



Advent is here...and it's time to exchange those special gifts of love and friendship as we share our lives and send anew our greetings for Christmas.

Emily Elizabeth Holtz is the newest little "Apple" on our family tree! She is a beautiful and happy baby born to Karen and Jim on the 8th of June. Both grandmothers were there to welcome her and to help celebrate Eva's 2nd birthday, too. We also attended Karen's graduation (B.S. in Business Administration) from Cal. State, Hayward, when Emily was only 4 days old!

Don graduated from Vestal High the end of June. He's been working part-time at the mall selling ladies shoes. He and three friends made up a team for The First Annual Y-ATHLON this summer. (a runner, 2 canoeists and a cyclist). They came in # 200 out of 300 teams...but plan to do much better next year. Besides ice hockey, roller skating and working on his car, Don keeps busy with church activities and he's an outstanding business student at Broome Community College!

Our summer was filled with parties! The Careys (Dottie's Mom's side of the family) came from all over the country...and each time a different family arrived, Dottie and her cousin, Anita, conjured-up a reunion! Cousins from Texas, Massachusetts, Ohio, California, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and New York...and when Uncle Cap and Aunt Cuca came from Arizona we had a Gala Golden Wedding Party!

In August the Bunn Hill Bunch and all it's counter-parts joined with the Walters family (Barbara and Tom) in Florida for Martin's marriage to Amy Wallace....a beautiful and touching ceremony for two very dear young people. We had a great reunion there also. Dad Stearns is still in the very capable and loving care of the Walters family. He seemed delighted to hold baby Emily and to watch Eva and Allison playing and swimming in the pool.

Carl flew his Mom back here after the wedding. We are so happy to finally have her with us on a permanent basis. "Grossy", as she is fondly called, had Total-Hip-Replacement surgery in September. We are proud and pleased with her progress..and especially glad that she is rid of the pain that has plagued her for the past few years.

Ron and Cindy are consistently helping others..many of these activities being within the church: Ron with finances, Cindy with choir and both teaching Sunday School and working with the MYF. This live-wire group is now rehearsing the Christmas Play...which I understand would be well-worth your trip to come and see! Ron took the Methodist Lay Speakers Course in March..a most enriching and rewarding experience. These two drove to Florida in a van and packed up "Grossy's" things and brought them safely home before she arrived. "Doing for others" is surely their secret for happiness!

Allison took her parents, Leigh and Mike, to check-out Disney World while they were in Florida. We really appreciate the many quickie-trips these folks make to visit us on weekends...just cuz we get lonesome for a little one to play with!! Mike was admitted to the Bar Of The Supreme Court this year! Leigh receives her Masters in Education in Reading from the University of Maryland on Dec. 22nd and we plan to be there!

Freckles, our Springer Spaniel, died in April and we really miss her.

Doron has just introduced it's new model of the SR2 (simulated amusement ride) This one has greater realism.. "YOU'LL SWEAR YOU ARE THERE"! In the spring the boat-bug bit hard and Ol' "C.J." weakened, much to the pleasure of Ron and Don who have enjoyed abit of water-skiing on lovely Cayuga Lake. One of Carl's greatest moments this year was when he flew a 727-200 simulator!! Ask him how it feels to fly under the George Washington Bridge?!

Bunn Hill will soon be buzzing with the excitement of all the kids and grandkids plus niece Allison (an LPN grad./Dec. 9th) and Carl's brother, George all being here for Christmas! We have had many Special Events this year... but none can compare to that of the birth of Our Lord, Jesus..and that's what Christmas is all about..Let's Celebrate!!

We love you all,

*Carl, Dottie and Don*