

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you! As the snow begins to cover the mountains here in Northern Nevada, our thoughts turn to those close to our hearts. This past year had its bright sparkling days, but also some days that were a bit gray. So, grab a cup of hot chocolate and take a seat for a short read through our eventful year.

This past year started out in a valley. In November 2016, Bob had a biopsy due to an elevated PSA test. The results came back stating Bob had prostate cancer! This was quite a surprise and felt more than a bit surreal. We proceeded down the road with tests and diagnoses that eventually landed us at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, CA in the middle of February for a consultation. We decided to take the trip as a family to meet with the doctor

to discuss the possibility of robotic surgery and to take in some of the sights of the area. The traffic was horrible, but the meeting with the doctor was positive and a surgery date was quickly set for February 27th. Bob felt that Stanford was the best option because of their top-of-the-line medical care. Our wonderful friends, Jim and Mari Germain, drove up to Carson City to stay with Hannah and Caleb while Bob and I traveled to Stanford for his surgery. Due to our experience with traffic during our reconnaissance trip, we decided to fly. The robotic surgery itself is really quite amazing - the patient spends six hours tilted head down while the doctor operates robotic arms through five incisions. The emotional side of me was understandably distressed about Bob's procedure, but the engineering side of me thought it was pretty amazing! After the surgery, the doctor came out saying that it couldn't have gone any better and two days later we flew back home (on a side note - we traveled on the same plane as Nevada's Governor, Brian Sandoval. Bob knows him personally through his job and it was special to receive well wishes from our governor). Bob was a trooper dealing with the ins and outs of recuperating from a major surgery. He spent the next month getting on his feet again. Soon he was walking up to three miles every morning. Since his surgery in February he has walked over 500 miles! I am proud of how he faced the challenge of cancer head on. I kept thinking of the line from one of our family's favorite movies, *The Incredibles*: "Honey, I'm just glad you're alive!" Emotionally it has been a journey for our whole family, but God has been at our side every step of the way. Support of family members has also been very important. Bob enjoyed a visit from his brother Dave before his cancer surgery. They skied some hard runs at the Diamond Peak Ski Resort, did some home projects, drank a few beers, and just spent time together. It really meant a lot to Bob to have his brother's support during this difficult time. As it currently stands, all of Bob's follow-up tests indicate he is basically cancer free! We are all really thankful for that!

It wasn't long after Bob's surgery that we were all able to get out for a family day at Diamond Peak. Bob was able to walk around and take pictures while the kids took ski lessons. Just a month later, we were all able to hit the slopes together! On a beautiful day of blue skies and gorgeous views of Lake Tahoe, Bob and I took the kids to the top of Diamond Peak. What a blessing! Our good friend Chris England joined us and made a video of our family ski day (Check it out at <https://goo.gl/J2cvoT>). It was a special day for me as it took me back to skiing down black diamond runs with my dad at the Showdown Ski



Our family at Craters of the Moon while on the road to Montana to visit Grandpa and Grandma Boobar and Potts over Thanksgiving Break



Bob on the slopes above Lake Tahoe less than two months after surgery

Resort in Montana as a kid. The Lake Tahoe area received a record amount of snow fall this past year. Some ski areas had an amazing 58 FEET of snow!! Our family took advantage of all the white stuff and snowshoed and Nordic skied often this past winter. Spooner Lake (only 20 minutes from our house) was one of our favorite spots. Bob revived his Dad and Mom's old wooden Nordic skis that had been stored in their barn for 40 years! Bob rebuilt the bindings, waxed them up, and ordered us new boots. Cross country skiing is one of my favorite sports, so it was a blessing to have cool, classic skis and a good looking Dutch man to go along with them! Speaking of reviving sporting equipment, Bob and Hannah did a great job of refitting a couple of cast-off kayaks from a workmate of Bob's. This was a good winter project for Bob while he was recuperating. The kayaks were repaired, buffed out, and fitted with new seats and straps. When they were all done, Bob and Caleb took them



Hannah and Caleb ready to go skiing



Skiing on Memorial Day

Christy loved riding in the boat with them (she loves any type of ride - especially those to Home Depot with Dad and Hannah). Caleb and Bob have also enjoyed mountain biking together on some of the many trails in this area. Our family's local favorite is the Clear Creek trail. It winds through pine forests, over creeks, through sagebrush flats, and ends near our home.



Hannah checking out our rebuilt kayaks

Another sport our family has enjoyed since moving to Carson City is targeting shooting. Caleb enjoys the precision of the sport and especially likes shooting clay pigeons. Hannah also enjoys shooting and has become quite the Annie Oakley! Bob has enjoyed



Bob giving Caleb shooting lessons

reviving his interest in the sport and loves that it is something that the three generations can do together. His current mission is seeing how many guns he can fit in his new gun safe! Since I grew up in a hunting family, all of this seems like old home week to me. I don't do too bad on the range either, as long as don't shut my eyes when I pull the trigger! We are thankful for our neighbors, the Summers family, who are always up for a morning out shooting at the local range.

I am thankful for my new job as the secretary of Hilltop Community Church. I am well suited to the job and it is only a walk across the parking lot from Hannah's high school where I taught Algebra last year. When I am not shuttling kids, I love being at home, riding my bike, reading Agathe Christie, going out



Lisa hiking to Garfield Peak in Crater Lake NP

career and technical education for students, Bob is on the cutting edge of helping this next generation acquire jobs and prepare for their future. The exciting thing is that this benefits our own children as well! Bob has traveled to Cincinnati to meet with career and technical advisors; was on a keynote panel at a national conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and recently met with a national economic development board in Arlington, Virginia, just to name a few. He recently was handpicked by a nationally known consultant to provide workforce analysis for the State of Oregon! When I married Bob I felt I hitched my wagon to a star - and that has proved to be so true!

Speaking of children and their futures, Hannah is a junior this year at Sierra Lutheran High School. She receives college brochures in the mail daily. As her mom, the reality of her launching out into the world is



Hannah with her Grandpa Potts

Caleb is growing like crazy and is now taller than Hannah (much to her chagrin!). He is now 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Bethlehem Lutheran School. He is looking forward to high school at Sierra Lutheran School next year. He is a diligent student who consistently gets straight A's. He enjoys mountain biking, working on video and filming projects, and designing games of Dungeons and Dragons. He has been in a number of theatre productions at Bethlehem Lutheran and enjoys the challenge of acting. He learned to ski this past year and is looking forward to hitting the slopes

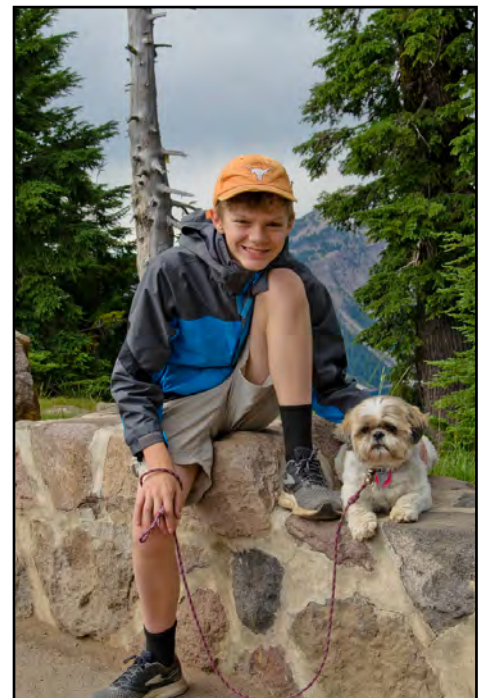
to new restaurants with Bob, and exploring the outdoors in this beautiful area.

Bob did many presentations this year for a variety of groups and regularly advises state leaders, but the last few years he has had more requests for consulting on a national level. His current focus is work-based Learning and



Bob on Freel Peak, the highest mountain in the Tahoe Basin

increasingly becoming a reality. She is an amazing, topflight young lady who we feel privileged to know. She was the secretary for the sophomore class last year and enjoyed it so much she ran for student body secretary this year, and won! She loves being a part of the life of the school. This year she was again a member of the Academic Olympic team and went to state. She also earned her driver's license this past year and works a couple afternoons a week as a janitor's assistant for our church (she does so much vacuuming, she even named her vacuum cleaner!). She enjoys spending time at home and with friends, loves doing yoga, wood burning, reading (and more reading), and watching episodes of Call the Midwife. She leads a group of 6th grade girls for our church youth group and loves teaching the preschoolers in Sunday School. The highlight of her year was spending two weeks in Montana with her Grandpa and Grandma Potts.



Caleb and Christy

again this year. He also enjoys shooting his new .22, hanging out in his room, playing with Christy, watching funny videos with his sister, and working on his own video projects. He is a great help with the kids during Sunday School and once a month you can find him in the sound booth at church running audio/visual for the services. Caleb wants to be an engineer when he grows up. We are so proud of our special son!



Our Family at Crater Lake National Park



Lewis' Monkey Flower

On the Potts' adventure side of things - our family camping trip this year was to Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. At the end of July we packed up our camper to head

to Oregon for a week long camping trip at Crater Lake National Park. Even though we only live about 300 miles from the park we had planned on taking our time and pulling over to camp one night along the way. But, because of the heat, we ended up driving almost straight through where, about 30 miles from Crater Lake, God provided the perfect campsite (and the last one in the campground!) at Collier State Park. We enjoyed a cool, rainy night, and the next day rode our bikes around the campground and then down trail along the beautiful Williamson River to an amazing logging museum that's part of the park. It had a wonderful assortment of antique logging machinery and actual pioneer cabins. Bob and the kids enjoyed checking out all of the machines and I poked around the cabins and an authentic pioneer garden. Christy of course, loved

running around and sniffing the scents of dogs, past and present. After leaving the logging museum we packed up and made our way to beautiful Crater Lake National Park. Again, it was rainy the next day so we decided to enjoy a scenic drive around the Lake. At 1,946 feet deep, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States and is famous for its intense blue color. We stopped at several interesting sights ranging from an island that looks like a phantom ship, to towering pinnacles formed by volcanic gases. There were

awesome lake views and fairy gardens of wildflowers to round out the trip. The following day the weather cleared and we were joined by Christopher Robison for some great hiking, photoshoots, and playing games around the picnic table. We hiked



Panorama of Crater Lake from the summit of Mount Scott

Garfield Peak (7,976 feet), and mountain biked on a road covered with volcanic pumice. Bob and Christopher climbed the highest peak in the park, Mt. Scott (8,929 feet) where, from the ranger station at the top, they could see all the way to Mount Shasta in California. It was an amazingly great time camping, hiking, biking, laughing at Christy chasing squirrels, and reveling in God's miraculous creation.

*Bob & Lisa
Hannah
Caleb*

This year we are so thankful for friends like you!
Merry Christmas from the Potts family & Christy

P.S. We would love to have you visit us in this amazing area we are blessed to call home - just give us a call.

P.P.S You can visit us anytime at www.pottsadventures.com and check out our family's adventures.