

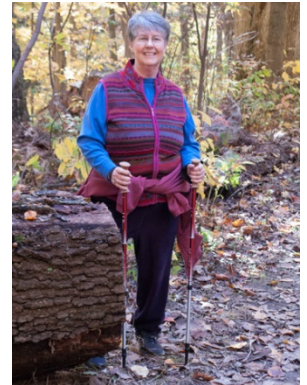
December 23, 2014

Dear friends,

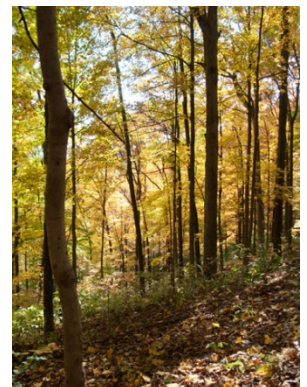
Since a good deal of last year was occupied with illness, we don't have as much to talk about as we do most years. We're both fine now, but we were both pretty sick for a time, Kathleen during the first quarter of the year and Julian for a couple of months in the summer. We're glad to be back to normal.



This fall we spent a long weekend at Brown County State Park, in Indiana. It's a beautiful place, and the leaves were at their peak when we were there. Here's a photo of the covered bridge at the park's north entrance. These photos are live. If you open and/or download this letter you'll be able to click on them and see them writ large. And here are a couple of photos of us, just so you'll know we really are OK.



We were told by folks we met at the park that Brown County was especially lovely this fall. Here are a couple of photos of scenery. The first one has nice light in the middle of the woods and the next, a nice reflection off the water at Strahl Lake. We will be going back to Brown County next year at about the same time (late October) and staying a little longer.



On Sunday a week ago we took in the [SLSO's](#) Christmas special in partnership with [Circus Flora](#). The program was called *A Winter Fable*; it featured various acts organized about a little story set in the 'high and far off' Tatra Mountains, which of course are small mountains in Poland. Santa Claus was introduced early in the show as a rather poor juggler who it turned out needed to be rescued from an evil enchantress by Gallopoff, a shaggy pony who walked to a little tune that finally saved the whole community from an enchantment that made everybody very sleepy. The music was a collection of pieces from familiar composers like Brahms and Dvořák, altogether a fine entertainment with lots of children in the audience. There are photos on Circus Flora's [Facebook page](#).

Later that same Sunday we attended an ecumenical service at [Third Baptist Church](#) in Grand Center. The theme of the service was civic unity. We are both wearing wristbands now that read "ONE CITY ONE PEOPLE" and giving away as many as we can. An anonymous gift is funding the effort to promote the wearing of these wrist bands. Julian promoted them at church last Sunday and said that he would be wearing his for the time being, however long that is. After church a good many parishioners went home wearing wristbands too.



Here are two images from among those displayed along South Grand, just around the corner from us during the last few weeks. The "We are them" image is from Salon St. Louis, where Kathleen gets her hair cut, as it looked a couple of days before Christmas, having grown to include holiday greens. The other, expressive of how many felt about our city recently, is no longer up at Wyoming Post Office. That's sad from one perspective, but perhaps appropriate from another. Life goes on.



Love and best wishes for the new year.

Kathleen and Julian