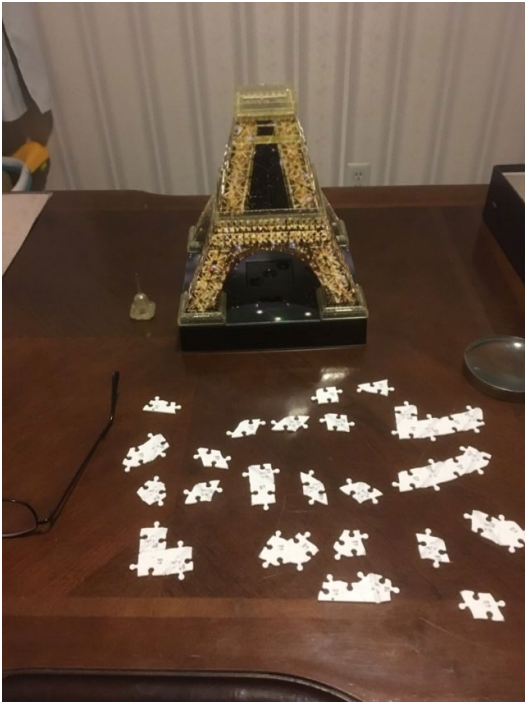


## Merry Christmas from the Layton Family 2021



2021 is on its way out the door! It has been another odd year, but with many good things to be grateful for along the way.

**Bruce** continues to work as a night auditor for the Hampton Inn. When he isn't working or sleeping, he enjoys puzzles. Here is a light-up Eiffel Tower he received for his birthday a few weeks ago, which he has since completed. Fun to see it all lit up like the real one in Paris!

**Myrna** is a year and a half into her term as department chair over the Humanities section of the BYU Library. That is sometimes a challenge! This year she has been doing a lot of reading—104 books so far this year; will probably make it to 108 for the year. She continues to write articles for the Latter-day Saint Arts Encyclopedia—she has written five this year, for a total contribution of 14 articles. (If interested: Robert W. McMullin, Newel Kay Brown, Mildred Tanner Pettit, N. Lorenzo Mitchell, Marie Manwaring Anderson, Georgia May Wahlin Bello, Irene Christopherson Tempest, Moisselle Renstrom, Frances K. Thomassen Taylor, Earl C. Hazelle, Maurine Dewsnap, Edwin F. Parry, Ruth Gatrell and Peggy Clinger. I will be writing more in 2022.)

[http://www.mormonartwiki.org/index.php?title=Category:Mormon\\_Composers](http://www.mormonartwiki.org/index.php?title=Category:Mormon_Composers) )

**Our oldest daughter Kelline** and her husband Allen live, appropriately enough, in Layton, Utah, and are into their third or fourth year of long-distance trucking. This is feeding their appetite for travel, but sometimes they run into difficult road conditions, but that is okay—they have Mom to worry about them and pray for them! This year they got to do a socially-distanced visit with Nancy and family in Georgia.

Kelline and Allen have a “yours + mine = ours” family of seven children, who are mostly grown.



Allen, Kelline, Benjamin, Nancy (with Alexander in front), Rachel, Zoë, Miriam

1. Amy lives in Calgary with her three children (Scarlett age 10, Arthur 2.5, and Rowan 1.5) and their many pets—dog, cat, hamsters. Amy is a pet groomer, and a lover of animals. Scarlett attends a very cool School for the Arts, which she really enjoys, and loves to read, especially the *Wings of Fire* series by Tui T. Sutherland. Arthur and Rowan enjoy playing with each other, alternating with fighting with each other. They are lovingly watched over by their wonderful grandma Leola, who is such a dear. We were so happy to get together with Amy's family during our quick trip to Calgary in early December.





Back: Amy, Myrna, Abra holding Rowam, Bruce. Front: Scarlett holding Arthur, David.

2. RoseMarie and her husband Austin live in Salt Lake City, where Austin is in his third year of dentistry school. RoseMarie has been diligently working on her bachelor's degree in education, and graduated from Western Governor's University. This has been a challenging year for them—Austin has melanoma and is still receiving treatments for that; Rosie continues to deal with having MS. But despite challenges, they forge ahead, with their cute little dog Flynn and—new this year!—a lovely daughter, Ireland Rose! This cutie joined their family in May. Here are some of us together in November, when Patrick was here for a visit.



Patrick, Rosie and Ireland, Myrna, Josie.

The other five are busy being young adults/teens and we do not see them a lot, thanks to COVID and the general busyness of life. Matthew lives in Springville, Utah, and is happily employed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, issuing driver's licenses and other such things. He also is chipping away at his University degree at Utah Valley University. Andrew lives and works (at a warehouse) in Salt Lake City. Stephen lives and works in Ephraim, Utah. The twins, now age 15, live with their father and are busy with being high school girls.

**Our second daughter, Abra,** has had a difficult year this year, with health challenges, personal challenges, financial challenges. We are proud of the strength and courage she has found to bear her burdens. Many times we have fasted and prayed with her, hoping for the sustaining help that only God can give. She started the year in BC, then moved back to Calgary (thankfully missing the flooding that was very bad exactly where she had been living in Aldergrove) but will be returning to BC in a few months for an island adventure in Port Renfrew. She has signed the contract for the new job she will be going to! Abra has three children, all young adults: Deklan is engaged to Holly, who has a daughter (close in age to Zoë) named Iah. They live and work in High River, Alberta. Piper lives in Calgary, and just got a new job at a dinner theatre, Jublations (<https://jublations.ca/calgary-shows/>) which I think may be right up this theatrical girl's alley. Malachi recently moved to Lethbridge with some of his friends, and is just getting settled and looking for work there. It was nice to spend time with Abra while we were in Canada for a few days, and to see Piper for a while, and Deklan briefly. We missed Malachi, who was in Crowsnest Pass at the time.



Bruce holding sleepy Millie, Abra, Piper, Ruth and Myrna, with David in front.



Continuing with our Layton tradition (though this probably comes from my mother's Hancock side, and not the Laytons, actually) we keep mixing up the generations. Kelli's Amy is older than Josie, and made Josie a great aunt at age 17. So, in keeping with the trend, **our third child, David** and his wife Ruth had baby Millie Jane in September, four months after her first cousin Rosie gave birth to Ireland! So we got a great-grand baby and a grand baby (or two) this year! We were happy to be in Airdrie, where David and Ruth live, for Millie's baby blessing.



Ruth, David holding Millie, Abra, Myrna, Bruce

**Our fourth child, Nancy**, and her husband Andrew live in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, with their five children. Wait! Six children! Yes, we really got one great-granddaughter and TWO granddaughters this year, when Nancy gave birth to baby Phoebe Alta in November. We are enjoying so many babies this year!



Rachel holding Alexander,  
Nancy holding Phoebe,  
Andrew holding Zoë, Miriam  
and Benjamin.



Nancy was not planning to have a baby in 2021. She was planning to be busy enough without that—homeschooling her children, working on the second year of her master's degree at the University of Georgia, and working—she had been offered an assistantship which was interesting AND came with both pay and a scholarship! It was probably a bit much, but she figured she could do it—and she is doing it, but adding a diabetic pregnancy followed by a new baby was certainly interesting. Andrew continues to teach at Georgia State University, and the children continue to shine in their own special ways. You might want to enjoy their Christmas Recital at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0NbqZUoLlk>



**Our fifth child, Patrick,** lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he works in Collections Care Services in the library at the University of Hawaii Manoa. (This means that he fixes books and maps and things.) He is currently growing a goofy mustache for a calendar he intends to make.

Patrick graduated from the University of the Peloponnese in Greece with a master's degree in Cultural Heritage Materials and Technologies. He will be taking advantage of the tuition benefit he receives at the U of H by pursuing a master's degree in Library Science, with an eye to being a Conservation Librarian or a Library Administrator in the future. It was nice to have him home for a few days in November.

**Our sixth child, Josie,** and her pussycats, is living in our basement and working at Orem Public Library. She has been an innovator there, proposing and doing collection development for a video game collection that is currently enjoying high circulation. (Her pussycats are Cleo, Maisie and Cinnamon. Cleo and Maisie do not like each other. So that makes life interesting! Cleo tolerates Cinnamon, but would rather be an only cat, I think.)

The downside to the cats is that we can't all leave at once! Someone has to be on cat duty. So Josie could not come to Canada with us. But while we were away, she went to see her good friend Whitney (college roommate and on Young Ambassadors with her for two years) playing Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Then it was her turn to fly, to Texas to visit good friends while we watched cats.



**So that is us for 2021!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**