



Call us today
(248) 673-0505

DAVID A. WRIGHT

D.D.S., P.C.

www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com

**New patients
welcome**

THANK YOU! *(for your orthodontic referrals)*

I have been very, very grateful that for years most of our patients have allowed us to perform their orthodontic treatment. I know that we provide the highest quality of care while saving our patients time and money. The interesting thing is that, increasingly, many of my orthodontic patients are coming from other general dentistry offices. You folks have done a great job telling your friends and neighbors about us. Thank you! Please know that we will continue to do our best for these wonderful people whom you have sent to us. We will communicate with their general dentist regarding the treatment that is necessary, and will send their dentist photos and X-rays that are taken at our office. There is no better compliment than a referral, and I really appreciate all that you do for us!

Dr. Dave

Great smiles!

Cosmetic dentistry, including orthodontics and porcelain veneers, allows us to create some winning smiles! Thanks for letting us care for you! Here are a few winning smiles that we have created:



TAKING STOCK

I remember visiting my Great Aunt Gertrude in Deckerville, Mich., as a young boy. She was the classic old lady who had lived by herself, aside from her cats, for a long, long time. Her house was small but was made even smaller by the mounds of "collectibles" that filled her house. Teacups and spoons were her favorites, and she had thousands of them. Most were embossed with descriptions of the tourist trap that had created them; they were gifts from people who had gone to such exotic places as Niagara Falls and The Great Smoky Mountains and had brought back a spoon or a cup for her. I had the impression that she had never set foot out of the Michigan Thumb region herself. Oh yes, her occupation? She mowed the lawn at the local cemetery with a nonpowered mower. We used to joke that she mowed it now and would fertilize it later.

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**4152 Sashabaw Road
Waterford, MI 48329**

Winter 2016

DENTAL TEAM

Office Manager:
Kara

Front Desk:
Barb

Hygienists:
Mary Ashley
Michele Susan
Jennifer Elizabeth
Nichole Heather

Dental Assistants:
Heather Alaina
Lisa

**Appointment and Emergency
Phone: (248) 673-0505**



Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!

TAKING STOCK *(continued from page 1)*

The thing is, going into her house was awful, claustrophobic, smelly, and painful for a young boy. To make it worse, she was CONVINCED that young boys were the ruin of all that is good. She let my sisters look at all her junk, but I was not allowed to move without her threatening to cause me pain if I touched anything.

I wonder now how her place had gotten that way. I suppose it was not a conscious effort. I doubt she consulted design magazines and decided “Old Lady Kitsch” was her style. I doubt she had a designer who scoured the world’s flea markets looking for souvenir teacups and spoons. “Madam, you will be SO excited. I just found a ‘Florida Is for Lovers’ spoon!” Nope, a place like that just happens. Entropy meets natural selection. She must have made the mistake of getting too excited about a Christmas present a long time ago: “Look, I got a cup and spoon with the Empire State Building on it! How marvy [or whatever they might have said back then].” Flash forward following many, many years of birthdays and Christmas presents. She had fully committed to fill every inch of her place with junk. Perhaps she just never stopped and took stock of her condition; it just happened.

I have been taking stock at the office lately, and I see a little of Great Aunt Gertrude in myself. I think that it is time to update a few things. I have always paid a lot of attention to making sure that we have the newest and best equipment and dental supplies, and I have updated the brick and landscaping recently. The patient bathroom was updated last year...sorry it took me so long to do so. 2016 needs to be the year that the front desk/waiting room gets a makeover, and I need to find more comfortable seating. I need to deal with the ever-increasing cords that connect computers to everything else and the 1989 Sony TVs probably demand updating. (Can you believe they still work after 26 years? The flatscreens that will replace them might not last 26 months. Oh well...progress.)

If you can think of anything that we can do to our building to make your visit more pleasurable, or if you just want to suggest something to update our place, I sure would appreciate the help. The cure to Gertruditis is probably to have others help me take stock. **Thanks in advance for the help!**

BIG MEMORIES *from small places*

I offer this little article on travel for those who will find it interesting. I have had great feedback from previous travel writings. I know that I am very lucky to be able to travel; not everyone is so fortunate. I apologize to anyone who might find this sort of thing off-putting. If you have read my previous articles, I have shared a lot of information on how to travel Europe inexpensively. We have usually completed these trips for far less expense than it would take to visit Disney World or Cancun for a week. We try to get out of the hotels and resorts, and travel like Europeans. I hope you find this interesting!

The other day I was listening to an airline companion describe his upcoming trip to Europe. It was the first time that he and his wife would be traveling overseas, and he was understandably excited. In the 10 days there, he related, they were to cover

something like Paris, Munich, Zurich, Geneva, Florence, Rome, Barcelona, and Madrid. The “know it all” alarm went off in my brain. (That is when you want to offer someone some advice, but you know that you will just come off as a “know it all.”) I listened and nodded. It was clear that he was not looking for input from me; he just wanted to recite his good news. I did comment that “Boy, you are going to be busy,” but he said, “Hey, I may never be there again; I want to see it all!”

My slant is this: All of those places are incredible and worth visiting, but you are destined to have three outcomes from such a trip: **1.** You spend enough to take several trips to Europe; **2.** You are likely to hate the experience, as you will spend most of the time in airports, trains, and buses; and **3.** Memories will be of beautiful sights, but perhaps not of wonderful experiences.



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I think that it is better to take a small part of Europe, like Northern Italy, or Paris, or Southern Spain, and make a trip of it. So what if you don't get a chance to see every famous sight? Probably the most memorable experiences will be small things, simple things that touched the heart. We have always found that **our favorite memories come from out-of-the-way small towns that are not typical "tourist" stops.** Small towns often appreciate visitors more than big cities. They are very often much more affordable and offer "truer" experiences. Local cuisine can be unique and wonderful. In **Kouros, Greece,** on the island of **Naxos,** we ate in a small restaurant where you can select the fish for your meal from those that were caught by the local fishermen just hours ago. It was an amazing meal and cost very little.



Aurland, Norway, is situated along Norway's most grand fjord but far away from the major cities. While it isn't in many travel books, our kids still dream of returning to this wonderful little town. We befriended a funny young lady who spoke English with a perfect Midwestern accent. She had never visited the United States but, like many Scandinavians, had grown up watching U.S. television shows and learned English from them.

Portugal. The women of the town wear the traditional Nazaré outfit of seven petticoats. These petticoats were multicolored layers of thick cloth unlike anything I had seen before. Interestingly, once a woman was widowed, she converted to all black, but still with the seven layers of petticoats. The town was also known for people renting rooms in their homes to tourists. We drove into town without a reservation and saw many ladies holding signs for rooms to let. I negotiated a pair of rooms for the five of us from a lady who did not speak English, and since I didn't speak Portuguese, we conversed in Spanish (we both knew enough to make it work). The cost per night? Twenty-five dollars, and we were mere steps from the beach. The food and other experiences there were similarly wonderful but affordable. We have great memories from Nazaré.

Nazaré is a seaside fishing village on the Atlantic coast of



Vernazza (Cinque Terre) comprises an area of five Mediterranean Italian coastal towns just south of the Italian Riviera that is so mountainous that until the 1930s they were, essentially, cut off from the rest of Italy except by sea. Mussolini didn't like this one bit, so he spent a fortune blowing tunnels through the mountains in order to run trains into the towns (thus also gaining control of these small villages). The area is now known as the "Cinque Terre," or "Five Lands." Tourists sometimes number the towns one to five, with town four being Vernazza. We stayed on Easter weekend about 13 years ago in this wonderful town, and hiked all the way to town one (Riomaggiore) after going to Easter Mass. Our Easter dinner, side by side with the owner's family and some locals, was in a small family-run restaurant in town 3 (Corniglia). Buona Pasqua!

Wherever we have traveled, it is the small towns that have left the biggest impressions. Places like Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia; Nelson, British Columbia; Cleve Prior, Cotswolds, England; St. Andrews, Scotland; and Lucca, Italy. I encourage you, if you are lucky enough to be able to travel, to incorporate some "out of the way" towns. Whether far away in foreign lands, or just in Northern Michigan, your grandest memories might come from these simplest of places. *Good traveling!*

Dr. Dave



Julie's Retirement Party...

A large group of current and former employees celebrated Julie's retirement a few months ago. We had a party bus and made several stops in Detroit. In this picture we are in front of Shinola, the Detroit watchmaker where Julie picked out her retirement watch. It was great fun! She is happy to report that there IS life after employment!

*Best wishes, Julie!
We'll miss you!*



Office Hours

Monday	10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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DR. WRIGHT NAMED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT PCC

Many of you know that for the past 10 years Dr. Wright has taught at the world-famous Practical Clinical Concepts (PCC) facility in Provo, Utah. Along with providing hands-on advanced classes for dentists and their staffs, this organization has been the leading provider of video instruction for the dental community worldwide. Dr. Gordon Christensen was the creator of this group in the late 1970s, and at age 79 he remains the energy behind PCC. Since his videos are used around the world in dental schools, PCC has influenced the majority of dentists throughout the world.

Dr. Christensen recently asked Dr. Wright to be one of the 10 members of the Board of Directors, specifying that Dr. Wright's MBA along with his commitment to dentistry made him perfect for the position. Dr. Wright looks forward to helping to lead this important organization into the future, specifically toward a time when they cannot count on Dr. Christensen in his current role. Fortunately, in this age of technology, these duties can be carried out remotely, necessitating little or no additional travel for the busy Dr. Wright. He is happy to be of service to an organization that has so wonderfully served the dental community.