to go to were rained out. We always enjoy Fair week.*

*We made our annual visit to Ruidoso, NM between Aug 30 and Sep 7. This year the adventure was a family affair - 13 individuals spent some part of the week in the condo in Ruidoso. Included were four of the six grandkids and all four of the great-grandkids.*

*We enjoyed a fall stay in Branson. Willardene's brother, Jonathan, sister-in-law, Martha and Martha's sister, Robin joined the party to celebrate Jonathan and Martha's 24th anniversary. With Jonathan and Martha we visited the Butterfly Palace - where Willardene used a powered scooter to navigate the place - she is very proficient driving the scooter - only backed it over Harry's foot once!*

*Oct. ended with only eight kids trick or treating on Halloween - we were left with lots of candy to eat! First event in Nov. was election day - things have changed in this country when we can elect a twice impeached, convicted felon, wanna be dictator for president - should be interesting to see how the next four years come out!*

*We had both of our children come to Stockton to celebrate Thanksgiving as an extended family. Willard and Tiffany with daughters Isabelle and Violet, plus the family dog, Sam, arrived from Rock Springs, WY, late evening of the 26th. Ellen and Dewey Bateman with Dewey's dog, Hero arrived late the night of the 27th from Lubbock, TX. On Thanksgiving Day, Ellen and Tiffany took over the kitchen and prepared a grand traditional Thanksgiving feast! For 'Black Friday' Harry and Willard spent much of the day moving more stuff out of Harry C.'s old house. Then the family braved the cold to enjoy the Olde Tyme Christmas Parade and other actives in downtown Stockton. Thanksgiving leftovers were enjoyed throughout the day on Friday before the visitors retired early to pack for an early departure on Saturday. The weather was good for both traveling parties, so they reported arriving back home with no trouble. Harry and Willardene were left with a refrigerator full of leftovers that it will take at least a week to finish off! Everyone is looking forward to the next family gathering!*

*Well, the 'highlights' have become a book, so time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and sign-off!*

*The Purdums  
Harry & Willardene*