



### *Season's Greetings!*

It's been another good year for which we are very grateful. The year has brought a few changes but most all of them are good. We hope that all is well at your house too. As is our annual tradition, we will try to recollect what it is that we've been up to this year.

We were very excited when, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael and Rachel presented us with our 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild Brynn Elizabeth Meyen. A few short weeks later Mark's sister Pat and his mom Phyllis rolled into town for a quick visit, little Brynn was the draw, not us. At the end of March we managed to slip in a short but really fun cruise to the Bahamas with eight close friends.

June was busy with a visit from our friends Jacque & Bob Ruse whom we'd met on a cruise some years back. We also enjoyed a beach weekend at Salter Path, NC with four of our friends. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June we celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Oh gosh, those years seemed to fly by!

Mark officially retired on July 1<sup>st</sup> (the Cheshire grin is still plastered to his face). Mark and Michelle took Michelle's two kids, Walker and Olivia on a little father-daughter road trip to Washington, D.C(National Zoo) and West Virginia to visit with Grandma Phyllis and Aunt Pat & Uncle Ted.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> Ann officially retired and we headed south to celebrate with friends in Myrtle Beach before heading on to Florida for a visit with Ann's brother Tom and his wife Terry for a few days. Along the way we dropped in for a nice evening with Mark's cousin Chuck and his wife Wendy in Jacksonville, FL. On the way home we visited with Mark's Uncle Lee and Aunt Maxine (Chuck's mom & dad) in Ocala, FL. After a week at home we hit the road again for a little mini-adventure up to West Virginia to visit with Pat and Ted again. The ride up through the rolling hills of central Virginia was so nice with all the horse farms and grape vineyards along the way. While there we planned the next Mark & Ann's Excellent Adventure to the southwest in October.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> we hopped a plane to Las Vegas where we met Pat & Ted. Ann got to tour all of the luxury hotels on the strip. We took in the Terry Fator show at the Mirage and Rita Rutner



at Harrah's. After a few days we picked up a rental car and headed to the Grand Canyon, stopping to check out Hoover Dam along the way. After that we headed through the Pumatke Indian National Park to Flagstaff, AZ before returning to Las Vegas for our flight to San Francisco. In San Francisco the four of us met up with Mark's other sister Jo and her hubby John. We spent a few days exploring SF, Sanoma, Nappa Valley, Carmel and Pebble Beach. It was great fun and a rare event to have all three Meyen siblings able to vacation together. Ten days from our start we found ourselves glad to be home again.

Grandma Phyllis joined us for a few days at Thanksgiving and we were thrilled to have her here so we could get a picture of all of us together for the holiday.



We expect to stick close to Raleigh for the month of December and enjoy the holidays with our children, grandchildren and friends.

Plans for next year's Mark & Ann's 2011 Excellent Adventure include two back-to-back river cruises in Europe. We'll cruise with friends through Holland and Belgium at tulip time and then up the Rhine River through Germany, France and Switzerland. Anyone else care to come along?

We know the magic of Christmas never ends, and it's greatest gift is our faith, our family and friends like all of you. We hope this finds you enjoying good health, good times and the company of those you love and admire most.

From our house to yours,  
Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Mark & Ann