



Greetings, Friends!

This is the first year we've tried this "newsletter" format, and I think we'll consider it an experiment rather than the look of Christmas to come.

Part of the reason for the newsletter is that our Christmas cards have been signed and addressed since late September, which also explains why some of you have uncorrected addresses or unacknowledged new babies. We worked on them early so that we would not be rushed when we got back from our cruise. Don and I spent our tenth wedding anniversary on the Regal Princess in the Caribbean. We left Chicago's cold and gloomy weather for sunshine and snorkeling, dancing 'til dawn and dinner without spilled apple juice. It was quite a thrill.

Aside from a rehearsal weekend in October while Don and I attended Homecoming at Knox, this was our first trip without the children. Both Grandmas and Papas, as well as Great-Grandma, took care of the kids while we were gone and they had such a good time, I think they hardly missed us!

Although the cruise ranks up there as our most memorable event of 1992, other things did happen.

In January, Don was hired as a Product Manager for Palindrome Corporation, a tape backup company for Personal Computers in Local Area Networks. It's a departure from the Industrial Computer work is was doing, but it is challenging and he works with a great group of people. Palindrome is also here in Naperville, only 10 minutes from our house, so it looks like we'll be staying put for a while longer.

Jamie started his last year of Preschool this September, and while they're teaching him socialization skills, he's teaching himself how to read and write here at home. He has a repertoire of a couple dozen three-letter words, and "sounding out" has become a very popular pastime lately.

His most exciting news happened in November when he won a coloring contest and was awarded tickets to the Ringling Brothers Circus. He re-enacts it almost every day.

As far as Emily is concerned, her biggest news flash has got to be that she's finally potty-trained. I was going to write that she resisted for a long time, but that's much too strong a word - she was really just unconcerned.

Despite our best efforts to let her "be all that she can be" in a gender-equality sort of way, she is turning out to be quite a lady! If we turn our back on her for a moment, she's stripped off her jeans to dress up in one of her many "princess dresses." She does an adorable facsimile of a curtsy, and if we call her "princess" when she's dressed in 20th century clothes, she'll pathetically inform us: "But I don't got a dress on!"

During the Spring and Summer, we worked on the house. Don made cabinets ad designed and built the kids' playset in the yard. I refinished some old furniture and recovered a couch during a living room make-over that is now nearly a year old and still not completed! Jamie and Emily helped in the garden harvesting strawberries, tomatoes, carrots, peppers and a record number of pumpkins - 11! Last year we only had 4.

We've also been busy with our church. Don has been lending his computer skills and great reading voice, and I my artistic abilities, in addition to our serving on several boards and teaching Sunday School. (Don has the fifth graders and I the preschoolers.) Don is now one of the Lay Ministers (like a church elder) as of this week! Our biggest challenge at church is the Bell Choir, which we joined this year and are now charter members of. Neither of us have much musical education, but now that we learned our two or three notes, we really enjoy making music.

That about wraps it up for us in 1992. We hope you are busy and happy as well, and that the Christmas season is a happy and exciting time for you and your family.

Kate, Don, Jamie, & Emily

