Family News

December 15, 2005



Merry Christmas from Northwest Florida! I'll begin this years newsletter with a couple of WONDERFUL announcements. First our granddaughter Taylor will soon have a new baby sister to take care of! Perry and Michelle are expecting their second daughter, Caitlynn Marie to be born in January. Taylor will turn four next June so she is old enough to begin showing little sister the tricks to getting her way with Mom and Dad (Taylor is an expert). ☺



Our second announcement is that Justinn and Cory are expecting their first baby in April of 2006. Their baby is a girl and her name is Angel. So this time next year Kathy and I will be buying Christmas gifts for THREE Granddaughters!!

We had another active year watching hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. We were impacted by Hurricane Dennis in July. Locally we were spared the devastating damage from Katrina to our west. Many people from LA and MS stayed in our area for weeks and months following Katrina. Some have decided to stay permanently. Many churches, civic groups, and businesses continue to send local folks west to help in the on going recovery efforts.





Our house turned 20 years old this past September. The live oak tree Perry and I planted on the east side in 1985 is now almost 3 times taller than the house. This house is the only house Marc has ever lived in! For 12 of those 20 years I have ridden a bicycle to work. I will hit the 20,000 mile mark sometime in 2006. In February I simplified my commute by switching to a single speed bicycle. It looks like something from the 50's complete with chrome fenders. Our current habitat house is only two miles away and so I have been able to ride my bike to habitat every Saturday this year.

Kathy spends much of her time quilting. She has made several beautiful quilts. She has finally joined the cell phone culture. Now she and all of the kids have cell phones. I am still a hold out. I think I get too many calls without one. :) Kathy still enjoys her job at Walmart. She finished paying for her Blazer this past July so now neither of us have a car (bike) payment.





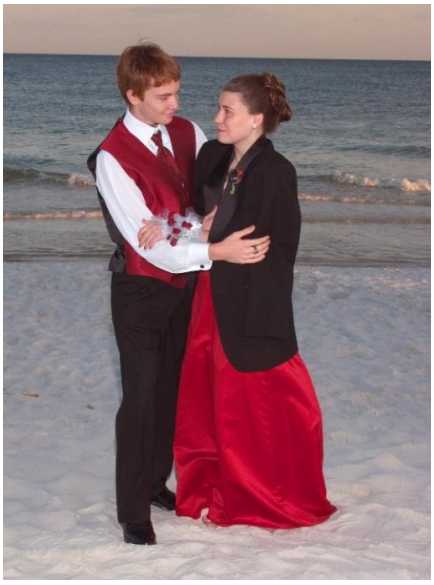
TJ moved back to FL this past summer. He is working at Walmart in Crestview. He has gone over to MS a couple of times to help. He has brought back some photos of some of the damage. It will take years to recover. A couple of months ago TJ traded in his truck for a new Blazer.



Perry is changing jobs this month. His old job for the past four years did not have good benefits. With another child on the way he decided to make a move to take a job with good benefits and more pay. He and Michelle continue to live in the house they built almost two years ago. Michelle has a full time job taking care of Taylor and Perry. She will really have her hands full after Caitlynn is born!



Justinn moved back to FL last January and has been taking classes all year. I talked her into riding bikes with me to work on the habitat house last spring. She and Cory are going to Okaloosa Walton College. They are both planning to become teachers. This semester Justinn was able to intern with Mr. Grice, her art teacher from high school. In October they flew to Maine to visit with Cory's dad. Cory is a wonderful young man. He has a gentle, quiet personality and always has a smile on his face. We are glad to welcome him into our family.



Marc is in his second year of college. Last March I got him to help on the roof of the habitat house. I told him the following week we would be nailing shingles on the roof. He got a job at Walmart that week. He is currently working full time and going to college full time which means he does not get a day off. I think he is planning to cut back a little beginning in January. Having a full time job allowed him to buy another car when his Topaz had trouble. He was able to pay cash for it and for a new laptop he bought a couple of months ago. The photo to the left is of him and Jessica on prom night this year.



We've had a house guest much of this year. Last March Justinn and Marc's friend Melanie moved in with us. She is finishing her degree at OW this semester and will be moving to GA to be near her parents. She has been a wonderful house guest and we will miss her.

Quotes:

"One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say." –Will Durant

"I have often regretted my speech, never my silence." **Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)**, *Maxims*



We wish you a Merry Christmas and pray that 2006 will be a year of good health and blessings!

