



# Oak Haven Happenings

December 2018

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## Happy New Year to all of our Friends & Family!



We are so blessed in every way and so very thankful for all of our grandchildren!

The exciting news for **Kristin & Philip** is the addition of baby Abigail to their family. She was born on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. I (Julie) enjoyed spending two weeks out in Nebraska with them

right after she arrived. Then they came back to Ohio for two weeks so we got a whole month together. It is neat to see how great all six of the siblings are with Abigail. She is a bundle of joy with all of her smiles and coos. Another major event in their life was the purchasing of a 10 unit apartment building in a college town 30 minutes away. Philip also started his own business called Meadowlark Improvements doing all kinds of handyman work, which he really enjoys. Life is busy and wonderful for them. Their kids ages are: Gabby (13), Robert (11), Matthew (10), Laken (7), John (5), Hosanna (4), & Abigail (4 months).







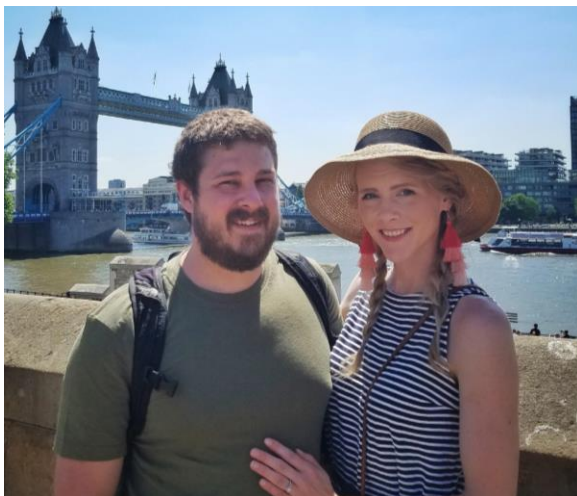
**Jennifer & Bryan** finished a major kitchen remodel and it looks amazing. Bryan did a lot of the work himself; you should see the beautiful marble floor he laid. Jennifer is thrilled with her new kitchen. It took the first 6 months of the year to complete. Somehow they juggled work, the house project, parenting their little girls, trips and all the other stuff that makes life rewarding like walks to the park, bike rides and time with friends and family. Aubrey is 3 and Evelyn is 18 months now. We watch them on Fridays and also got to watch them

for half the time while their parents took a getaway trip to Hawaii in November.

**Brian & Liz** have exciting news. They just bought a house a couple of weeks ago at a Sheriff's Auction. It is a fixer upper right now, but after Brian works on it the house will be amazing. The house is set up on a wooded hillside on one acre with a view of the Ohio River through the trees. It has 4 bedrooms/ 3 baths and is a contemporary style, which fits well with what they want their dream house to look like. We are so excited for them and look forward to helping them work on the house and watching Juniper so they can work. Liz also started a new



job as a coordinator for an artificial heart device downtown at Christ Hospital, so having their new house in New Richmond will be a much better commute for her as well. Juniper is 20 months old now. Their getaway trip this year was to Iceland in June.



**Michelle and Corey** are doing great. Their jobs are fulfilling and they too are fixing up their house in Loveland. They have hired Brian to do a lot of the work. (It is so nice to have a handy brother.) Their big highlight this year was taking a cruise in Europe this summer. They went to England, France, Spain & Italy and had a wonderful time. They extended the beginning of the trip in London and the end in Rome to have more time to explore those cities and the countryside. So memorable!





Our winter trip was really special. We rented a house on **Captiva Island** which had lots of space so Jennifer & Brian's families could join us, plus my parents. The heated pool and big screen porch were our favorite places besides the beach. And, we could kayak right off the back dock. So fun to watch three little girls play and explore.



Then in the spring we spent a week in **Banner Elk, North Carolina**. Brian, Liz & Juniper joined us for the first half and we got to see Juniper take her first steps. So exciting! We also played pickle ball for our first time on a cold rainy day (we played indoors) and now it is my favorite sport. Jennifer, Bryan, Aubrey & Evelyn joined us for the second half of the week. We enjoyed hiking to waterfalls and looking for wildflowers.

The biggest trip this year was our trip to **Maine** in July. My parents went with us which made it even more special. We spent the first week at **Rangely Lake** in the mountains and then a week along the coast at **Acadia National Park**. Wow, Maine is a beautiful state! We especially enjoyed listening to the loons call on the lakes. Combine that with a sunset and a view of the mountains and it was pure bliss.







In the fall we visited **Mississippi** for the first time, spending a week in Biloxi along the coast, again with my parents. Every day was fun exploring the area from **New Orleans, Louisiana** to **Mobile, Alabama**. It was especially interesting seeing the residual impact of Hurricane Katrina and researching how it hit the shore there. Makes us thankful that we live in the Midwest.



Last of all, it was exciting to share in the celebration of my **parents' 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** this year! Our whole Gordon clan (40 of us) went on a riverboat cruise and then had a delicious picnic dinner at a park along the Ohio River on a lovely September evening. It was so very special to be all together and to honor my parents' commitment to each other all these years. We are so thankful for them.

May God bless you and keep you in His loving care!  
From our home to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year in 2019!

Jim & Julie Varick & family

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*