



We hope this finds you all well, and filled with the Christmas spirit as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us .. His Son. Attempts by society to remove Christ from the holiday makes me wonder ...would we have a holiday without Christ?

2011 has been a year of change for us. We sold the big home that we had put so much of ourselves into, and built a smaller home just outside Osseo. We love the neighborhood, and everyone has made us feel so welcome.

Rollie continues to work for CMI in Eau Claire. He goes to the office 1 day/wk, and works at home 3 days/wk. He also does work for United Way in Denver and Richmond, Va, and occasionally for Heinz and Associates (Jim's company). And in his spare time he is active in the VFW, American Legion, and Commercial Club. He has told CMI he will officially retire in June 2012 with hopes of working around the house and property, and perhaps taking up some woodworking projects.

I'm still working for Bahnhub Realty here in Osseo less than 20 hrs/wk and plan to retire before my 65th birthday in March. I was able to go on a cruise with Rollie's cousin Karen in October. She and I each invited a friend to go along. We are all in our 60s, and had a wonderful time cruising the southern Caribbean. I'm still taking piano lessons, progressing slowly, and hope to eventually graduate out of the beginning book one.

Wendy, Jim and family still live in Cincinnati. Jim started a new job, but still is involved in Heinz and Associates. He loves volleyball and coaches the boy's volleyball team. Wendy continues to be a very busy mom, enjoys working out, volunteers almost daily at the kid's schools, and still finds 20 hrs a week to work for Heinz and Associates. Emily is now a freshman at Mount Notre Dame catholic girls' school. She continues to amaze us with her exceptional grades, and is now a level 9 gymnast. She is growing up fast, and is a real beauty inside and out. Kevin and Andrew are handsome 7th graders who are top notch students, too. They have excelled this year in cross country, and also play volleyball and basketball. Katie, a busy 3rd grader, is our blonde hair/blue eye cutie that will turn heads for sure! If you're ever in a bad mood, just call Katie, and her bright voice and enthusiasm will bring you a smile. Katie is also a gymnast, level 5 this year. Our Alex underwent major surgery last January. They removed 8 more inches of his colon (due to Hirschsprung's Disease), and they performed a Malone Procedure. In layman's language he gets an enema via a valve/tube through his umbilicus to the colon once per day. The doctor's feel that this is only a temporary solution, and his colon will function normally in due time. Alex is an avid reader, and doing so well in 1st grade. He is such a delight, always happy, and loves to play games. He now beats Grandma at most of them. He likes to tell me what I "should have done". Ha!

Barry also changed jobs this past year. He left Boeing to accept a job at Integral Systems in Colorado Springs. It has been a really good move for him. He's still doing technical "space" programming with GPS (way over my head), and seems to really enjoy it. He is also an avid volleyball player. Our Mackenzie is already in 6th grade at the Charter Academy in Colorado Springs. She is our quiet granddaughter, excels in school with excellent grades, and grows prettier by the day. I enjoyed spending 10 days with them last March during her spring break. Barry has been dating Rebecca (Becca) for a couple years now, and we feel this is a long term relationship. Becca has two children, Rachel and Josh, so our family now totals 14 when we are together. That's a houseful! Mackenzie loves her new expanded family, and the all the kids have bonded quickly. They are building a new home in Colorado Springs, and plan to move in June 2011.

So this is our year, the condensed version. May your Christmas be merry and 2012 filled with health and happiness.