

Our Year 2023 in Pictures, from Shirley & David

In January, we went to Temple Terrace, FL, a suburb of Tampa, to spend a couple of weeks of nicer weather.



Starting in February, my Sketchers group met in various small towns to sketch buildings and other objects of interest.



In March, my friend Helen and I went to Gibbs Gardens to see their annual display of 20 million daffodils, as well as tulips and other flowers! It was awesome, as always!



On March 28, David and I adopted our dog Cooper, age 3, from the animal shelter. He's a mix of blue heeler (Australian cattle dog) and German shepherd. He was born during the COVID isolation period, and he was highly reactive to cars, trucks, people, dogs, noises, etc., so in early November, he spent 3 weeks with a dog trainer. He came back much more manageable. I can now walk him on the street, which I couldn't do before.



Starting in May, David and I went to four outings with a church group which goes on monthly hikes or to goes to other interesting places. Here, I'm at a trail at Carter's Lake.



Then David and I went with them to New Echota Historic Site, which became the capital of the Cherokee nation in 1825. It's where the tragic "Trail of Tears" officially began. In the town, we saw the Cherokee language newspaper office, a smokehouse (below, with David), various houses and cabins, barns, the council house (below), and many other buildings. Afterwards, we ate at a really good Mediterranean restaurant.



The next outing was at the Funk Heritage Museum, in Waleska. There are a lot of Indian artifacts, Indian art, both old and modern, a great video about the history of the Indians in this area



The last outing was to the Tate Train Depot in August to see their model trains. Several men had formed a group which set these elaborate displays together, with beautiful backdrops, little towns and cities, and of course, workable trains. Awesome!



In June, we went to Biloxi to visit with Brian, Rebecca, Nicholas, and Andrew. Daniel was able to go with us. Some of us went boating/fishing.



Daniel and
Brian



In early August, we went to Maryville, TN, to visit with our friends Phil and Marianne. She had a photography exhibit in the lobby of a local church there, that we wanted to see.



On October 12, Nick's football team won the Regional Championship! (He's # 18).



Also in October, Phil and Marianne came to our home for a visit. She and I went to Ball Ground to see their Halloween scarecrows, which were mostly in front of stores our small town.



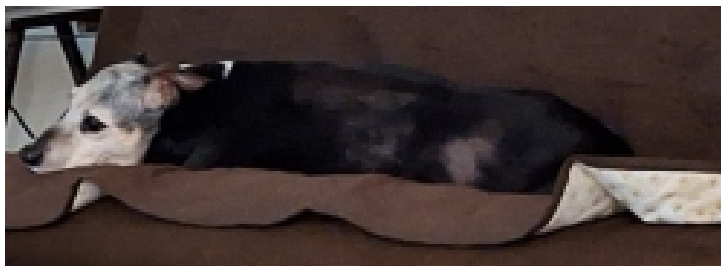
On Halloween night, we went to a party of some friends, in their recently renovated cabin.



On November 23, we were in Starkville, MS, to watch the Egg Bowl at the MSU Stadium. It's a rival game between MSU and Ole Miss. It was extremely cold, in the 20s. The day before, we drove around to see how the area had changed, since we had lived there years ago. If you don't remember, David taught at MSU, and Brian and I both went to school there (at different times). We hardly saw anything that looked familiar - only the rental faculty house we lived in for 3 years. The house we had bought was gone! Apparently, torn down and replaced with a different house in a new location on the lot! The school had grown tremendously!



For Christmas, Daniel and his dog Snip came up for a visit. We were happy that Cooper had an opportunity to be around another dog. Snip's a senior dog now, and he worked hard to teach Cooper to not be annoying!



We hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

Love,
Shirley & David & Cooper