



Oak Haven Happenings

December 2012

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Michelle, Jennifer, Landon, Laken, Kristin, Julie, Gabby, Jim, Elizabeth, Brian, & Matthew.

Merry Christmas to all of our friends & family!

We have so much to be thankful for. God is good! I enjoy reflecting on the past year and recording the highlights of the year.

Jim & I celebrated our 30th anniversary this year. (Wow, we don't feel that old.) Jim planned a week long get-away to an all-inclusive resort in Mexico. We got a fantastic deal and added two day trips of snorkeling to reefs near



Julie and Jim snorkeling off of Cozumel, Mexico.

Cozumel. We had so much fun. It was a 5 star resort with great food, lots of activities and a beautiful beach. Jim won the shooting & archery contests, plus tried out the mechanical bull. There were natural areas to explore, bird watching, kayaking, tennis lessons, and long walks on the beach. I'm very thankful for our marriage.

I'm also very thankful for my friends in our women's Bible study. We've been studying Priscilla Shirer's book: *Discerning the Voice of God*. We all highly recommend it. It has taken me to an all new level in my relationship with God. It's amazing to me that the God of the Universe would want a personal relationship with us, his creation.

Our children continue to be huge blessings in our lives. Almost every weekend we are doing something fun together. Just being together is special. I'm very thankful for each one of them.

Kristin (27) is living her dream of being a stay-at-home Mom and home schooling her kids: Gabby (almost 7), Landon (5), and Matthew (4). Plus, since May, she has been caring for their baby brother, Laken, (15 months). They are great kids and love to help us. Kristin left her job as a teacher in Dayton and is hoping to provide daycare in her home. She lives 2 miles from us. (We love having her and the kids close.) They are enjoying a bit of farm life living on 4 acres, gardening,



Kristin with Laken, Landon, Matthew, & Gabby in the Smokys.

and having 16 chickens (& 2 adorable kittens). We still have a lot of work to do on her house, but it's looking really nice.

Jennifer (26) continues to enjoy her work at 4 Paws For Ability and hanging out with family, friends & her boyfriend, Bryan. She keeps a busy social schedule and finds time to do it all. We usually visit her up in Xenia mid-week while working on our rental properties. We added six new windows to her back room making it into a sunroom. What a differ-

ence! This year was her "golden" birthday since she was 26 on the 26th. She wanted to go on a big trip to celebrate and Michelle & I gladly joined her. We traveled first to Paris and Giverny to see Monet's home and gardens. Then onto Greece, where we saw the Acropolis in Athens, visited the quaint coastal town of Nafplion, the temple of Apollo in the mountains at Delphi, as well as Santorini Island. After that we flew to Istanbul, Turkey, which Michelle had wanted to see. We toured the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque and



Bryan (whom we call "Bryan with a Y") and Jennifer.

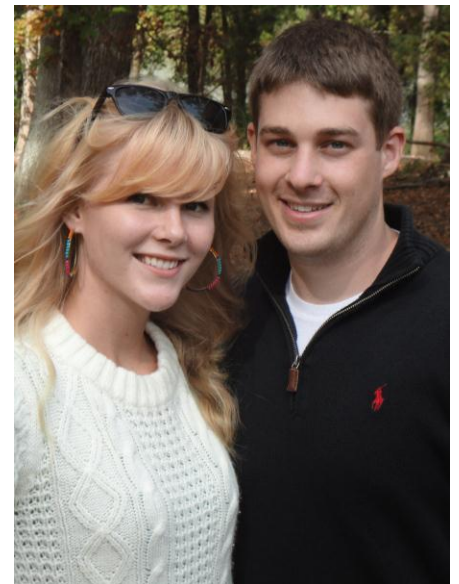
took a boat ride up the Bosphorus River which separates Europe from Asia. It was an adventure and so special to share it with Jennifer & Michelle.

Brian (23) & Liz are doing great. They celebrated their 1st year Anniversary at an all-inclusive in the Dominican Republic. Brian spends his time working on his house rehab and partners with us on



Brian (with an "I") and Liz in Punta Cana for their one-year anniversary.

photography and rentals. Liz works as a nurse and is going to school to get her Bachelor's degree in Nursing. They always seem to be doing something fun: cooking together, having family and friends over, mountain biking, playing volleyball & softball, etc. Their softball team with the church league needed more players, so Jim, Michelle, Hope & I all played. It was a lot of fun to play again after so many years.



Michelle & Corey.

Michelle (22) is the only one at home with us. She is working full-time as a receptionist at a vet clinic, as well as being a Realtor. (She is enjoying watching her bank account grow.) She loves to be creative: painting, drawing, making her own perfumes, jewelry, and lotions. We laugh at all the things her boyfriend, Corey, participates in that I'm sure he never would have thought of doing.

The two of them also enjoy doing a lot of cooking and hiking together.

Finishing our house has been on hold for the past couple of years with the kids' houses, our rentals and flips taking priority (a total of twelve houses to work on). We need to pass our final inspection in January so we are working to get the half bath and dog bath areas finished. We're also looking forward to seeing a significant savings in our electric bills with the addition of solar panels on the roof. The system is supposed to pay for itself in 6-8 years. It will be interesting to see how well it works.

We continue to be involved facilitating a Young Adult group Bible study, providing monthly programs at the Owensville Commons for the elderly, and helping with the food pantry out in Indiana that my parents run. We're thankful that their new building (provided by the county) finally got completed. We now have a walk-in freezer & cooler. We were able to serve 170 families in 2 ½ hours in November! I'm very thankful for my parents who give so selflessly; they set a great example for all of us.

We want to thank each one of you reading this for being a part of our lives. You have enriched us.

May the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords, the Everlasting Father watch over you this



holiday season and throughout the New Year!

The Varick Family

Julie, Jim, Kristin, Jennifer,
Brian, Liz, & Michelle
Gabby, Landon, Matthew, &
Laken