



*"... the Son of God, who was in the form of God, divesting Himself (of His glory), makes it His object, by this very divesting of Himself, to demonstrate to us the fullness of His deity."*

*Origen, writing around AD 200*

### **A Happy Christmas to you from Middle Tennessee!**

Not much has changed in our retirement routine, other than the days seem to go by ever-faster and our bodies seem to have more aches and pains than they used to. We continue to do a good bit of travel (over 30,000 road miles between the two of us), mostly to visit family and friends.

We planted two gardens this year, both of which were prolific. Beth made it clear that I don't need to plant two dozen tomato plants next year! Fried okra being one of my favorites, I planted too much of that, too. We have a two-year's supply in the freezer. Some of the plants got around ten feet tall! Beth planted a lot of flowers, and we enjoyed watching bumble bees, butterflies and hummingbirds flitting around well into October.

For our anniversary, we spent a couple days at Shiloh National Military Park. It was interesting learning the history surrounding that momentous battle and its impact on surrounding areas.

One of our yearly highlights is the two weeks (one each for boys and girls) we spend helping Beth's brother and his wife at Camp Rise

and Shine in Nebo, WV ([campriseandshine.org](http://campriseandshine.org)). We took the kids to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter this year, and everyone had a great time. We made a side trip to the Rankin House in Ripley, OH, which was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the War Between the States.

The blessing that topped all others this year, however, was the birth of our third grandchild, Lucy Grace Stembridge, to Tyler and Samantha (after over seven years of trying). She's a precious gift from the Lord!

So, to God be glory for keeping and sustaining us this year, and our prayer is that He will bless and keep you in 2024!

With our love,

*Ed & Beth*



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