

Merry Christmas

December 1996

Dear Family and Friends,

"Tempus fugit" while the Christmas letter is still just mulling in PJ's noggin. We do wish you and your loved oves a blessed Christmas that will also honor Jesus whose birth we celebrate.

Some highlights of the year: My 50 year reunion at Manchester College the end of May. It was good to see old friends and renew some acquaintences.

Added Grace had their overnight trip to Valparaiso and Michigan City, October 10 and 11. Valparaiso University Chapel is the largest college chapel in the U.S., and is beautiful. We also saw both State and National Dunes Parks.

Aldersgate '96 met in Nashville, TN, the first of August. Earl attended this year along with granddaughter Sara and friends Becky Adams and Jo Simons. We borrowed Bill & Linda's van to have more room for all 5 of us. Two families from St. Luke's UMC here also attended the conference. Dayton, OH is the site for Aldersgate '97. This the annual Conference on the Holy Spirit conducted by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries-ARM.

In July, grandson Shawn Kline was here for 5 days. His folks, Janet and Jerry, arrived the day after Shawn and stayed a week. They were all here for our 49th wedding anniversary and J & J attended Janet's 30 yr H.S. reunion. Alicia and Nicholas came too.

We saw Darrell and family for 3 hours one evening, Aug. 7, at a motel on the east side of Indianapolis. The children's choir that Megan sings with were stopping there overnight on their way to give a concert in Washington, DC. We watched their rehearsal at poolside and visited more in Darrell's motel room. We rode with Bill, Linda and Sara. Shirley met us there. The visit was all too short.

Janet and Jerry Klein still have Alicia 15 and Nicholas 12 at home. Shawn 20 is based at Lockandheath Air Force Base in England-near Cambridge. Elaine 23 and Jeremy Raatz live in an apartment in Watertown, MN and both are working. Patty is still caretaker of the 11 story senior apartment building in Golden Valley, MN. She is planning a May 10 wedding to Vern Ness.

Shirley and Jeff Bronnenberg have experienced lots of changes this year. Warner Publishing did some "downsizing" and Shirley was released. She is now working in the offices of Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion--where Nikki (21 next week) is a student in her Junior year. Nikki has gone on mission trips to Croatia in March--Spring break, and to Russia in July. Nathan 19 graduated from Frankton HS last spring and was inducted into the Army in Sept. He graduated from Basic Training, Nov 26, has been home on leave and departs Dec 17 for a year in Korea. And Jeff retired June 1 from Delco Remy in Anderson after 30 years.

Darrell and Melissa "hold the fort" in Belton, MO. Darrell builds a lot of retaining walls in his Lawnsmith landscaping business. Melissa continues to teach 1st grade. Justin 15 is a freshman in H.S. and in 2 or 3 advanced classes. Megan 10 is a 4th grader and enjoys her choir.

Linda White spent Thanksgiving week moving her Mid-Central Trophy business from the north side of town back to the south side in Arnold Court. She did fix the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. Shirley and I both took food, too. Bill spends a lot of his spare time in his wookworking shop. He's put in a lot of overtime at Chrysler, also. Sara 14 is an 8th grader. Softball, volley ball and singing in the school choir keep her occupied.

Earl tried to keep up with the mowing and battling the groundhogs this summer. Battling the JUNK mail is a constant process.

Chancel Bell choir, aerobics class, 2 prayer groups weekly, plus Caring and Calling group, Rebecca Circle and UMW meetings, and Aglow monthly, keep PJ on the go.

We are enjoying each Christmas greeting and letter.

May the PEACE of the Lord be with you and may His LOVE fill your hearts now and throughout all 1997.

Love,

