



# The Lewis Family Newsletter

(2009)

Dear Loved Ones:

We hope this Christmas season finds all of you happy and well. We are grateful for this time of year that encourages us to communicate with those who have been separated through time and distance. The big news from the Lewis Family this year is that we have moved (yes, again) to the Seattle, Washington area. With the downturn in the economy, Mike's work closed their office in Boise. We were one of the fortunate ones that were offered a transfer. So this summer was a flurry of selling two homes in Boise and buying one here Woodinville, along with the unpacking, remodeling, painting, and getting kids settled into a new school. We did take the opportunity to return to Yellowstone National Park for our family vacation before we moved further away.

**Derek**, our last foster child in Idaho, was reunited with his parents just before we moved. As always, it was hard to see him go, since he was with us for six months. We wish him the best with a hopefully much-improved family. We will always remember all of our foster children fondly, and have pictures of all seven of them on our family room wall to help us remember how much a part of our family they became while they were with us.

**Raymond** is starting to get use to a new school with new faces and names to learn. He is in the fourth grade and likes his teacher. He just celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and continues to grow like a weed. He has been enjoying an after school math club where they are making up their own math game. He just completed his requirements for his Bear Cub Scout award and has moved up to the Webelos den. Raymond is also enjoying finally having his own bedroom after the remodeling project finished up.



**Amelia** at nearly 12, has just about caught up to Suzanne in height. She had a hard time leaving friends behind in the move, but has made some good friends here in Woodinville too. She likes her new school even though it took a while to get over the initial disappointment of discovering that 6<sup>th</sup> grade was still in elementary. We tried to tell her how privileged she should feel to be one of very few people to have had the privilege of graduating from elementary school twice! She has really begun to excel in just about every subject. She has also joined the band and is rapidly learning to play the flute. Much to the chagrin of her parents, Amelia has discovered that boys can be cute! We were hoping the whole "cooties" thing would last a little longer.

**Suzanne and Jo Ann** spent this year doing work around three houses. First, they had to address the sale of both homes in Boise. This included painting and removing more wall- paper then we care to remember.



Funny how you keeping putting that off until you have to. Then after a

month of living in a two bedroom hotel room with 5 people, 2 dogs, and a fish, we got busy fixing up the house we bought here, and did some serious head-scratching on downsizing from 5000+ combined square feet down to 2700. Our "new" house is over 30 years old, so you can imagine that it also had some wallpaper to remove and lots of painting (every room, in fact!) to be done.

**Suzanne and Mike** have their first church calling together. They are teaching the marriage and family relations class in Sunday School. While it was a bit intimidating at first (nearly every couple has more marriage experience!) it has been fun and they are learning a lot in the meantime.



**Mike** is getting to know a whole different group of co-workers and is not enjoying a busier commute. He has been spending many long days working on his most ambitious project so far—a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation USB device that promises to bump up data transfer rates by ten times the current USB offerings. You're going to love how fast your favorite electronic gadgets will load all of those MP3s, JPGs, HD video, and any other acronyms that you may care about. He's also looking forward to exploring all of the great outdoor opportunities that the Northwest has to offer, and has managed to get some time on the weekends for a few hikes and other exploration with the family before the prototypical Seattle rain and cold kicked in for the season. While his family thinks he's bluffing, he promises to finish his first novel eventually. He's been working on it for three years and is about two thirds (330 pages) complete.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,  
The Lewis Family.



Family Portrait



This open area with hiking trails and geocaching is walking distance from our new home.



Our new house



Derek



Grand Prismatic Spring (Yellowstone)