

## Dear Family and Friends,

At the opening of 2012, we were challenged to think about where our treasure is. In Philippians 3:8, the apostle Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, saying that it was all "a loss" when compared with the greatness of knowing Christ. Our relationship with Christ is more important than anything else. To know Christ and bring Him glory should be our ultimate goal.

As a family, we desire to know Christ and experience a relationship with Him that is alive and powerful. At Florida's Caspersen Beach last December, we witnessed many people digging in the sand hoping to discover a prize shark tooth fossil. With our little sand shovel, God did help us to find a few sharks teeth and one woman graciously gave us one from her own treasure box. Reflecting on our day, God spoke to us. What are you seeking? Where is your treasure?

During our Christmas visit to Ray and Mickey in Florida, God blessed us with Sea World tickets from Craigslist.

Winter brought scrap booking and hosting friends. We accompanied Dale & Sharon Brubaker to Middle Creek to see the snow geese; their hot soup helped to warm us again. God blessed our day at Blue Mountain skiing despite the weather and my little faith. The girls are definitely getting braver on the slopes. Spending a day in New York City was an eye-opener for our little country girls. We toured the 911 Memorial, the Empire State Building, the Lego store, and the American Girl Doll store. The subway was a thrill for Mariah and Paige.

This spring Kervin Beachy helped us do a bit of trout fishing behind our house. I took a bus of excited first and second grade students to Hershey Chocolate World and Indian Echo Caverns for a field trip. David, my brother David, and nephew Shane had an interesting time as they camped at Ohiopele and rafted the Youghiogheny. We were blessed as we once again hosted our neighbors for a sunrise service on Easter. Hiking, yard sales, and family motorcycle trips filled a number of days. Seeing the

space shuttles Enterprise and Discovery at Washington's Udvar Hazy Center as a family made for a fun day. I was privileged to join David as he took a charter bus of high schoolers to Manhattan.

We spent the morning with them at the Jewish Holocaust Museum, then David and I visited Chinatown and Brooklyn.

As summer rolled in God took us into a new phase of our lives. Our family was asked to help out Sunday mornings at On Fire, a local youth ministry in Myerstown. David helps with teaching. Being at Pine Creek again provided a time of relaxation while biking the Grand Canyon and rafting the creek. Paige did a superb job as she biked 17 miles on her own bike for the first time. David and I took a 2700 mile motorcycle trip to Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island (Nova Scotia) for our 10th anniversary. The scenery was positively gorgeous and the Anne attractions were absolutely wonderful! We had a lot of fun touring some of the Anne of Green Gables

## 2012 Report



things with Brad, Brian & Cheryl Auker one afternoon. God had His hand in our trip over and over again from directions to places to booking Bed & Breakfasts. Mariah and Paige made great memories with Grandpa and Grandma Zook! Thanks a lot Mom & Dad! David's lab convention

took us to upstate New York to Greek Peak Ski Resort. David, Mariah and I had a blast doing the zip lines at the Adventure Park. Paige was sad that she was too small to



do them. We all had fun doing the Mountain Coaster. The water park adjacent to the hotel also provided hours of entertainment. But even with all that, the girls were most thrilled with going to pick blueberries. The entire Zook family tubed down the Juniata River during a weekend together. We finished just as the thunder and lightning started.



While spending a weekend in Maryland visiting friends we got to celebrate Colleen's birthday. Labor Day weekend was spent at Dutchman's Paradise. Storm Irene made great swimming holes in the creek near the cabin. Renewing old friendships and making new ones was delightful. Driving the bus for Paige's first field trip to Oregon Dairy and Hands on House was a special day. Tim & Judith and their God-assembled Thanksgiving houseful, David's cousin Steve & Vivian and their great stories, and Bob & Judy all harmonized as a cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 11) with 'feet of clay', the theme of our Thanksgiving trip to Indiana/Illinois.



Mariah is entering her third year of piano. She is on the superior honor roll at school and loves being a big sister to Paige. She is very creative with paper and markers. This year Mariah took her friend Kyla with her to Kenbrook Bible Camp. Paige is enjoying kindergarten three days a week and excelling, happy to be with me on Mondays and Fridays. Her favorite activity now is jumping rope. David continues as director at the lab, where they have just received certification in Maryland. He is in his second year teaching at Released Time, the Bible program for Elco students. He still relates frequently to other men, 'Iron sharpening Iron'. He completed a swing set for the girls. I am in my 11<sup>th</sup> year with Victorious Women, enjoying Bible Study and fellowship. I drive bus for Released Time and serve as a small group leader. We continue to help David's parents find comfort in their sunset years, doing laundry and cleaning, grocery shopping, and taking meals. We hosted them overnight during the Sandy power outage. That made for some special memories as Grandma played harmonica and told stories to the girls!



2 Corinthians 7:1 tells us to purify ourselves from everything that makes our body and soul unclean. We are to be completely holy by living in awe of God. Our prayer is that God would teach us how to treasure Him.

*David, Karen, Mariah, and Paige*