

Saturday Meanderings



Painting by [Janice Howell](#)

Christmas is a less than one week away. Oh my. Even though I dream about having a comprehensive holiday home tour to show you, I am still noodling around with decorations (and cleaning up). Welcome to Saturday Meanderings! I am envisioning you with all your gift shopping done and lounging around in your red striped pajamas as you are reading this! And drinking a fabulous cup of coffee or tea, completely stress free on this Saturday morning!

The Main Tree



The main live tree is up...finally. It fell over twice (really) but fortunately the crash happened before the lights and ornaments were on it. Did I mention that the tree did fall over years ago and shattered our cherished, rare ornament collection? Oh well. Every year since, the children say, "remember they year the tree fell over?"



Wires are affixed to the ceiling

When the fresh tree is finally straight on all sides, then it gets wired to the ceiling so it will NOT fall over after ornament placement. I cannot say enough about the quality of the freshly cut trees at Whitfill Nursery. We've been going for years and have never been disappointed. The entire front of the house smells so good!

The Breakfast Room Mantel



The fireplace in our breakfast room (my office) typically gets a holiday painting and the mantel displays the nutcracker collection. However, this year, I am retaining the painting of the Italian village done by Janice Howell. I love the colors and the laundry hanging from the balconies. By happenstance, I placed two sets of wooden village buildings purchased at Target (for \$5.00 each) on the mantel, and was instantly inspired to re-create the painting.



Adding battery operated votive candles behind the houses, and trees on either side of the mantel makes the foreground feel like it is part of the painting. Miniature holiday sweaters, hats and mittens hang on a "clothesline". Since turning the votives on at night is a bit of a pain, I may just lay battery-operated fairy lights behind the houses instead.

The Laundry Room



Hanging sweaters in the laundry room wall

The leftover mini sweaters are hung with care in the laundry room. It is fun how they mimic the mural on the wall.

The Garden



With pending frost temperatures this week, I am worried about plant damage. Typically in the winter, I will cover the garden beds with frost cloth and/or a heavy ply plastic. Adding Christmas lights (not the LED kind) will add a bit of heat under the cloth too. Amazon has 2-day shipping for frost cloth

[here](#) and heavy ply plastic [here](#).



It looks a bit like a moonscape at night with the lights glowing from underneath the covers.

It is harvest time for shishito peppers, lettuces, herbs and some of the cherry tomatoes are producing as well. If you have not had shishito peppers, they are so easy to grow.



Plate by Pottery Barn

Blistered in hot oil, then seasoned with salt, pepper and a squeeze of lemon, we just love these as an appetizer. I'm not sure I understand why some are green and others are red, but they taste terrific regardless. A mild pepper but occasionally you can get one with some heat.



Blistered shishito peppers~yum!

Christmas Cards



Do you send out holiday cards? My goal is to take our family photo at Thanksgiving, create the card and have them in the mail by December 15th. It is also when I draft our family newsletter reviewing all the good, bad and ugly that has happened in the year. Since I do love receiving cards, I will continue to send them out each year. Another thing to check off the list! Card by [Minted.com](https://www.minted.com).



Our nativity scene

There are a few decorations to finalize but I think we are nearly done here (thankfully). Not sure why I felt so

disorganized this year. I may have mentioned that I volunteer on our neighborhood board and we've had two zoning cases in December that unfortunately, have taken a great deal of time. I'm blaming my scattered approach to the holidays on that!

If you missed my two other posts this week, you can see my pink dining room decorations [here](#), and the holiday front porch [here](#).

I may take a break from blogging next week (not sure yet), but if an email doesn't appear in your inbox on Tuesday or Wednesday, you will know why. Until then, I am sending big virtual hugs to you!

Mary

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