

December 2003

Hello Dear Friends,

Is it already time for our annual report of our doin's? We just don't know where the year has gone. Let's see, what have we been up to.

In January, Mark began teaching at Wake Technical Community College. He's terrorizing young minds with instruction about C++, Web programming and such. He's still running the travel business which has fared far better than last year which was a disaster due to a sagging economy and 9/11.

In February Mark and his sisters Jo Ann and Pat threw an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Great Grandma Phyllis. We held the party at her house in VA and 30 or so of her long time friends were in attendance. She's really amazing, 80 and going strong. She's been traveling a lot and isn't the least bit hesitant to drive anywhere she likes. We're really proud of how well she does.

In April Ann ventured out to Seattle to visit with Mark's sister Jo Ann and her fiance John. She had a great time shopping, eating and seeing much of the Seattle area including the famous Pike's Place open air market and the largest tulip fields outside of Holland at LaConner, WA.

In May Ann flew to Tampa, FL to see our nephew T.J. Daffron graduate from high school. T.J.'s now a freshman at Florida State and seems to be flourishing.

Summertime brought a trip to Myrtle Beach to hang out with our pals Nancy and Frank for a few days.



Last year on Christmas day Michelle and Ross surprised us with the joyful news that a little Huffman was on the way. At 7:30am on August 14<sup>th</sup> the long awaited tyke arrived. His name is [Walker Andrew Huffman](#) and he is adorable. We did learn that we're getting a little old for these all nighters at the hospital. Even bloodshot eyes couldn't dampen the pure joy he brought to our family. He has stolen our hearts, big time!

To top off the month, Michael and Rachel [tied the knot](#) in Chapel Hill, NC. It was a really big weekend for the Meyen and Vogelpohl families. Michael has finished his master's degree in Recreation Administration at UNC and now works as the sports director for the Chapel Hill YMCA. Rachel has gone back to school to get her master's in Elementary Education at UNC Greensboro. She plans to graduate in May and hopefully get a teaching job for next year.



At Thanksgiving, we had a large gathering around the dinner table. Michael, Rachel, Rachel's sister Rebekah with boyfriend Brian and Rachel's mom & dad, Gary & Ruth were all here as well as Michelle, Ross, Walker and Great Grandma Phyllis who drove down from the DC area. Even the grand pooch, Wayne was there.

Christmas is a time for memories of Christmas past and for thinking of friends. We think of you often and look forward to hearing from you every year. Our welcome mat is always out should you venture our

way. We hope this finds you surrounded by the love of family and friends with many joys and few woes. We also hope that this year we all take the time to reflect on the many ways our Lord has blessed us, give thanks to Him for his gift of salvation and pray for peace in a turbulent world.



**Mark & Ann**

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