Family News

December 15, 2006



The year 2006 is nearly over. What a wonderful year it has been for our family. It began with the birth of Perry and Michelle's second daughter Caitlynn Marie Fannin born on 1/14/6. Taylor welcomed her new baby sister with a loving kiss.

Two months later Justinn and Cory celebrated the birth of their first child, Angel Lee Desiree' Kurtz. Angel was born on 3/28/6 in the same hospital as her mother. Kathy and I now have three precious grandaughters!



When TJ and Angela moved back home from Kansas, all four of our children were within 3 miles of our house. We began having a weekly family night. Each Tuesday someone would prepare a meal and choose a game to play.

We played all kinds of games like cranium, catch phrase, pictionary ... as well as traditional games like dominoes, monopoly, and life. Since we had 9 or 10 people playing it was hard to play card games (although we did a time or two). Family night became the highlight of the week. It was always fun to discover what meal was being cooked as well as what game we would be playing.



This fall college schedules and work schedules contributed to not having our family night, but I'm sure each of us will long remember the dozens of nights we were all back in the same house for an evening.

Last May we experienced another milestone. When Marc turned 20 it was the first time we did not have a teenager living in our house since 1990 when TJ turned 13. Kathy and I survived the teenage years (and so did our kids <g>).



Kathy retired from Walmart last July after more than eleven years of dedicated service. She had enough of the rat race and by simplifying our lives we were able to reduce expenses which allowed her to quit. She is enjoying retirement and highly recommends it. In the morning she often works in her small wood working shop (she has a table saw, router table, band saw, drill press, and several small hand tools) building picnic tables, benches, small tables, lamps, ... Its not unusual to find

her doing a wood project in the morning and then spending the afternoon or evening working on the beautiful quilts she creates.



Its amazing how time changes things like going from holding your son to letting him adjust your bow tie. :)



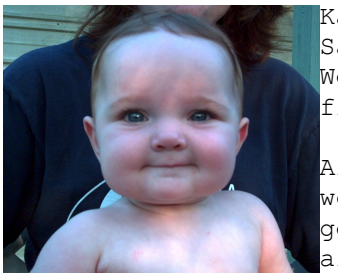
Over a year ago I took up a new pastime - weaving baskets (and so far one hat) from pine straw. Since I stopped watching tv in 2003 I have found I have more time for things like reading, writing letters, and now weaving pine straw. It takes a little time to weave a basket, but I've learned some of the most valuable things in life take a little time.

Kathy made Justinn's wedding dress when Justinn and Cory exchanged wedding vows at the historic Chautauqua building on the lake in the middle of town. Here are some photos:









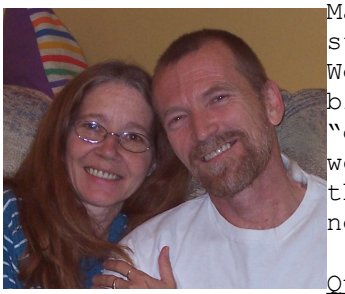
Kathy and I both spend most of our Saturday's working at habitat for humanity. We just started the fifth house since we first began volunteering in 2002.



All our kids are doing well. Michelle began working last summer so that means Perry gets to be mom and dad some nights. With all of the adults in the family now working, it may be some time before we can do family night again.



Caitlynn is on the left in the above photo and Angel is on the right. Taylor turned four this year. She loves being the center of attention and with her beautiful long red hair and wonderful imagination she can easily capture people's hearts.



Marc, Justinn, and Cory are still in school and working. We give thanks for the many blessings of 2006, for Marc's "good accident", for a wonderful time with Kathy's family at Thanksgiving, and for our three precious granddaughters! That wraps up this years newsletter. We all wish you a: ***Merry Christmas!***

Quotes:

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated." Confucius
"You have succeeded in life when all you really want is only what you really need." Vernon Howard