

Dear Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas! As you know, it has been a very busy year for us. September 27th, Lee and I got married! We have had such a wonderful time since then, and as you can imagine, most of our year was spent planning it!

Other than the wedding, Lee and I both accomplished a *little* something. Lee received a promotion at work after only being there a year and I have *finally* finished my Masters in Computer Science at USC. I'm currently working on my Doctorate degree and Lee is finishing his Masters.

For those of you with internet access, we both have web pages -- they are located at:

<http://wotan.cse.sc.edu/~huggins>

<http://www.cs.sc.edu/~meeker>

and our email addresses are as follows:

PaigeMeeker@sc.rr.com

lee.meeker@acm.org

Please keep up with us through the year!

Since planning the wedding took up most of the year, I thought I'd put in some pictures in this years newsletter. Here's a description of our special day. For those of you who didn't get to come, I hope you enjoy it! Color pictures are located on my web page at

<http://wotan.cse.sc.edu/~huggins/Wedding/wedding.htm>

Lee and I had the perfect storybook wedding. Truthfully, I've never been to a wedding where things didn't go wrong, but this one went along like clockwork. Please note: All the wedding pictures (unless otherwise specified) are the work of Jimmy Wood of Nettles and Wood photography in Camden, SC. He did an EXCELLENT job, and I recommend him highly. Take a look at their web page at www.rocsoft.net/~netwood All of his pictures, used here, are with his permission and are copyrighted.



Here's our parents with us, just before the blessed event! They were so excited and proud! Lee and I are both only children, and our parents love us a great deal.



Here you see some good friends: On the left, is Kristine LaSalle Hobbs. She is a good friend of mine from Furman University. Kristine was my stand-in bride and kept my bride's book at the reception. Center, you see my cousin, Chelsea Shoemaker and my friend, Julie Pepper. They handed out my programs to people, and Chelsea also helped me at the reception, making sure each guest received a "sercy" from Lee and I. Right, is my maid of honor, Jennifer Vaughan. She and I were roommates at Furman University, and she is like a sister to me.



Here you see our flower girl, Emily Hord, and our ring bearer, Caleb Van Horn. Emily is my cousin and Caleb is Lee's cousin. She is 4, and he is 5. They were so cute and well behaved. People have asked if they can be rented to perform in other weddings! They decided to be boyfriend and girlfriend, so all my worries about them not getting along flew right out the window!



Lee's best man was Darrin Wilcox. Lee and Darrin are former roommates (Darrin up and got married on him!) and have been friends for years.



Our officiating minister, and good friend, was Dr. Marshall Edwards. He did such a wonderful job and gave us a beautiful Christian wedding. He also counseled with us long beforehand, just to make sure we knew what we were getting in to! We count ourselves lucky to call him friend.



This is one of my favorite pictures of my Daddy and I -- Jimmy took it just before we walked down the aisle, and I'll always treasure it! To the right, you can see how the church looked as I took those steps toward a new and wonderful life!



Lee and I had decided we wanted to have a Christian ceremony, as we are both Christians. During the ceremony, Dr. Edwards gave a beautiful description of three words which he hopes will guide us toward a happy marriage: Commitment, Love, and Gift. My Daddy sang the song "Butterfly Kisses" by Bob Carlisle to me just as he and Mama presented me to Lee, and I composed a song to Lee (I used to write music as a child). Our soloist, Susan Herron sang it so well. At the

end, of course, Lee kissed his happy bride!



Here are our parents, leaving the church right after us. I had surprised my mom and Lee's mom with a rose, and Lee had surprised his mom by coming back for her. They really loved it! (Another one of my favorite pictures -- my parents here. I loved my mom's dress, and here you can see the whole thing!)





Here's our entire wedding party! From left to right, top to bottom, we have:

Dr. Edwards, Jennifer Vaughan, Paige Huggins Meeker, Lee Meeker, Darrin Wilcox (top)

Becky Harvey (Lee's cousin), Anna Payne (My cousin), Suzanne Brewer (a close friend), Laurie Stokes (a close friend), Kim Langston (My cousin), Emily Hord, Caleb Van Horn, Jeff Stokes (a close friend), Jeff Morse (a close friend), Keith Jones (Lee's roommate and friend), Clif Presser (a close friend), and Mark Bloemeke (a close friend).



After the ceremony, we took some pictures with our close families. Here are my parents and my Grandmama and Granddaddy Huggins, and Lee's parents and Grandma.



To close the wedding party, we have Marilyn Morse, an honorary bridesmaid, to the left, and Michelle Wilcox, a good friend and our scripture reader, to the right.



To continue the storybook wedding, we had a horse drawn carriage take us to our reception, which was held at Wedgewood, one of the historic homes of Camden, SC. Wedgewood is located at 1301 Lyttleton Street and is owned by Mary and Bob Warnock, two very good family friends.



As we were finishing up the pictures, Emily and Caleb came up to us very excited -- they were to ride in the carriage with us! They couldn't wait, so we finished up and off we went!



Here's a picture of Wedgewood, just as we arrived. Isn't it beautiful! The Warnocks really decorated to the hilt for our reception, and we can't thank them enough.



Right after arriving at the reception, I got to see my other granddaddy, Dee. He was not allowed by his doctor to come to the ceremony, but was told he could go to the reception. He has a lot of heart problems, and the doctor felt the wedding would be too emotional for him.



At the reception, we did the usual things -- we cut the cake and had our "first bites" as married people. We also toasted each other and had our "first drink" as married people. Lot's of "firsts" involved in a wedding



We also did the traditional garter toss and bouquet toss. Tradition says that those who catch the garter and flowers are the next to be married. It also dictates that the guy who caught the garter must put it on the girl who caught the bouquet! Jen, my maid of honor, grabbed the bouquet just before my cousin Kim; my cousin Ben got the garter. Here they are, carrying along tradition!



In addition to letting us use their house for our reception site, the Warnocks agreed to be our greeters. Here they are with Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Parrott, who said our goodbyes. From left to right:

Joy Parrott, Larry Parrott, Bob Warnock, Mary Warnock, Paige Meeker, Lee Meeker.

Our music was performed by Mrs. Janice Rivers, Piano, and the Wolda Quartet, Strings. They did an excellent job as well, and have my highest recommendations! The quartet also played at the reception.



We were blessed with many beloved family and friends who were able to come to the wedding. Here are some candid and some posed shots of family and friends.



Then came the time to "Go Away," and head for the honeymoon. Lee had decided to surprise me, so I had no idea where the honeymoon was! Here we are about to leave!





Of course, our friends pelted us with birdseed! Here, we have photographic proof of the main culprit -- one of our groomsmen, Mark Bloemeke! He let everyone get a handful, then he took the entire rest of the basket! The car *still* has birdseed in it!

As we left, our guests bid us a fond farewell, and we went to enjoy a week of rest, relaxation, and fun! Thanks for coming everyone! And, if you missed it, hope you enjoyed it here!



Lee gave me a true Carolina honeymoon -- from the mountains to the sea! He decided to surprise me, so I didn't know the location until we were on our way to the honeymoon site! He found a couple of places on the web, and the addresses are:

<http://cimarron.net/usa/nc/pines.html> (Pines Plantation Inn)

<http://www.log-cabins.com> (Cameron's Country Cabins)



First, he took me to the Pines Plantation Inn, a bed and breakfast in NC. It was beautiful, set in the woods. We had a little porch off of our room and from it we could see a gigantic magnolia tree. We were in the Magnolia room -- the honeymooners room! The people there were so nice and made a special effort to have hot chocolate for me for breakfast -- I really appreciated that!



Sunday, we headed to Blowing Rock, NC, where we spent the next 4 days in Cameron's Country Cabins. We had a 75 mile view and the cabin was really nice. We enjoyed a fireplace, a jacuzzi, and a king sized bed!





We also saw some of the sites in the Blowing Rock/Boone area, including the Blowing Rock, Grandfather Mountain, the Linville Caverns, and a trail ride through the mountains! Pictures of this can be seen above. That's Lee out on the Blowing Rock. The legend is that if you throw something over the rock, the winds are so strong that it will blow right back to you. Cool, huh? At Grandfather Mountain, we saw a lot of beautiful wildlife. They have a statue dedicated to Mildred the Bear, a bear who was the friendliest black bear they'd ever come across, and one who (amazingly) adopted two orphaned cubs in a year when she had no cubs herself. This is almost unheard of! You can also see some of the insides of the Linville Caverns, including the "heart of the cave," a natural formation inside the mountain that looks like a heart. (The last picture is one of Lee and I after the trail ride with our mounts!)



Thursday, we (sadly) left our little cabin for a cool condo on the beach at Cherry Grove, SC. It, too, was very nice and right on the ocean. There, we took an ocean cruise and got to see live, wild dolphins. It was really cool! (see below) We also got to see some low flying sea gulls. We thought it would be a cool camera shot to have a picture above a flying sea gull!

(left) We investigated the Ripleys Sea Aquarium, where we saw sting rays, leopard sharks, sea horses, and much, much more. (right) We also ate at a favorite sea food restaurant -- the Sea Captain's. It's on Ocean Blvd, with a view of the ocean from every table. Really neat!



**Various Pictures
of the
pod**



**Mother
and
Calf**

Now we're back in Columbia and living in a new apartment -- Columbiana Lakes. Our new address and phone is:

250 Crossbow Drive
Apt. N-23
Columbia, SC 29212

(803) 749-1647



This letter is also on the internet at:

<http://wotan.cse.sc.edu/~huggins/Wedding/ChristmasLetter.htm>

So, if you'd like to see color pictures, check it out!

So, from Lee, Paige, Morgan, and PC, we wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy Holidays



Love,