

## CHRISTMAS 2000

PEACE  
ON EARTH

In January we welcomed the millenium in  
(Or is it this next year that it will begin?).  
Presbyterian Women "retreated" to a Toledo metropark  
Where in heavily snow covered trails we left our mark.  
In March off we went to Georgia shore and sun  
Where on St. Simon Island we sang and had fun.  
Variety of activities abounded at the Elderhostel there  
And with friends from Missouri and Ohio good times we did share.  
At Stone Mountain near Atlanta we spent most of a day;  
Tram/boat/train rides, plantation, museums were part of our stay.  
Leaving near St. Pat's day, we north to Savannah went  
Where green water upward in fountains was sent!  
We walked the squares and had crab cakes,  
Then on to Charleston to see more "sights" and lakes.  
We visited historic sites, churches and homes,  
Took a boat trip to Fort Sumter amid Atlantic foams.  
Next an overnight stop at Elderbrocks in Tennessee,  
Catching up with friends formerly from BG.  
In April, Indiana Amishland our course we did plot  
To check out, with Sam & Jo, our next reunion spot.  
In May to Cincinnati (Sam & Jo too) for Kim's musical show--  
Each year more professional and talents do grow.  
Then we travelled on to Indiana State Park-- Clifty Falls  
Where we met the Lawsons and stayed within lodge walls.  
Rugged hiking was a challenge; the town of Madison was neat.  
We got lots of exercise..and also lots to eat!  
In May with good Rock friends, we biked on Kelley's Island to "bird".  
On the ferry ride back, a downpour ensued--soaked to the absurd.  
Toledo Zoo's party was fun with Andy, Anna & grandchildren four  
The new polar bear/sea lion site enjoyed along with birds that soar.  
Our family reunion was in southern Indiana in July--  
A hunting lodge our accomodations... but hunting we didn't try.  
Multitudes of games were played and swimmers in the pool did get;  
A boat trip in a cave was fun; many golf balls were hit!  
Then moving day 'twas for Andy Long's with helpers abounding  
For the trip from Ann Arbor to NKU, cars the "moving van" surrounding.  
They're settled in Ft. Thomas and hope to stay awhile;  
After 7 schools, staying in one for high school would make Tchapo smile!  
With activities and events our lives have been filled.  
Cliff enjoys woodcarving and projects for him to build.  
Cliff goes gamely on through pain and all life's various bends;  
Continuing to learn, laugh and love, enjoying family and friends.

Since October, we've been on a "slippery slope". We're trying to hold our own or go back uphill! Cliff started having more pain so wasn't surprised to learn, when a bone marrow biopsy was done the end of the month, that the multiple myeloma had returned to the scene. His oncologist didn't want to give more chemo & lower his already low blood counts. Since early November he's been on thalidomide which has some side effects necessitating more medicine. His body is probably wondering how to react to all of these drugs! The last two weeks he's also been getting Procrit (by injection) to boost his red blood cell production. These drugs all require a few weeks to start doing their "thing" so we're playing the waiting game. He was having so much pain that his pain medication was doubled and that has helped the pain level immensely. Because his blood counts are low, he doesn't have much energy and that's discouraging to him.

We've had and continue to have wonderful support from family and friends. As you know, Cliff has always enjoyed people and having folks around is good for him. At Thanksgiving, he was surrounded by 23 of us!....all of his immediate family (now numbering 18 with grandchildren ranging from almost 15 to 2 in January) plus Ellie & Jack from St. Louis, Sam and Jo from Indianapolis and Fred and Nelle from Abingdon. At that time Cliff was having some trouble navigating but had lots of helpers!

I seem to keep busy with church, Habitat for Humanity, wheeled meals and other charitable activities - plus coordinating family activities.

Steve, Kim, Cliff and Sammy continue to enjoy living in Cincinnati and their involvement in church and community activities. Steve just gave us a book of songs he's composed and had previously given us tapes of his singing/guitar playing. Special!

Andy, Anna and Tchapo seem to enjoy life in Ft. Thomas. Andy is teaching at Northern Kentucky University and all three are getting acquainted with what the area has to offer. Tchapo was on the soccer team & now on the 9th grade basketball team. Anna is looking around at job possibilities at nursing homes (her preference).

We see Thad, Debbie, Connor and Rachel frequently and are glad they're in Bowling Green. Thad keeps busy with the intramural/sports clubs activity at BGSU and Debbie keeps busy with friends and their children (and her own!) and has developed an interest in running. They run the Long Hotel and embody hospitality.

This is a busy time for Mindy, Mark, Alexis, Jack and Eric as basketball season is "on" in Fremont and as coach, Mark is busy with practice, games and scouting. Mindy continues to teach 4th grade (& hopes the proficiency test for the state of Ohio is changed to be spread out over more grades than fourth!). She's been in charge of "Pennies for Patients" at her school and this year they raised \$2500 for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma patients (and research for those conditions)!

We're proud of all of our kids..can you tell??

We hope you've had a wonderful year and that 2001 will be another one for you. May this Christmas season remind us once again of the wonderful gift God gave us and help us keep in mind the real "reason for the season".

Love,  
Mindy & Cliff

ours

# 2001

From  
Mari-lyn and Cliff



2001--Hmm, sounds like a movie to me  
 What's happened with us? Well, let's see.  
 In January to New Orleans Cliff and I flew...  
 Different cuisine; many things to do  
 Andy joined us and those two to math meetings went  
 While going to museums & such was my bent.  
 To the art museum I journeyed to see Faberge eggs  
 The zoo, the aquarium, French Quarter walks..Oh, my legs!  
 The D Day Museum was full of displays  
 Recounting those horrible, memorable days.

In June to a "half century" high school dinner off we did troop  
 Yep, with other Abingdon grads, I'm one of the group!  
 Gatherings there with family and friends was fun.  
 We visited with many e'er our days there were done.

To Indiana in July we reunited our Cline clan;  
 With 37 there (with just 2 it began!).  
 A Methodist center supplied us with lots to do..  
 Sports, a huge lake, good food pleased our crew.

Our 44th anniversary was well celebrated.  
 Black Swamp Festival! By family & friends we were feted.  
 A few days later...a day we'll never forget.....  
 With evil terrorist activity our country was hit!  
 Patriotic unity became important to all!  
 Love of country and freedom made us stand tall.

Again to Indiana we went in September  
 To reunite with friends near Pokagon timber.  
 A pontoon boat ride on Lake James was a treat,  
 On to Auburn's museum to see old cars neat.  
 For Bob's special birthday we had chocolate cake.  
 From Richards & Lawsons regretrfully leave we did take.  
 To Canada we went with Andy and Steve.  
 Many cousins visited 'fore we took our leave.

In October to California we flew  
 Hawkin's 50th! Family & friends made quite a crew.  
 Seeing early Chicago friends & Hawkins "kids" was fun  
 And numerous activities kept us "on the run".  
 Back to LA to visit family and friends,  
 High speed, much traffic, many bends.  
 BG seemed so peaceful on our return.  
 "No place like home"...again we learn!

Two new members were added to our family Long  
 Thaddeus (Andy & Anna), Thomas (Thad & Debbie) joined our throng!  
 Both born in November, they're cute little guys.  
 Parents, at night, wish they'd keep closed their eyes!

Our kids continue to be involved with sports  
Soccer, softball, tennis, played with cohorts.  
All keep busy at work and play,  
Wishing there were more hours in each day!  
Mindy and Mark coached their kids soccer team,  
Put an addition on their house. It's a dream!  
An addition to their family is due in the spring.  
More joy to us that little one will bring.  
A new job position came Thad's way--  
Same locale, daytime hours, he's pleased to say!  
Mark as a basketball coach deserved cheers--  
Fremont was league champ--1st time in 47 years!!  
Andy and Anna become homeowners this year.  
We hope more of joys than problems we'll hear!  
Steve and Kim keep on with their singing,  
The boys in their bands, their instruments ringing.

Cliff's health? An April hospitalization with white blood cells few,  
Radiation, blood tests, blood transfusions too.  
Dependent on wheelchair & walker for mobility now,  
Keeping cheerful and upbeat he does somehow.  
Obviously "you can't keep a good man down"  
He's certainly not one to complain or frown!  
Two trips to Cleveland Clinic we've made this year;  
The latest advice from experts to hear.  
In March to Chicago to a conference (multiple myeloma)  
And visits with friends before heading home-a.

Twenty-six gathered in BG this Thanksgiving  
Thanks for family, friends, in a free land to be living!  
This year, once again, peace isn't in sight.  
We wish warmongers, fanatics would "see the light".  
As we celebrate this holiday, of the Savior's birth,  
We continue to pray for peace on earth.  
We wish you good health, happiness, good cheer  
As we anticipate the coming new year!

An update on the family:

Steve and Kim, Cliff (15) and Sammy (13) live in Cincinnati, OH  
Andy and Anna, Tchapo (16), Thaddeus T. live in Ft. Thomas, KY  
Thad and Debbie, Connor (4) Rachel (2) and Thomas live in Bowling Green  
Mindy and Mark, Alexis (8), Jack (6) and Eric (4) live in Fremont, OH

Marilyn & Cliff

2002



Dear special friends and relatives,

I'm hooked on palindromes! First there was 1991 and now 2002. Not many people who have walked the earth have lived during two.

The year contained the saddest event to occur during my lifetime...the death of my dear husband of almost 45 years on August 6th. Cliff had been battling multiple myeloma since May of 1995 (and who knows how long before then?). Cliff's oncologist believed that Cliff's life was extended as a result of the drug, aredia (bone strengthening) being approved soon after Cliff's surgery. Cliff got it monthly & didn't have any obvious bone breaks. His good attitude and wonderful support from family and friends kept him going. Over the years various drugs were used to try to slow the progress of the MM but eventually it got the best of him. Pain was a constant companion but he bore it stoically. He was willing to go do things (trips to Alaska, Australia/NZ, eastern Europe, as well as frequent travel in the US). As he said, if he was going to hurt anyway, it might as well be while doing something enjoyable! Cliff may have been small of stature but was a giant in many areas. From the cards and notes sent after his death, memorials given and tributes in math publications, it was obvious that he had touched many people in positive ways.

On August 8th, friends & relatives were encouraged to come to First Presbyterian Church to meet with Cliff's family and so many came. We heard many tributes to him as well as expressions of sympathy. On the 10th, a celebration of Cliff's life was held at the church. Many people came from a distance, including 18 cousins from Canada, and we felt uplifted with the love and concern shown to us, his family. All four of Cliff's children decided to speak during the service, along with his brother-in-law, Sam Cline. Their remarks, along with a printed obituary, told a good deal of the story of this remarkable man. How fortunate I was to be his wife...but we both wished for more good years.

Life goes on...but in a much different form. I'm blessed with a concerned, loving family and friends. In mid August I was in Cincinnati & heard Kim & Steve sing, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" at church as well as the quartet Steve sings with. Gedeons came for the weekend and Eric's 5th birthday was celebrated at King's Island. I spent the Labor Day weekend with Sue and Bill Rock at their cottage at Lakeside. They became special friends during the first days we lived in Bowling Green (1959), and continue to this day. Sam and Jo came from Indianapolis in mid September to see BGSU play U. of Missouri. Fourteen of our family went to the game but only Sam, a U. of Mo. alumnus, was not pleased with the outcome (well maybe Jo too)! Otherwise it was a lovely weekend! Niece Elyse Black left her family in the San Diego area to spend a week with me in early fall. We had get-togethers with Thad & Debbie's family in BG, went to visit Steve and Andy in Cincinnati/Ft. Thomas, KY (they live about 15 min. away from each other), along with their 2 families. Elyse wanted to see rivers so we made sure she made it to the Maumee (where we had a canal boat ride), the Ohio, the Sandusky and the Portage! We spent time in Fremont with Mindy's family and went to a civil war encampment there. Soon after Elyse returned home, Bob and Doris Lawson from the Chicago area came and we saw spectacular gardens & a sculpture garden near

Fremont. Chicagoans Dolores Oberg and Iris Hohe visited later in the month & we went to several special events while they were here. Those were all such good visits!

Other good happenings during the year? An early April visit from the Lawsons and Richards, high school and church friends from Cliff's early days in Chicago.

Mark won his 100th game as varsity basketball coach at Fremont Ross...and we enjoyed 3 little Gedeons while he & Mindy attended the bb tourney in Columbus in March. A fourth, Benjamin Ryan (9#, 6 oz!), arrived on April 29<sup>th</sup>! With maternity leave, that ended Mindy's school year with her 4th graders. That brought the total of our family members up to 21--9 grandsons and 2 granddaughters! Wow!

Dolores and Iris visited in mid June and Sally Mohar, long time neighbor and friend who lived across from the Longs on Emerald Ave. in Chicago (& called him "Cliffy"!) visited later in the month. I heard many interesting reminiscences.

All 21 of us made it to the family reunion held at a Methodist center on Lake Wawasee in Syracuse, IN from July 14-19. Cliff stood the trip well and was surrounded with 35 loving, caring family members. Steve & Kim treated us to a pontoon boat ride around the lake & Cliff really seemed to enjoy that.

Not good happenings... In June, Cliff was hospitalized with an upper respiratory infection and while in the hospital, the decision to go on hospice care was made. From February to mid July, Cliff received 17 units of blood. We'd gotten a hospital bed in April when Cliff was no longer able to manage the stairs so the dining room became his bedroom. (The computer got moved downstairs so Cliff could still to do some mathematics and keep up his interest in carving.)

After we returned home from the reunion, Cliff never left the house and some family member was with us almost constantly from then until his death...at home.

There have been a lot of "firsts" without Cliff, which have made us very sad. We try to accentuate the extra 7 years we were given with him (seven grandchildren were born during those 7 years!).

Anna's brother flew from Togo, arriving in Cincinnati Aug. 11th and is living with them & attending No. Ky. U. With Kpandja, that made 21 of us here for Thanksgiving plus Sam and Jo from Indy and Ellie and Jack from St. Louis. We enjoyed each other's company and saw Mark's team's first win of the season...against Bowling Green.

We'll be together for Christmas and will then go to Maumee Bay State Park where we have a 4 bedroom cabin rented from December 26-28.

We hope it's been a good year for you and yours and that 2003 will be even better. God must be very sad to see the world continuing to be in turmoil with wars and rumors of wars. May He guide those in authority to make sensible decisions, curtail greed, and bring progress toward good will toward people of all persuasions. God gave His son to bring the message of peace on earth, good will toward men (& women!) May that message be in the hearts of each of us, especially during this special season.

*May God bless us every one!*

*Love,  
Marilyn*

# 2003

2003--the end soon will be here  
And these are some highlights of my year.  
Cincinnati/Ft. Thomas was a February destination  
To visit and observe birthdays! Celebration!  
A March trip to Florida was a treat for me  
Where both brothers also happened to be!  
A day "birding" at Sanibel we enjoyed while there  
And with Stantons their lovely condo did share.  
Visiting my siblings, Steve "taped" Cline lore  
May the next generation do even more!  
We made a circle--Abingdon, St. Louis and Indy  
Enjoying March weather, both sunny and windy.  
Back to Cinci in April for Kim's Forestaires show--  
Great, as usual, maybe next year you'll go?  
In May, three sons in the porch put new screen  
(A hawk had flown in...an ugly scene!).  
They painted & did other projects too  
This 40 year old house looks almost like new.  
We all travelled to Lake Hope the end of May  
Hocking Hills for hiking--time for play!  
Several trips to Lakeside in summer took place  
Card playing, biking, concerts; Rock's cottage our base.  
To Abingdon for "half century" gathering, I went Amtraking  
Where Cline hospitality never was lacking.  
With 2 other MVP delegates to Louisville I went  
For Presby Women Churchwide Gathering--a July event.  
We had "information overload" by the end of our time there--  
Business, forums, speakers, fun events to share.  
Then off to Indiana for a reunion of Clines  
On a lovely lake 'midst oaks and pines.  
One big oak fell (no storm!) during our time there  
Giving 3 of our girls walking by a real scare!  
Sports activities, games filled our week, also songs.  
Twenty one of the group were Gedeons and Longs!  
To a Long reunion in Canada went Steve and I  
In his new hybrid car, we almost could fly.  
Off to Chautauqua, NY for a few day vacation...  
A special serene, learning spot in our nation.  
By Greyhound I went to Cinci to see "tall stacks  
(Many paddlewheelers! Amenities? None lacks!)  
Band competition, concerts, on the Ohio we cruised  
With many "fun" activities we were amused.  
Andy and Steve with me returned to BG  
"Things" to sort and the garage to empty (?).  
To Stratford Ontario in fall to see plays  
Staging, costumes, performers-- all did amaze.  
Jack Miner's bird sanctuary we visited along the way  
Look it up if to Kingsville you should stray.  
In November, twenty seven of us gathered for thanks giving  
For good health, having liberty in this land where we're living.  
Amazingly soon it will be Christmas day  
After which we'll head to Maumee Bay.

Next year come for a visit, if you get the chance.  
Visits from family and friends our lives do enhance!  
God's son is born and we rejoice  
Would that all His praise would voice!  
Once again we pray for peace on earth  
Especially as we celebrate our Saviour's birth.

Love, Mari-lyn

*Mari-lyn*

### Family Update

In Cinci; Steve--statistical consulting home business, involved in many volunteer activities Kim--deacon at church, president of Forestaires singing group, Cliff (17) Sammy (15)--involved with band activities, sports, church groups

In Ft. Thomas--Andy--teaching at No. KY U. , (award as outstanding junior faculty member this year), Anna--enjoys part time work (they'd like her full time!) as a nurse asst., Tchapo (18), high school senior, looking to the future Thaddeus--2--a busy, happy toddler

In Bowling Green--Thad-- director of the field house (BGSU), Debbie--busy mom & home schooler, Connor (6)--first grade, Rachel (4)--"fashion model & artist", Thomas (2) all active, happy kids

In Fremont; Mindy--fourth grade teacher and busy mom, Mark--high school math teacher and varsity basketball coach, Alexis (10), Jack (8), Eric (6)--all involved with school, church and sports activities. Ben (20 months)--another busy, happy little guy.

I'm so pleased with the involvement of our kids in churches--Presbyterian, Methodist and Lutheran! Andy & Tchapo went on the mission trip from their church doing home repairs, Thad & Debbie went on Emmaus walks & are part of an active young couples group meeting weekly, Mindy was in charge of their summer Bible school (well over 100 attended!). Steve's part of a guitar group which plays & sings for services, as requested & at nursing homes, Kim's a deacon. I'm a deacon too & keep busy with a number of organizations.



## Christmas 2004

Who'd ever have thought a little girl from Delong  
Would get to the exotic city of Hong Kong?  
A frequent traveler I've been in 2004  
Here's where I've been--(I hope I won't bore!)  
Brother Fred wished a warm spot to celebrate eight O  
Maui was the place he and Nelle chose to go.  
In February I joined them, its wonders to see  
Flowers galore, whales to watch, the shimmering sea.  
Colorful birds, mountains, many a blooming tree.  
Ten days were spent, which were a delight  
Daily trips we took...even a helicopter flight!  
In late March off to China brother Sam and I flew...  
Our Grand Circle trip offered so much to do.  
Our first stop? Beijing with its Tiananmen Square  
Then the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs near there  
We tried the Peking duck and attended the opera (same name)  
Then...The Great Wall...high steps nearly made us lame!  
Architecturally splendid Shanghai was the next place to go...  
Museums, waterfront tours, an amazing acrobatic show!  
To Suzhou by train (home town of our guide)  
Where through the waters of The Grand Canal we did glide..  
Another wonder! (in distance as from Florida to New York)  
When dining? Chopsticks provided but we asked for a fork!  
From there to Wuhan to begin our five day cruise  
On the Yangtze River (brown, not hues of blues!).  
Another wonder...the Three Gorges Dam we toured on the way--  
A mammoth project (the banks of the Yangtze to stay).  
We traveled by ferry, then in small streams  
Where men pulled us along, working in teams.  
A stop in Wenxian, (built for relocated people)  
Where the river will rise, 'twould even cover a steeple!  
In Chongqing we landed where there's much pollution.  
Where Stilwell (in WWII) came up with a transportation solution.  
Til then, flying "the hump" was the way supplies got through  
To Chongqing, (China's capitol during World War Two).  
In Xian we went to see soldiers made of terra cotta  
In pits they stand...and there are a lotta!  
Xian? Sam had an incident with a pickpocket there...  
Nothing lost, but it gave us a scare!  
To lovely Guilin where millions more live  
And limestone formations make that city distinctive.

In China, luxury and squalor exist side by side,  
but the country's "on the move", it can't be denied.  
On to Hong Kong we went...another flight  
Landing in that well lighted city by night.  
Tours took us to markets featuring birds and flowers,  
Ferry riding, a Taoist temple filled our hours.  
Bangkok was the last stop on our tour.  
(Many flew home so our group became fewer).  
Little did we know April is the hottest month there  
Seemed like 100 degrees...no warm clothes needed there!  
Quite an experience...twenty three days away...  
But gladly we returned to the good ole U.S.A!

Our family, for the most part, has enjoyed good health  
And count that far more important than wealth!  
To Malabar Farm Hostel our family went in May  
For a fun filled holiday weekend to stay.  
"Chores" included gathering eggs (for most an experience new)  
And feeding a backyard baby lamb was fun to do.  
Tchapo's high school graduation was an event in June  
With family and friends gathered to celebrate at noon.  
South Dakota was our Cline reunion location  
(In July)...a scenic part of our nation.  
We visited Mt. Rushmore & other interesting places  
During our travels? Saw lots of unpopulated spaces!  
Steve and I visited special Chicago friends in September  
Then to a Cottage Hospital reunion...as a fifty year member.  
While in Abingdon, I was guest at a surprise luncheon--  
With friends and relatives there for chatting 'n munchin'!  
In October, Steve, Andy & I drove to Canada's Agawa Canyon.  
Color was in "peak" and despite rain, we had fun.  
Visiting Canadian cousins was a special treat  
More eating and chatting--again soon may we meet!  
Twenty-seven gathered in BG for Thanksgiving.  
Among our blessings? In this free land to be living!  
Now it's time to be celebrating our Savior's birth.  
Our prayer? "Lord, please help us bring peace to earth".

Love,  
Mari Lynn

2005

In February, off to Florida I flew  
To spend time with friends & family too.  
With Stantons in Ft. Myers I spent pleasant days  
Then to Sam & Jo's in Sebring for more happy stays.  
Late in the month, my family gathered here  
To celebrate birthdays of members dear.

In March to Fremont to stay with Gedeons four  
While Mark & Mindy saw games on the basketball floor.

In April to Cinci I traveled to see Kim's show  
And from there on to Kentucky to go.  
Red Bird Mission...the destination of us BG'ers four  
For a retreat and this Methodist agency to explore.  
Windy, curvy roads we traversed while there  
Visiting missions known for their care.  
At our Daughters' Banquet, mosquito nets were displayed  
And Presbyterian Women for over thirty paid.

Grandson Cliff's graduation took me to Cinci in May  
With many nice events taking place during my stay.

In June to Kent State as a delegate for PEO;  
Seeds of info to transmit to our group I did sow.  
Gardening kept me busy...watering too!  
We needed rain, not just dew!

For July 4th, we added the Cincinnati crew  
To celebrate...and Cliff's orientation at BGSU.  
Yes, at BGSU there's another Cliff Long...  
Studying computer sci and playing band song.  
Indiana was the spot where the Cline clan met  
Did we have a good time? On that you can bet!  
Kayaks were brought to add to water fun...  
Thirty four of us to eat, play and sun.  
The golfers golfed, some went to Shipshewana  
Where the weather that day felt like a sauna.

The Black Swamp Festival was a September event.  
To the music performances, many of our group went.  
Late that month, several of us headed St. Louis way  
To celebrate sister Ellie's eightieth birthday!  
In Indianapolis, I joined up with Sam and Jo  
Then Steve hooked up...and away we did go!  
From St. Louis we went on to Merimac Park  
Our '06 reunion spot (calendars mark!).

In October, I attended Red Cross disaster classes  
Learning, among other things, how to feed the masses.  
What a brutal hurricane season this year!  
In future, we hope they'll from our coasts stay clear.

In November, to the Holy Land with a Methodist group--  
Up and down a gazillion steps we did troop!  
Examining ruins...and buildings so old...  
Some of them even topped with gold!  
We visited many holy areas from Biblical days.  
Jerusalem was where we made our night stays.  
We sailed the Sea of Galilee and ate St. Peter's fish.  
Shopping stops were numerous; for fewer, I'd wish!  
On to Egypt to extend our stay we did hie  
Where we traveled quite a lot of the Sinai.  
Under the Suez Canal, we're in Africa now.  
On to Cairo where 16,000,000 live. Wow!  
A dinner cruise on the Nile was a delight  
(Many Cairo car drivers don't use lights at night!).  
The pyramids? Indeed wonders of the world!  
So many antiquities to our eyes were unfurled.  
Home to celebrate with 26 loved ones--Thanksgiving!  
And truly give thanks in this land to be living!  
Now we celebrate another wonderful Christmas season  
With Christ as our Savior...That's the reason!

What's up with our kids?

Steve and family are in Cincinnati where he continues to be a statistical analyst, running his business from home. He keeps busy with sports, a guitar group, serves on session of the Presby Church they attend, is involved in many volunteer activities (including a jail ministry). He & Sammy joined the Ft. Thomas Presby Church on their mission trip to W. Va. Their family is involved in sport and school activities with several trips to BGSU this fall!

Andy was a stem cell donor to a man who has leukemia and, at last report, is doing well. He became tenured at No. Ky. U. On their way to Florida for a wedding, they visited Koinonia Farms near Americus, GA (where we camped 36 years ago!). Andy is responsible for the '06 Ft. Thomas Presbyterian Church trip and that's where they plan to go in June. All four of them went on this year's trip to W. Va.

Thad headed up the Relay for Life team at First United Methodist Church and the community responded to the teams by giving \$140,000 (American Cancer Society). He and his family are very involved with church activities where a rebuilding project is currently underway. Thad helped coach Rachel & Connor's Little League and soccer teams. He continues his work as director of the Field House at BGSU with involvement in intramurals and sport clubs, which he enjoys very much...teaches a class, on the side.

Mindy continues to teach fourth grade in Fremont. She became a member of the church council of Grace Lutheran Church this year and was the coordinator of their Vacation Bible School which had an enrollment of around 150. Mark and she were responsible for a recent fundraising event for a scholarship in memory of a young man who was manager of the basketball team for several years. Their kids are heavily involved in sports and church activities.

Another year's about to come to a close--  
 May the next bring great joy...and very few woes.  
 No overseas travels for me this year  
 But In January, I'll be packing my gear!  
 Going to Haiti to visit the family of Andy  
 Who's there on sabbatical...isn't that dandy?  
 Interviewing Chautauqua scholarship students began in January  
 And by the end of that month, good grief! We had three.  
 In previous years, there's often not been one!  
 So I was happy that King's Daughters task was done!  
 To Ft. Thomas in February for a fundraising mission dinner--  
 Cookers and eaters alike declared it a winner.  
 Back to Ft. Thomas in May for Kpandja's graduation  
 This ambitious young man (Anna's brother) deserves an ovation!  
 A serious auto accident in May involved brother-in-law Jack  
 And from his multiple injuries he never "came back".  
 In June to Koinonia Farms in Georgia we went---  
 The Ft. Thomas Presby mission trip (Andy planned the event).  
 Home repairs, blueberry picking, leading Bible school--  
 'Twas in the 90's all week...far from cool!  
 An unexpected treat/surprise was for us in store!  
 Millard Fuller (Habitat founder) came! (We'd met him years before).  
 Visited Andersonville prison and Jimmy's home town--Plains  
 Peanuts are the crop that area sustains!  
 Our June family reunion featured the wedding of Alicia and Dan  
 (Whose romance a number of years ago began).  
 Off to the wonders of St. Louis we did march...  
 Botanical gardens, the zoo; of course the arch!  
 On to Meremac State Park for more fun..  
 A float trip, card playing...Meals? Second to none!  
 Louisville was the destination in July...Presbyterian Women!  
 Several thousand gathered. Hot there too! Enjoyed swimmin'.  
 Plenary sessions, crafts, workshops galore,  
 Bible study, singing, story telling lore.  
 A sad reason took us back to St. Louis in July  
 Dear Jack's death and service. What a special guy!  
 October brought visitors from Illinois and MO..  
 A pleasure to have them! We kept "on the go".  
 Wind turbines, museums (historical & car), Grounds for Thought!  
 They seem to like our small town atmosphere a lot.  
 The new glass pavilion (Toledo Art Museum) is a treasure  
 And to tour it was indeed a pleasure.  
 We've made buckeyes and mincemeat...fundraising projects  
 For The King's Daughters and PW...What'll we do next?  
 The Thanksgiving holiday was celebrated in BG  
 With 4 Cline siblings and the Long family.  
 Twenty three of us gathered for our special dinner.  
 Guilty of gluttony? I'm afraid I'm a sinner!  
 To join the festivities, Ellie from St. Louis flew  
 And I kept her busy with things to do!  
 Food pantry, Presby Women, Wheeled Meals drivin'...  
 Volunteer activity seems to keep me thrivin'.  
 Now Christmas activities are keeping me busy...

Fun activities but enough to make one dizzy!  
'Tis the time when we celebrate the gift of God's son  
And hoping he'll bless our activities...every one.  
Peace and good will aren't yet present on earth--  
May they come nearer as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Steve went back to school for further education this year...Clean Water U. He was in Oxford MS for several days in April learning about water purification systems, education of those using such a system, etc. In September he went to Guatemala, along with others from Cincinnati Presbytery, to put schooling into practice! He and Sammy went on the Ft. Thomas trip to Koinonia. Steve will also go to Haiti in Jan. to, along with others, put a water purification system in one of the compounds in Ranquette, Haiti. Steve serves on Session at Mt. Washington Church and is involved with mission & guitar groups. Kim continues to sing with the Forestaires, plays bells at church & is involved with school and community activities.

Cliff is a sophomore at BGSU in computer science and is living in an apartment this year. Sammy has been drumming with the school band and in the basement and will be graduating in May and looking at colleges in Ohio.

Andy, Anna and Thaddeus are in Ranquette, Haiti til next June. Thaddeus (5) goes to pre school, Anna works in the clinic and enjoys working in the garden. Andy's doing some teaching and involved in various projects--sanitation, water purification, reforestation, food dehydration.... If you want to keep up with them, their website is:

<http://www.nku.edu/~longa/presby/mission/haiti.html> Andy writes periodic "Hello from Haiti"s. The work they're doing has "struck a chord" in the congregation at First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. Money is being raised and sent for these various projects. Have you heard of an arborloo? Andy hopes to have 100 started in January and 4 are in use at the school (K-12) which has 1300 students. If you have any spare money you're wanting to give away in 2006, feel free to send it to FPC, 126 So. Church, BG 43402 (notation--Haiti projects). (Thanks to all of you who have sent funds so generously!).

Kpandja is enrolled at University of Cincinnati working toward a master's degree and living in Andy and Anna's house in Ft. Thomas.

Tchapo (21) is at Northern Kentucky University, living in an apartment, and working at the assisted living facility in Ft. Thomas.

In January, Thad will be moving his office to the BGSU Student Recreation Center and his responsibilities will include supervising that facility as well as the Field House. He's enjoyed coaching sports teams on which his kids are playing...Little League, soccer. He continues his involvement with the American Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life event, which raised \$158,000 in 2006. Debbie continues to home school all three kids and gets together with others who are also home schooling. She sets a good example of exercising. Connor (9), Rachel (7) and Thomas (5) have enjoyed musical activities (the elder 2 take piano lessons) and maybe Connor is headed for Broadway. He played Joseph in the First United Methodist production in the spring and was part of the FUM dinner theater cast in Nov. They're all involved with church activities and enjoying the recently added new facilities.

Mindy keeps very busy with teaching fourth graders, church activities and being the wife of the varsity basketball coach! She has hosted spaghetti dinners before important games during the past years and wow, do those players & coaches eat a lot! She's on the church council at Grace Lutheran in Fremont and organizes the vacation Bible school which attracts 120-130 kids. Mark continues as varsity basketball season and win or lose, his players benefit from his example of good sportsmanship and being a gentleman. He also teaches high school math (not the usual for a coach!). Alexis (13), Jack (11), Eric (9) and Ben (4) are involved with a number of activities--church, sports and school. They're a busy bunch!!

*Happy holidays and new year!  
Mari Lynn*

2007



Another year draws to a close.  
What next year holds? Nobody knows.  
I hope it's been a good year for loved ones and you  
With some of your fondest dreams coming true.  
In January off to Florida I flew  
To enjoy being with siblings...lots to do!  
Then to Haiti (my big trip of the year)  
To visit with Andy's family dear.  
Andy chose Haiti as his sabbatical location  
(Poorest country in the western hemisphere, that nation).  
Steve and 4 other "southerners" comprised our group  
Once in Ranquitte, no wheels!, miles we did troop!  
Worked on a water system , reforestation, gardening too  
For sanitation, have you heard of an arborloo?  
Infrastructure in that area is almost nil.  
Many folks are hungry...so many ill.  
Typhoid, malaria are rampant there.  
Medical emergency...you'd not have a prayer!  
We in the U.S. have so much...it isn't fair!  
So it's up to us to reach out and share!

About our kids...Here's the latest news.  
A positive bunch...no singin' the blues!  
Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian...an ecumenical crew  
Involved in sports, community activities, church too!  
Kim and Steve now have an "empty nest"  
The dog even died! (Abby was one of the best).  
In 2008 their 25th anniversary they'll celebrate.  
Sons: Cliff's at BGSU, Sammy at Kent State.  
Andy, Anna, Thad returned from Haiti mid June..  
Been there since August, many a moon.  
Now they're back to life in Kentucky.  
Teaching, working, feeling lucky!  
Tchapo's taking a hiatus from school.  
Rents an apartment, sells vehicles. Cool!  
Debbie and Thad are happy with life in BG  
Keeping busy, along with kiddos three.  
Thad gave the sermon on Layman's Sunday  
They enjoy water parks as a special fun day.  
Mark, Mindy and youngsters four  
Could scarcely fit in one thing more!  
Coaching, teaching, sports of all kind  
To Disney World they went to unwind (?).

To Toledo via Megabus Chicago friends came..  
Inexpensive and fast are that transportation's claim.  
A wonderful time we had while they were here.  
Lookin' forward to seeing them in the coming year.

The Cline reunion was held at a Michigan location..  
One of the garden spots of the nation.  
There was boating, swimming, sports, card & game playing  
Liked the place so much that next year too we'll be staying.

For Thanksgiving, twenty six of us gathered here  
For fun, fellowship, good food and good cheer.  
A basketball game & football many did attend  
And between our two homes often did wend.

May the year ahead bring us closer to peace  
With the hope that wars may one day cease.  
We celebrate this season of our Savior's birth  
May it begin "Good will toward men, peace on earth"!

*Mari Lynn*





In a few days, we'll say goodbye to this year  
 So 'tis time for greetings to friends & family dear.  
 Anna in January to Haiti flew  
 And while gone, I looked after her crew.  
 In February I flew to Florida sunshine  
 Visiting Stantons, Jo and Sam Cline.  
 In March it 'twas fun to be with the youngest Gedeons (two)  
 While the other four went basketball games to view.  
 April found us northerners at Kim's Cinci show..a winner  
 And next day to participate in Ft. Thomas' mission dinner.  
 In May to a PW synod gathering in Michigan (Clare)  
 Gathering info and meeting friends there.  
 A mini reunion was an event of May  
 When ten Longs & Clines joined for a capitol stay  
 Try the old post office for a very good view  
 Of downtown DC buildings, old and new.  
 Some toured the Bureau of Engraving.  
 No samples there..their product they're saving.  
 We visited the botanical garden, museum of space and air,  
 FDR memorial, had a White House tour while there.  
 The WWII memorial we visited by day and by night...  
 The war's progress in engravings was best seen in light.  
 It's a wonderful tribute to veterans brave  
 Who fought on two fronts, the free world to save.  
 Then on to Virginia, genealogy searching to do  
 Along with a Monticello tour and also Virginia U.  
 Kpandja received his master's degree in June...Great!  
 We went down to help him celebrate.  
 At the U. of Cincinnati he hopes to get a Ph.D.  
 His professors at the party spoke of him highly.  
 In July to Michigan for a reunion of the Cline clan  
 From CA,AZ, MO,IN, KY,MN, IL, OH we arrived by plane & van.  
 We enjoyed water sports, tennis, golf, campfires...  
 Nightly card games/wonderful meals gave us our hearts' desires.  
 An intergenerational day camp in August was fun  
 With FIVE grandchildren (most had just one!).  
 The Black Swamp Festival was special in September  
 At church: a Daughter's Banquet & CROP walk to keep limber.  
 Then made mincemeat for sale on an October day  
 And to Obama headquarters often found my way.  
 A SmarTours trip to Turkiye was an event of November  
 People and places seen there I'll remember.  
 In Cappadocia we visited a landscape strange...  
 Over it in a hot air balloon we did range  
 Seventeen per basket, twenty seven balloons in the air  
 We glided silently over this scenery rare...  
 Mushroom shaped formations from lava rock,  
 Homes hewn into it...all without lock!  
 Underground cities visited, churches hewn out of rock  
 With frescoes abundant; shepherds with their flock ----

Museums galore, both ancient and new  
From mountain to seashore, we had many a view!  
Ruins we explored at Ephesus, Pergamum, Troy  
So stair and ladder climbing skills we had need to employ!  
"Eight hundred mosques in Turkey", our guide did say  
And we must've seen 799 along our way!  
Hot calcium springs looked like frozen Niagara  
Dried apricots were sold as natural Viagra!  
The only city in two continents is Istanbul  
With seventeen million inhabitants, it's full!  
Separated by the Bosphorus, there are ferries galore  
And bridges too, over which vehicles pour.  
Forty of us traveled in a pink bus with an excellent guide.  
Circled the western half of Turkey, new dishes we tried.  
Soon after I returned, it was Thanksgiving  
Do be thankful for U.S.A. living!  
Twenty-two were present for our Thanksgiving dinner  
During those days, we didn't get thinner!  
Few wants or needs we have at this season  
So giving to others in need would be pleasin'.  
Once again we hope for peace on earth  
As we celebrate our Savior's birth.

#### Update on our family

Steve (about to turn 50! How can that be?) and Kim are in Cincinnati and happy with their work, avocations and church activities. They went on a cruise to the Panama Canal to celebrate their 25th anniversary and on a mission trip to Gulfport MS this fall to work at rehabbing hurricane damaged homes. Cliff worked at GE this summer and is a senior at BGSU majoring in computer science. Sammy spent his summer working as a janitor at the Presbyterian church they attend, and is a sophomore at Kent State, but plans to transfer to the U. of Cincinnati in January.

Andy, Anna and Thaddeus live in Ft. Thomas KY. They spent 5 weeks in Ranquitte, Haiti this summer and a few days in Port au Prince trying to expedite the adoption of Rosemanie (started a year earlier) Bureaucracy! No end in sight! They continue in their occupations, activities, especially at the Presbyterian Church there. They went on a mission trip in another area of KY this summer (as did Steve and Sammy). First-grader Thaddeus was awarded \$50 for an art project last spring. Tchapo is now living in Louisville KY and working for a cable company. Steve and Andy were untiring in their work for the Obama campaign in inner city Cincinnati.

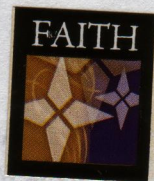
Thad and Debbie are in BG and come to my rescue on computer snafus, putting up decorations, etc. etc!! Debbie just started a part time, at home job and Thad continues in his sports position. He went on a mission trip in the Spring to Louisiana, enjoys coaching sports with his kids and is lay leader at the very active Methodist church which they attend. Connor, Rachel and Thomas are home schooled and involved in music, drama and sports activities.

Mindy and Mark continue as teachers in Fremont. Mindy just made the move from 4th grade to 7th grade math & is enjoying this new challenge. Mark is the varsity basketball coach/assistant athletic director. Alexis, Jack, Eric and Ben are involved in all sorts of school and sport activities and the whole family participates in programs at Grace Lutheran Church.

I wish you joy, pray for peace and send my love

*Mairlyn*

2009



Winter in Ohio was mild in '09  
Which suited most residents just fine.  
Many basketball games were in store  
With players racing up and down the floor.  
The BGSU womens' games were fun to see--  
They even made it to the NIT!  
Mark's Fremont games went pretty well.  
He's good at getting a team to "gel".  
Plays, concerts, activities made the days fly  
And soon lovely Spring days were nigh.  
Flower and vegetable gardening held me in its spell  
Found a mushroom in the back yard--yes, a more!  
In April we BGers went to Cinci for Kim's show  
Singing and dancing made the ladies glow.  
Memorial Day weekend, the whole family assembled  
To paint and spruce up the house (which had dulled).  
Our 47 year-old house looks like new!  
And working together, it was fun to do.  
A day trip to Cedar Point was enjoyed in July  
Almost every ride there, I think we did try.  
Then off to Michigan for a reunion--Cline clan  
Lovely weather mostly, didn't even need a fan.  
Alexis and Mark headed to New Orleans to join Lutheran teens  
And Andy flew to Mexico to observe zoological scenes.  
We enjoyed our lakefront site and did lots of kayaking  
For good company and scrumptious food we weren't often lacking.  
Unfortunately Fred and Nelle didn't make it there  
A long ICU stay and Nelle's surgery treated her problem rare.  
Several friends from Chicagoland on the Megabus came  
An inexpensive but bumpy ride was their claim.  
The Black Swamp festival supplied varied music and art.  
It gets bigger each year since it got its start.  
To Minnesota Steve and I drove in early September  
Along the way visiting friends and family member(s).  
We visited Nelle and Fred in Owatonna--  
Went to nearby Rice Lake to see flora and fauna.  
Nelle had her energy back but not her weight.  
Maybe to be skinny will be her fate!  
In October, tragedy befell Mark's dad  
An accident took his life, we're so sad.  
From activities to help others he didn't shirk.  
Now it's up to us to continue Dave's work.  
Twenty-four were at our table for Thanksgiving Day.  
Then..a concert, art walk, football/basketball play.  
We now look forward to the Christmas season  
Emphasizing the birth of our Savior--"The Reason".  
May your days be blessed...in the new year too.  
May your joys be many, your troubles be few.

Steve joined Andy's family on their trip to Togo this summer. Steve and Sammy went on the mission trip in KY along with members of Ft. Thomas (KY) Presbyterian Church (where Andy's family attends). Cliff just finished up requirements for his bachelor's degree at BGSU (computer science) and will be job hunting. Sammy continues at U. of Cincinnati and enjoys their successful sports program and has settled on secondary education as a major (imagine that in this family!) In addition to her women's singing group activities, Kim helped with the start-up of a Cancer Society second-hand shop and volunteers there 2 times a month. Steve is involved with weekly meetings with those searching for employment. He himself is so busy with volunteer activities but does find SOME time for research consulting work!

Andy, Anna and Thaddeus enjoyed their 5+ week visit in Togo seeing numerous family members and friends, with Tchapo, his friend Abby, and Steve joining for a couple of weeks of perspective-changing experiences, including work with albinism. Andy has started course work toward a master's degree in zoology from Miami U. It's mostly done online with trips to various locales, the first one being to Mexico. Thaddeus was the top seller of popcorn for his Cub Scout group (over \$1000, I believe) and received a \$100 gift certificate to ToysRUs, as a result (to his surprise!). Some salesman!! The three head to Haiti Dec. 29 to try to facilitate the adoption of Rosemanie ("in the works" for over 2 years now) and to visit their friends there for a few days. Tchapo is working for a cable company in Lexington. Kpandja (Anna's brother) is busily working on his doctoral work in epidemiology and is making great progress.

Thad is very involved with Relay for Life and church activities (he's lay leader at the Methodist church they attend), and enjoys coaching youth basketball and soccer teams. He is planning to head to Louisiana again in March to continue rebuilding from the Katrina damage. Debbie has begun working part-time as a research analyst with Maritz Research, and most work can be done from home (the wonders of technology). She enjoys home-schooling all three kids and teaching classes at church. Connor, Rachel & Thomas enjoy sports, drama and music. They've added dance to their classes and have been part of several performances (which I enjoy seeing, of course!)

Mindy and Mark keep busy with a variety of activities, along with teaching & coaching. Alexis was on the tennis team, Jack played football & basketball, Eric played football and Ben likes any sports involving balls! Mark and Mindy were volunteer chairs of the United Way campaign in their county...quite a challenge with a downsized economy!

*One of the pleasures of the season is hearing from you!*

*Best wishes,*

*Mary Lynn*