

Hello to all!

This has been a very challenging and stressful year and I am sure that there are many more descriptive words for it. I have been fortunate and grateful that I work for family and that their construction business is considered essential. I work 2 days a week in the office (masked of course), and work from home as needed the rest of the week (no mask required). I keep saying that I am going to retire from this job. I somehow ended up working for them, after I retired from Nursing. My family would put me in a bubble if they could. My daughter has an indoor swimming pool so I am able to swim whenever I desire. There are some perks.

You never could have convinced me that my primary means of Worship would be online. I participate in the Washington National Cathedral Services online. I have worshiped there in person and it is on my bucket list for when they reopen.

I have played the game “stump the doctors “ this past year. I have been progressively more and more short of breath and all the doctors thought it was my pacemaker. After several pacemaker adjustments and no results, we were all very frustrated. My “Cardioelectrophysiologist” ordered a battery of blood work and CT scans and within hours I was admitted to the hospital with severe anemia. After 2 units of blood and IV iron transfusions, I felt amazing. I never realized that blood transfusions worked that quickly. A friend of mine said: “Ask any vampire.” The doctors were still not satisfied, so I had several invasive procedures, after they stuck a bottle brush up my nose and to my brain to test me for COVID. None of these were on my bucket list. In addition, they tested me for sleep apnea and I now have a CPap machine for a companion. This also was not on my bucket list. The Iron has increased my iron level to more than twice the desired level and that has posed a new set of problems – another hematology visit to follow. I am pretty much back to normal activities.

I am looking forward to this Holiday Season and new beginnings. I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

Carol (Lloyd) Mitchell