



Christmas 2000

*"Babies are such a nice way to start people . . .," our latest model being MEGHAN GRACE. This bright-eyed, most appealing little beauty was born to Susan and Don on August 14, 2000, and lovingly welcomed by her awesome siblings Grant and Emma. Meggie is a wondrous blessing for all the family, and we are privileged to witness yet another life unfolding.*

*EMMA, our three-year-old enchantress, is an accomplished social secretary, handling phone calls like a pro! She is motherly by nature, caring for a caboodle of babies (dolls) and is a winsome dancer as well.*

*The best thing about GRANT? "I'm five years old!" He's our engineer, deeply into doing projects (especially building things with Grandpa), and plans to be an architect. His depth of thought often amazes us.*

*It should be no surprise that NOAH – even at two years – loves boats. He also finds cars, trucks, trains, books, escalators and being outside great fun! He sings the ABC song and savors the flavors of won ton soup and ice cream.*

*Eleven-year-old twins REBEKAH and ARTHUR are middle schoolers. He is computer-man extraordinaire and has become quite adept at rock climbing, while she enjoys artistic pursuits and playing piano and French horn. ABBY, a high-school freshman, worked this year as a waitress in an Indian restaurant and now spends her spare time sketching and taking sewing lessons in pursuit of her goal as a fashion designer.*

*High school junior BETHANY, plagued by mononucleosis in the fall, was deprived of her usual soccer involvement but happy to be active in band (playing euphonium) and is now a full-fledged driver. ROBYN has done considerable volunteering at a local hospital, swims on the varsity team, teaches Sunday school and attended the Upward Bound program at Binghamton University last summer. STEVEN, another driver, attends BOCES learning plumbing and heating, volunteers for Compassion International, and flips burgers after school. MARILYN is in the Nurses' Assistant program at BOCES, working at Broome Developmental Center; she's also wearing an engagement ring!*



Our collegiates are *EMILY*, a West Coast freshman with a passion for music, who worked in a music store this year and is teaching herself to play bass guitar. East Coast *ALLISON*, a sophomore majoring in sports studies, works several jobs including one as assistant coach for a women's soccer team at another college. Our university junior, *EVA*, is a linguistics major who also works twenty hours a week at an internet start-up company in Massachusetts. *SEAN*, the oldest of the "grands," is first to be completely on his own (sharing an apartment with fellow workers from a concrete supply company while earning his degree in "survival in the real world") and is adored by little brother *Noah*.

These are the intriguing and much loved characters who enrich and revitalize our lives and occasionally bring us to our knees. Remarkably, our kids are surviving their parenting and career challenges while keeping close tabs on US as well!

As for us "golden-aged geezers," we've moved from our more spacious living quarters on Bunn Hill to a two-bedroom apartment at *The Highlands*, a retirement community in nearby Johnson City. We have a lovely mountain view and enjoy spectacular sunsets and wildlife (not just the grandkids!) wandering about the back yard. Carl is working most of the time, but we reserve one week each month for a change of pace at our sanctuary in Virginia. We are rapidly realizing that our "get up and go" has "got up and went" . . . and in accord with that old rhyme we still:

*"Get up each morning and dust off our wits  
Pick up the paper and read the obits.  
If we see our names missing we know we're not dead;  
So we eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!"*

*(actually, we've not found time for the "back to bed" part!)*

Especially at Christmas we feel a warm and wondrous connection to each of you--and pray that you and those you love will open your hearts to all the joys this holy season brings.

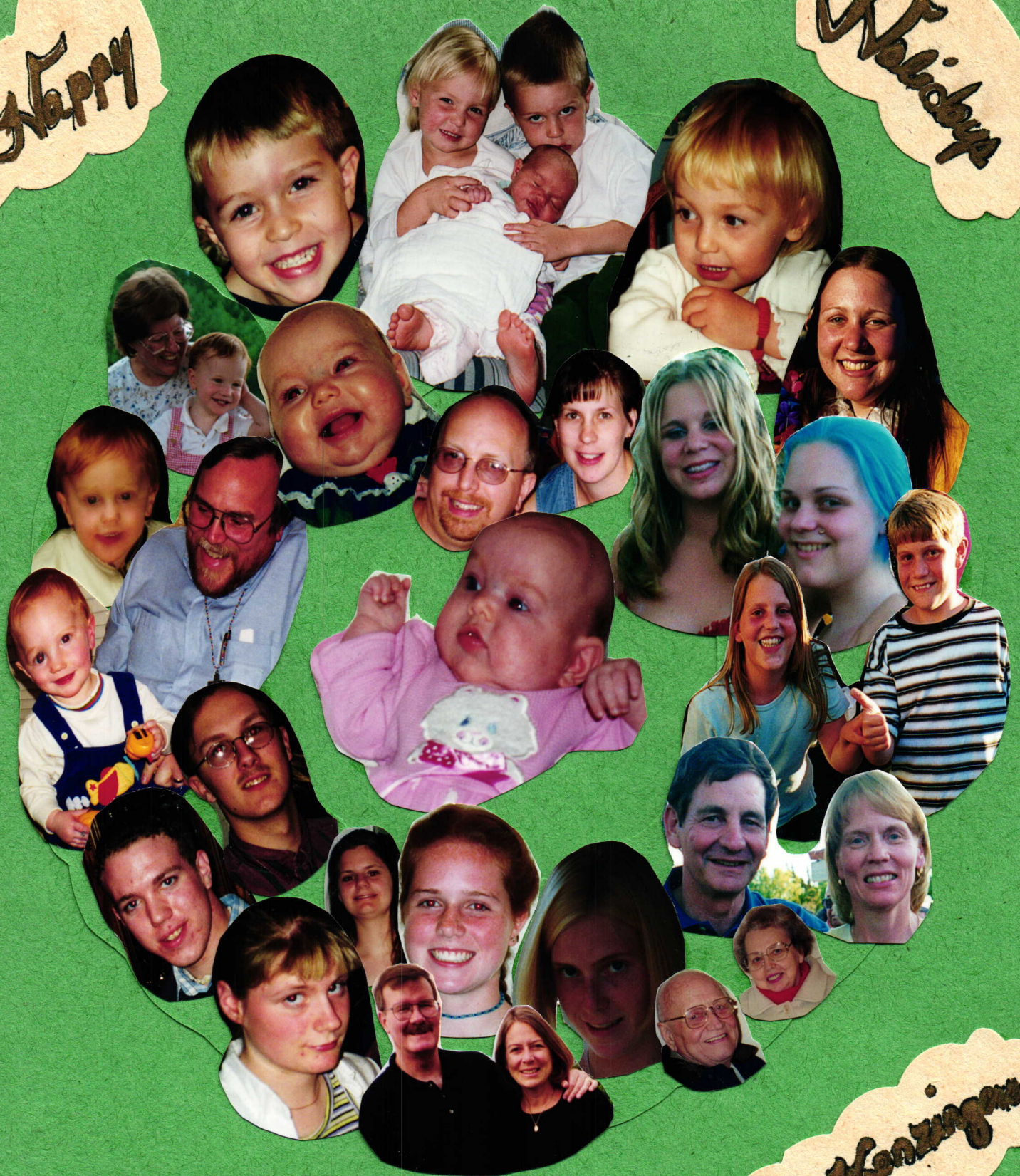
*Love and blessings,  
Dottie and Carl*

Please note our new address:

725 Columbia Dr., Apt. L-49  
Johnson City, NY 13790  
Phone: (607) 766-9931

Happy

Birthdays



Remind us Lord...

*The best gift ever was not wrapped  
in red and green,  
festooned with bells and bows,  
The best gift ever, ever seen  
was heaven-sent  
and wrapped in swaddling clothes.*

— Fred Bauer

The Hansingens