

The Meyen Household
2305 Filigree Court
Raleigh, NC 27614-8333

Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas!

Once again another year has slipped past us while we were asleep at the switch. We just don't know where the time goes. All in all things have been relatively quiet in these parts. We hope your year has been one of your best and we always look forward to hearing from you at this time of year when we pause long enough to take stock of the important things in life like, good health, good friends and family.

As is our custom, we'll use this vehicle to record what it is we've been up to this year. The year got off to a cold start as usual but we soon found our way to the coast to take in some good country music at the Coastal Jamboree in Morehead City. We enjoyed the company of four couples who are long time friends while we explored the restaurants along the Carolina coast.

Michael's still the sports director for the Chapel Hill YMCA and Rachel managed to survive her first year of teaching in Durham. In July they bought their first home and we're really enjoying watching them learn about all the fun of home ownership (repairs, decorating,). Now that they're homeowners it will be easy to buy Christmas gifts for them. They don't have any of the household accoutrements yet that we have after 32+ years (tools, knickknacks, etc.). A week after the kids moved into their home, we returned to the sea aboard Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas for a short cruise to the Caribbean. Along with us we had Mark's sister Pat, his Mom, Phyllis, Mark's sister Jo and her hubby John as well as our two friends Jim and Annette. We all had a great time and as usual didn't want to get off the ship at the end of the cruise.

In August our grandson Walker turned two years old. He's got to be one of the most spoiled kids ever, and we helped!!!! Boy did we help!! Who could imagine what a light he has brought into our lives? Michelle and Ross have proven themselves to be especially good at parenting as he appears to be a happy and bright little guy. Also in August Mark took an offer from the NC Dept. of Commerce to fill a position as a Business & Technologies Applications Analyst. He's busy designing a performance monitoring and reporting system for the division that oversees government agencies charged with helping people find work.

Thanksgiving found us at Michael and Rachel's for a gathering that included Michelle, Ross, Walker, Great Grandma Phyllis and Rachel's sister, Rebecah and her parents Ruth and Gary. We don't have any more travel plans for this year and certainly not early next year because we're happily awaiting a new sister for Walker. This new family member is due to arrive sometime around February First, 2006. However, Ann will track out again in May of 2006 and Mark's wanderlust may take us out of the country again for some sort of adventure. Remember, we're trying to see as much of the big blue marble as we can before our knees give out.

As always, we hope this time of year allows us all to stop, reflect on all of God's blessings and give thanks to Him for sending us His son, the best gift we'll ever get.

Mark & Ann