

THE GAMBLE GAZETTE



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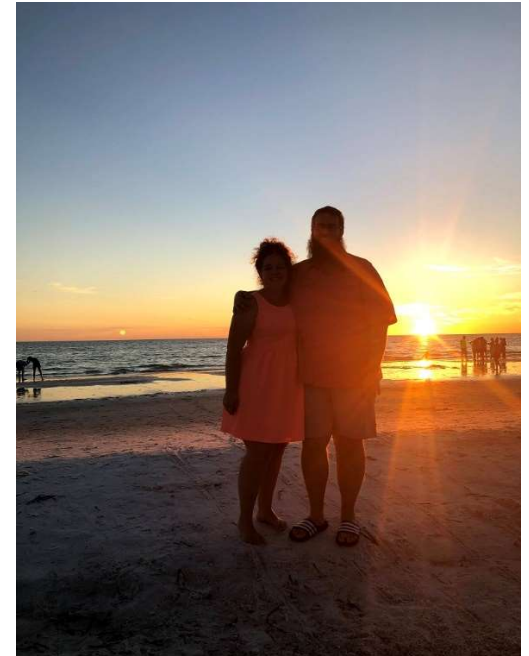
HOPES FOR 2021 – PAGE 4

THE GAMBLES SOCIAL DISTANCE



TAMPA, FL – This was a tough year for us. As people who like to get out and do things, there were months where we could only sit at home and keep ourselves safe. Thankfully we were able to use the power of social media to stay connected with friends, but it has still been tough. There have been times where we thought COVID was letting up, so we ventured outside to see what was going on, only to have to force ourselves to lock back down. On the positive side, being stuck inside for such long periods has allowed us to rediscover our hobbies. Anneke has been busy practicing embroidery and working on her ever-growing plant collection while James has taken up the art of whittling. We've both gotten more involved with our church as well. James runs sound on Sunday mornings while Anneke has become more active in the children's ministry. We each set up

a terrarium and they are thriving. Rosco, on the other hand, has gotten so lazy that short walks around the block tire him out for hours. All in all, this season of our lives could have been a lot worse. James still has a job, the bills are getting paid, and we have plenty to be thankful for.



-THE WORLD'S FINEST FAMILY NEWSLETTER-

WHAT'S NEW WITH US?

In January, James got First Aid & CPR certified as part of working on badges with The Strenuous Life (a Boy Scouts for adults).

We went on a five-day cruise out of Port Canaveral, Florida in February, with stops at Perfect Day at Cocoa Cay (Royal Caribbean's private island) and Grand Cayman. We had a wonderful time and made a lot of memories.

We saw our last movie at a theater before the COVID lockdown (Emma, for those wondering) in March. Anneke loved it, and James loved the movie theater's pretzel bites with cinnamon frosting. Additionally, Anneke went on a women's retreat sponsored by our church.

Anneke's parents visited us for ten days in June, treating us to two nights on Anna Maria Island as a birthday present to Anneke. We are very thankful for the time that we got to spend on the beach with them.

In July, we spent a week in a cabin in the woods of North Georgia with some friends, enjoying the stillness and beauty of the area. It was the only time that we have taken a road trip of any kind this year and it was a much-welcome change of pace.

September saw us starting to get out a little more, visiting some local dog parks so that Rosco could get some exercise and we could get some Vitamin D.

In October, we went to Hunsader Farms in Bradenton, Florida for their annual Pumpkin Festival. It is a huge outdoor festival with lots of things to see and do, and it was good to get out and see people. Social distancing was easy, and everyone was being safe.

In November, we took a trip to a local botanical garden called Sunken Gardens and wandered around for a couple of hours. It was peaceful and allowed us to enjoy a lovely Saturday afternoon outside.

THE ANIMALS

Anneke's cat Beasley-Gene turned seven this year, and she's still a pretty little princess. She now cuddles with James every morning and has learned to hold hands.

James' cat Slacker (now eleven years old) has become more social because we've been making more of an effort to spend time with him. He hangs out a lot more with the rest of the family and has put on some weight (there for a while, we thought he was sick, but it turns out he was just angsty).

Rosco, our derpy little Boston Terrier, turned two in November, and he makes us laugh every day. One of his favorite things to do is chase Beasley-Gene around the house until she jumps to a high place, or smacks him.



HOBBIES

Both James and Anneke tried some new hobbies this year as well as maintaining current ones. Anneke spent a lot of time developing our little front yard with all sorts of leafy green plants, flowers, succulents, and cacti. You can see a picture of them on page 2. James also attempted to improve his green thumb by planting some acorns from a nearby oak tree into a coffee can, with two currently sprouting.

On top of that, both of us have been walking more, spending more time outside, and generally enjoying Florida's natural scenery. James has been using his metal detector around the neighborhood to find lost treasures, and Anneke has been spending lots of time in the pool. James also fired up a couple of drones that he has and has been making flights around the neighborhood.

We've had a lot of fun visiting local parks when the weather was nice. We went to a local park called Philippe Park for Thanksgiving, which has some nice walking trails and looks out over Tampa Bay. Anneke packed a picnic for us, and we were able to find a cozy spot away from the other visitors.

Reading has also been a big part of the year for us. See our "Good Reads" list in the next section. Anneke prefers to listen to audiobooks while James likes to read from the Amazon Kindle app on his iPad. Both of us enjoy reading fiction, non-fiction, and educational books, and both of us have read a lot this year.

Next year, James plans to learn how to be handier around the house, and Anneke intends to learn how to keep James from hurting himself.

When a habit begins to cost money, it's called a hobby. -Proverb

GOOD READS

James completed a reread of the Harry Potter books and The Lord of the Rings. Additionally, he finished The Trials of Apollo, the last series of books published by Rick Riordan about the Greek gods. From a non-fiction standpoint, James read a biography of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt. As a side note, we also watched the extended edition of all the Lord of the Rings movies (all 13 hours).

Anneke read The Women of Troublesome Creek, The Island of Sea Women, Love Does (Bob Goff), Where'd You Go, Bernadette, Everybody Always (another excellent Bob Goff book), Elanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, and Where the Crawdads Sing.



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HOPES FOR 2021



Both of us hope that 2021 will be a most excellent year. We hope to see the end of COVID so we might start to feel normal again. Thankfully, we have each other, and being married has been great for the both of us.

We also hope to be able to visit some of you in the next year. We love road tripping and have a big list of trips that we want to take, not only throughout the state, but throughout the southeast.

Finally, we hope that you all are doing well. We know how tough this year has been and many of you have been through silent trials. We're thinking about you and hope that you reach out to us (contact info below).

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope all the best things for you and your family in 2021. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are essential to us and we care about you. If we do not talk often, let us change that.

[REDACTED]

Please, do not be a stranger. We will do our best to reach right back out to you. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a wonderful new year!