

The Moore Messenger * Christmas 2009

LOVE * JOY * PEACE * HOPE

OH! It is Christmas time ... a time for family and friends ... a time for rejoicing ... and a time to celebrate Jesus' birth.

But...What? It's Christmas already? We'll never have time to finish this year's **OH!** **But...**! No ... I guess we will – barely.

OH! This year we enjoyed a trip to Bonaire (Kirk and Cassie) and a road trip to Colorado (where we gathered with a total of 83 Moores!) We spent time at the Omaha Zoo, the Denver Aquarium, Peaceful Valley Ranch, The Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, The Badlands, Wall Drug, and we even experienced the Corn Palace!

But...On way home we missed seeing the SPAM Museum in Minnesota.

OH! Marianne spent the summer as a children's counselor at Peaceful Valley Ranch in Colorado. (The same place the rest of us had part of our vacation!) She called it the best summer of her life. She's in her sophomore year of college at Northern Illinois University. This year Marianne lives in a much bigger room (a suite, actually) at the University Plaza and she continues to work at the NIU Campus Child Care. She's working hard, becoming more and more independent, and even keeping up her grades!

But...Though she has a much bigger room, she sometimes likes to sleep on an air mattress in her walk-in closet.

OH! Junior Matthew, now 17, entered the "I have my driver's license" time of life, so we hardly ever see him anymore! One of the bands he was the lead singer for this year won the Warrenville Battle of the bands, he played drums for a school play and has continued performing with the Classics Showchoir and even doing an occasional solo concert at a local coffee house. This summer he had lots of fun providing wedding music at a horseback wedding!

But...One of the horses "plopped" right in front of him – almost hitting his shoes!

OH! Andrew is now in the 7th grade at the new Hubble Middle School in Warrenville. He continues to amaze us with his piano talent. Cassie likes to ask him to play a song he's never done on the piano. Within a few minutes he has melody, chords and even bass line going! He spent much of this year fishing, catching snakes and learning BMX bike tricks. He and Kirk went on a father/son camping/fishing trip for his birthday – they thought they were going to lose their tent as they camped through the worst thunderstorm of the year!

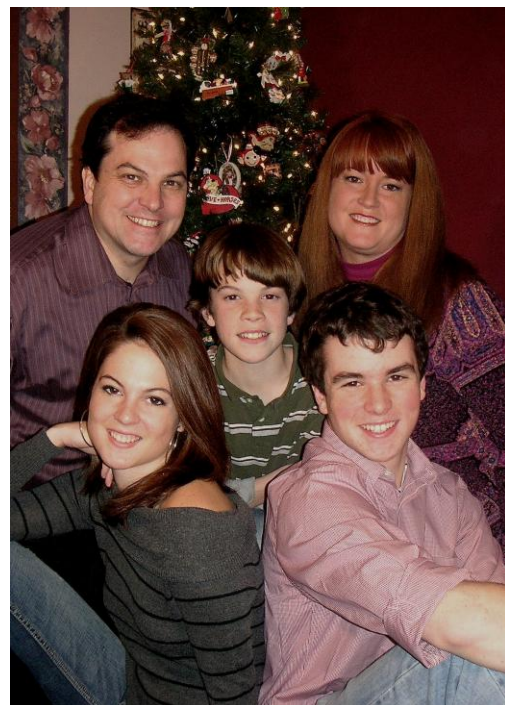
But...Though safe through the thunderstorm, they ended up catching only one little fish on their two-day outing.

OH! Cassie is in her second year as a full-time faculty member at Waubensee Community College (half-way to tenure!). She also gets regular (numerous, even!) requests to freelance as an interpreter for the deaf. Additionally, this year she launched her Etsy store. Etsy is the Ebay for people who want vintage or homemade items. She loves making fused glass and beaded jewelry. Buying other people's items is pretty fun too! You can see her "store" at CreatedByCassie.Etsy.com.

But...she still manages to find time for Facebook.

OH! Kirk is finishing up his third year as Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Somonauk. He also continues to write for i.ucc.org, Interlinc, and ymexchange.com. This fall he's one of the writers for the new Faith Practices curriculum, too. Oh! And this summer he got to perform a wedding on horseback outside the Peaceful Valley Memorial Chapel

But...While he was giving pastoral advice to the couple, Kirk's horse 'shared his opinion.' (See Matthew)



**May God's love surround you in this 2009 Christmas season.
And may Christ's mercy and peace be with us all.**

Andrew, Marianne, Matthew, Cassie and Kirk