

Marler Christmas Newsletter



Wow!! What else can you say about 2020? Like you, we can't wait for it to be OVER. We've been blessed with continued good health so far and hope to remain healthy until things get back to normal.

Recapping last fall: we decided to make the 2019-20 school year Keegan's "official" senior year in High School. We enjoyed the homecoming events and looked forward to all of the spring activities.



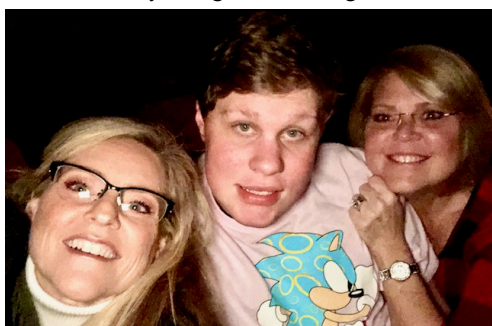
Christmas was a typical low-key affair, but right after Christmas Kristy was treated to a day with a small clawed otter and other aquatic creatures as a local aquarium. She loved being with the animals.

We bought our 25-year old house in Flower Mound because of the school district, but Jeff planned to update the house with a remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. However, we realized that even with all those upgrades, that house would never meet all of our long-term needs. So even though we loved our neighborhood and town, we decided to make one more move. We just needed to find and buy the perfect home, but

before we searched for a new house, we flew to Florida in early March to celebrate Keegan's 21st birthday at Disneyworld. We went to Orlando 20 years earlier when Braden was a baby and Kristy was pregnant with Keegan, but forgot how the Disney property hotels and theme parks aren't very close together. Luckily the transit system allowed us to spend four days in Disneyworld, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom. We also spent one day at Universal Studios and saw their version of a Harry Potter village.



In February Kristy's sister, Kerri, came down from Colorado to shoot Keegan's senior pictures. After several outfit and location changes, we had dozens of beautiful pictures of our baby girl. While here all the girls went shopping for Keegan's Senior Prom dress. Unfortunately, Keegan wouldn't get to wear it.



After getting back from Florida, we got to visit with our friend and neighbor from Germany, Angie Lala. We went out to dinner to catch up on what had been happening in our lives over the last two years.



To prepare for selling the house, we had our great friends and realtors, Tammy and Mike Boudreaux, come over to help give us direction on what needed to be fixed and updated. Jeff went out and bought most of the paint and supplies to start this project right before the lockdowns began. Turns out that a week after leaving Orlando, Disneyworld was closed due to the pandemic. We made it out just in time.

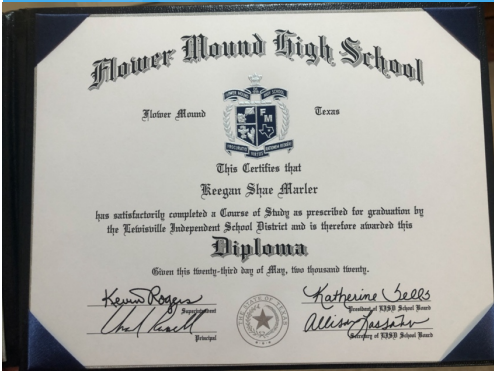
Because Braden had finished High School last year, only Keegan was affected by the remote learning our school district implemented after Spring Break was over. Keegan would have the easiest last semester of her High School career.

Without many clients at work, Jeff was told to remain home and was assigned updating courseware and checklists to keep busy. Kristy and the kids stayed inside at all times. Because the flight training that Jeff's company provides is deemed essential, Jeff was allowed to travel to/from work when he was needed. When groceries or supplies were needed, Jeff would put on his mask and make the trip.

Although Kristy's birthday was in April, there was no place to go to celebrate because of the lockdown, so we kept busy working on the house. Updating fixtures and painting almost every room and surface took weeks. Every night Jeff would scour the real estate websites looking for a house. The first question was whether to buy/sell during the lockdown. Luckily, we made the right decision, and began the home search once we were finished with our projects.

We wanted to stay in Flower Mound but couldn't find anything that met all of our wants. Once we finished with all the projects, our realtors had professional photos taken which looked great. Jeff wanted to list our home after we were under contract with our next house. We put an offer on a home but the owner accepted another offer, we assume because our house wasn't on the market. That night we decided to list our house and pray it would work out. It did.

In May, the High School prom was cancelled, and the graduation ceremony was cancelled then rescheduled a few times. In order to meet social distancing guidelines, the actual graduation ceremony was held at the NASCAR motor speedway in Fort Worth. The kids would sit 6 feet apart on the racetrack and their parents could watch on the jumbotron from their cars in the infield. Unfortunately, the district couldn't make accommodations for the special needs students so we picked up Keegan's diploma from Flower Mound High School and closed another chapter in our lives. Like many of our friends and relatives, this important life event would be celebrated privately. Now both of our young adults are done with school.



We put the house on the market on a Monday morning and had 20 showings and 6 offers, all above list, by Wednesday. At almost the same time, we found the home we were looking for. It had everything we needed and was exactly what Kristy had in mind for a forever home. We put an offer on the new house which was accepted. In June we closed on both homes 7 days apart. As part of the deal on the home we sold we were allowed to stay for up to 30 days to move our stuff from Flower Mound to Keller. Jeff had the "brilliant" idea to move most of the home ourselves to be able to limit the COVID exposure, chaos and mover damage. Not so



"brilliant" it turns out. Just made it take longer and spent a lot of money on U-Haul trucks. Professional movers arrived to move the heavy stuff prior to the Fourth of July. We turned over the old house the day before Braden's 23rd birthday. Another low key celebration at home thanks to COVID. Two weeks later we celebrated our 32nd anniversary at home as well.

August and September were a big blur. Updating fixtures and hardware throughout the house as well as making a trip to Oklahoma for our nephew, Garrett's, wedding to Ashlyn. Kristy was able to visit with another friend from Germany, Jennifer, who came to deliver her daughter to college.



In October Jeff completed his training for his Airline Transport Pilot Helicopter license and took his check ride with the FAA. So glad to have that done. Another celebration at home for Jeff's Birthday, but no Marler Halloween Party this year.

In November, we pulled a Wal-Mart and went right from Halloween to Christmas. Kristy said we needed to feel the festive spirit after the year we've had. It always takes longer to figure out where everything goes in a new house, but she has made it beautiful as usual.

We plan to stay at home for a quiet, socially-distanced, Christmas and New Year's Eve. We pray 2021 is good to us all. May GOD Bless you and keep you healthy and safe! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

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