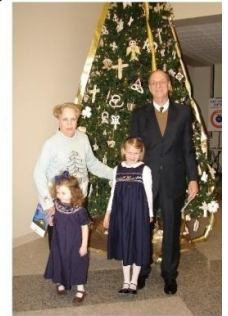


# Meeker Family Annual Christmas Newsletter, 2008

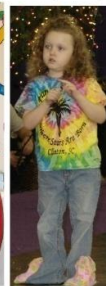
Hello all,

Well, another year has come and gone and with it many highs and lows for our family. The lows were very low and the highs were a lot of fun. I hope your year was eventful and we can't wait to hear from you.

December, 2007, brought the usual Christmas festivities. This year, Amber's choir got to sing in the sanctuary but on a different day than Piper's. So, we had two nights of wonderful music from our babies. Amber's group dressed up as members of the Nativity and Amber chose to be an angel. We found a white leotard with pretty wings and a halo. She looked so sweet. Piper wore a pretty navy dress with the wise men smocked across the front.



Both the girls' schools had Christmas parties and celebrations. It's always nice to celebrate with friends before the holiday break.



Amber also participated in her ballet routine with Dance South. Their theme was the 70's, so she wore a tie-died shirt and cute little jeans.

With that break, we took several trips to see a variety of Christmas light shows. Saluda Shoals (here in Columbia) and Riverbanks Zoo always go all out with beautiful lights displayed in the neatest ways! We enjoyed both of these with the Schellings - one of our annual trips! While at the zoo, we ran into our friends the Morris' and Piper and Elizabeth were delighted to see each other. We also took a road trip to "Christmastown USA" (aka McAdenville, NC) with Mama and Daddy, and there the whole town was lit up and beautiful. We had a great trip!



Piper and her friend Elaina wanted to see each other before Christmas. The two of them are such good friends! We met in Greenville and stayed overnight so the girls could have some time together. Morgan and Tango joined us for the trip and everyone had a great time.



Christmas morning was filled with excitement, as Santa had made his usual nightly trip. The girls were also excited that Lee and I gave them a summer trip to Disney World for the family gift this year. They started saving their money for the trip as soon as they learned about it. Morgan and Tango enjoyed their stockings - it was Tango's first Christmas! During the season, we also spent time at Mama and Daddy's and Mom and Dad's. Christmas is a time for family.





January was a difficult month. Just before New Years, Dad went into the hospital. We never thought that he wouldn't get to come home. However, his condition worsened and the doctors were not able to save him. Earl William Meeker was a kind man and loving grandfather. He served his country for 20

years in the US Air Force and was a Vietnam veteran. He retired as an air traffic controller from Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, where Lee was born. He loved Piper and Amber so much and he was so proud of their accomplishments. After a visitation in Sumter on the 28th, we traveled to Pennsylvania for the burial. The Veterans were there and provided a military flag and salute - it was a very touching ceremony. After the service, Jeanette and Rachel's church, Reyburn Bible Church, hosted a very nice dinner; then, we went back to Ronald and Debbie's home for family to come and visit before we left to return to our home the next day. He is missed by us all.

February was fairly uneventful - we did get together as a family for my birthday at Outback Steakhouse. We were joined by the Schelling's -- David (who is Amber's age) said he wanted his birthday there too. I think it was the birthday dessert that did it! With Spring coming, we took the girls to Mitchell's photography (Greenville, SC) for their annual bunny photos - they love to play with the bunnies and Mitchell always does a wonderful job. Easter is such a fun time of the year!



Each of the girls had an egg hunt at their schools - they had a lot of fun. They love to hunt eggs. We also hosted our 2nd annual Meeker Easter Egg hunt. This year, instead of the backyard, we rented a shelter at Saluda Shoals park. The kids found over 1000 eggs that we hid before they arrived. I had help from Kim and our friend Tori. The kids were excellent hunters. We had prizes for the "big kid" and "little kid" that found the most eggs. We also had 3 prizes to give out to three special little girls who never gave up - even after the prizes were given out they continued to hunt and found 5 or 6 more eggs! They deserved stuffed lambs for their diligence! It's such a fun tradition that we hope we can continue it for the next few years.

Easter came with excitement - Lee's Mom stayed with us overnight and got to see what the Easter bunny brought the girls. We were joined for Easter dinner by my parents, Aunt Nell and Kim, and our friends the Morris' - Michael, Tori, and Elizabeth. After we ate, the girls enjoyed another egg hunt with our neighbor's grandson, Brandon. Tango played too; Morgan was content to watch from the patio!



We took a trip in March to view the grounds of the Governor's mansion here in Columbia, SC. The azaleas were in bloom and the girls enjoyed dressing in their white dresses and exploring the grounds while I played with my new camera. We got some beautiful photos of them.



As Amber turned 4 years old (hard to believe, isn't it?) a beautiful day dawned, but Amber was a little under the weather. We had a party at the house and she enjoyed a theme of Disney Princess, with an emphasis on "Belle."



This was in anticipation of our summer plans for Disney World! Amber enjoyed her presents, her cake, and her guests.



As the school year came to a close, so did the AWANA's program at church. There was a ceremony at the end of the year and Aunt Jeanette and Aunt Rachel were in town! So, it was a special treat for the girls to get to show them and Mom our church. They watched the ceremony where the children were acknowledged for all their accomplishments throughout the year. There were many memorized Bible verses and their vests are full of patches that represent all they have memorized. Amber, as a "Cubbie" was so proud and happy to receive her bear pin for her vest. It's a great program and if there is one near you, we highly recommend it.



May brought an end to a wonderful place - due to some financial difficulties, Thornwell Child Development Center was closed. Amber's last day was about a month before the official closing, but it was very sad to know that this wonderful place won't be around for future preschoolers. The teachers were wonderful and TCDC will be sorely missed. Amber still talks about her friends at TCDC, though she's making lots of new ones in Columbia.



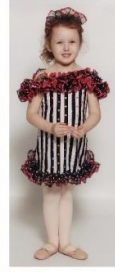
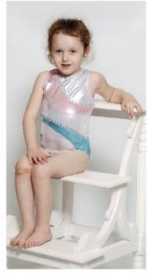


May also brought the Hammond School first grader's annual "Westward Ho" show - this was a WONDERFUL presentation for the parents and each child played a part - dancing, singing, and telling stories of how things were in the old west. It was VERY impressive!



Another really impressive show (what isn't impressive at this school?) was the annual "country of study" day in the lower school. This was Piper's first year to participate, as the show is presented by the first through fourth grade. Each year, Hammond sends two faculty members to a different country for two weeks; these folks then bring back photos, memorabilia, and a firsthand account of what it's like to be in that country. They teach the other faculty and then they all teach the kids. This year's country was Vietnam and the kids did such a WONDERFUL job! Piper was a "rice woman" who sang and danced on stage. The older kids did some really elaborate dances and gymnastics - what an awesome experience.

Finally, May brought Hammond's annual "Fun Day" - a field day where the kids divide into teams and play - they get points for sportsmanship as well as for winning. This year, Piper's team had the most points! How exciting! May is full of these fun, "end of the year" events. A first grade party rounded out the month and Piper was out of school for the summer, with a math packet of problems to do each week and a commitment to read 20 minutes per day. She's growing up so fast!



Amber concluded her year with Dance South in Clinton with two performances - one for gymnastics and one for ballet. She looked so cute in her costumes! Her fancy leotard for gymnastics was the favorite of the other children, but Amber just LOVED her ballet costume - the other kids said it was itchy, but Amber loved the sparkles and bright pink accents on the black and white dress. She still wears it to play dress up. Amber's gymnastics was on the same day as Piper's dress rehearsal for her ballet, so it was the first time Lee and I had to split up between them. I took lots of pictures and movies so he could see her walk the balance beam and flip and turn on the bar. She had a ball! We all were able to make the dance recital, and my parents, "Nana and Granddaddy," were also able to go. Amber was so happy to have everyone there. She danced in Belk Auditorium at PC on the big stage and she did a great job. Holmes Photography in Clinton took some great shots of the children, too!



May also brought Piper's dance recital - she had two dances, one for ballet and one for jazz. The Columbia Ballet School does such a wonderful job and the kids all love it! The treat this year was that Elizabeth, Piper's good friend from Hammond, was also dancing and taking classes with her - in fact, it was just the two of them in Jazz. I was so pleased with the hard work these girls put in to learning the jazz performance. They only took jazz every other week, so they would leave with the steps written down and practice hard between lessons. They did a wonderful job. After the recital, The Morris' invited us to their home for a celebration. Michael and Tori treated us to hamburgers and hot dogs and the girls and their friends played and played while we sat back, relaxed, and talked.



Lee's birthday brought our annual cookout and we were surrounded with family and friends - the kids especially enjoyed Lee's choice of cake this year - an ice cream cake from Brusters. We were joined by Todd, Carrie, David, and Kate Schelling; my parents, Boyce and Martha; Aunt Nell and Kim; my Granddaddy, James; Lee's mom, Madi; and (of course) Morgan and Tango, who prowled about for treats. Everyone enjoyed a fun grilled feast!



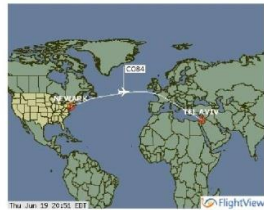
In June, Lee was scheduled for a 3 week business trip, part of that time was to be spent in Oregon and part of it in Israel. We hated to see him go for that long, but while in Israel, he got to tour the holy land. What a wonderful opportunity! He toured Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Masada. Intel has a site located in Haifa. Not long after he first arrived, he and a group went to a museum in Jerusalem to see the Dead Sea Scrolls. Later, on a guided tour of the city, he saw the "Dome of the Rock" which is believed to be where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac at the request of the Lord. Lee and some of the Intel group from Columbia (pictured on next page, Ernie Corley, Jan Glott, Todd Schelling, Yehuda (the tour guide), Lee, and Greg Knopf) took a guided tour of Jerusalem on their second day there - it was Saturday, which is the Sabbath - Intel was closed on that day. On the tour they saw many wonderful things, including the West wall (or Wailing Wall) of the Temple Mount. This is said to be what was left of Solomon's original Temple after its destruction.



After touring Jerusalem, the group drove to Haifa, where the Intel site is located. Before leaving Haifa, they ate beside the Mediterranean Sea and enjoyed good food, good company, and a breath taking sunset! The next day, on the tour of Caesarea, Lee was really impressed with the Aqueduct, which was built to bring running water to the old city of Caesarea (see below). The source of the water was the springs of Shummi, 10KM away. Herod build the aqueduct in the 1st century BC and it was amazing to see. Another amazing site that day was a beach made of shells - Lee said Piper and Amber would have been wild - they love to pick up shells along the beach.



On the last day of the trip, they drove to Masada. Masada (Hebrew for fortress), is situated atop an isolated rock cliff at the western end of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. It is believed that Herod the Great built the fortress of Masada between 37 and 31 BC. On the way to Masada, they stopped at the Dead Sea - the lowest place on earth! Then, they said good-bye to Israel and flew back home.



There are so many other wonderful and incredible things that Lee got to see and experience; these are only some of the highlights. The next time you see him, take some time to sit down with him and look at all the pictures. I was so impressed with him - he took almost as many as I would have! I also have to thank Ernie and Jan for their great shots. Without them, Lee probably wouldn't have been in any of the pictures!

Lee traveled with Continental airlines there and back and I loved their website - you could track the plane as it flew across the sky. With the site, you could see exactly where they were as they traveled. As Lee was flying over the Atlantic, the girls and I decorated the car with painted windows to welcome him home. They missed him so!



While Lee was away, we did lots to keep busy. The deck in our backyard had fallen into disrepair and we were anxious to fix it. We contacted Tony Logan, a contractor who had done work for my parents and he came out to take a look. He basically rebuilt the deck, adding a ramp for Morgan, whose arthritis had made it difficult for him to go up and down the back steps. When he was done, the girls and Tango loved the ramp. Morgan still preferred the steps. Go figure!

During this time, Elaina, Piper's friend, came to spend a few days with us. When the girls played in the backyard, Tango kept "guard," walking between the girls and the guys working on the deck. Tony's cousin tried to win him over with a pack of crackers - Tango refused them until he got my permission - then continued his "patrol." Shelties are very protective of their "herd!" Elaina, Piper, and Amber attended a ballet camp at the Columbia Ballet School during Elaina's stay - in one day, they learned and acted out "Peter Pan." It was so cute!



June also brought 4 weeks of swimming lessons. Piper progressed to the next level and Amber was confidently swimming with her "safety seal" float. They really enjoyed going to the pool 3 days/week and are both able to dog paddle and have started to swim free style. The Swim Lessons company is great! They make swimming fun. After Lee left for Israel, we started enjoying Sonic's June special of \$0.99 milk shakes as a celebration when swimming had gone well. We also visited Brusters (an ice cream shop) for mini-corn dogs and cotton-candy ice cream that pops in your mouth. (June was not our healthiest month!)





As a gift for Lee on his return, the girls and I visited the Picture People for some fun pictures. Now, I hope that Lee will return the favor! When Lee returned, we decorated the house with a big sign and paint for the car. The girls were so excited to see him return!



We were so happy to have Lee home from Israel and were excited to plan our Disney trip. But, for July 4th, we were home for the first time in years - we're usually at the beach. So, we grilled and were joined by Mama, Daddy, and Mom for some hamburgers and hot dogs. Mama and Daddy had to leave after the wonderful food, but Mom stayed the night and enjoyed fireworks with us. This was our first warning that Amber really didn't like fireworks. She's never liked loud noises



After months of waiting, we finally left for the most magical place on earth - Walt Disney World, Florida. It was about an 8 hour trip, but the girls were very excited and it didn't seem like it was very long at all. We left early one Friday morning and arrived in the afternoon. That night, we stayed at the Royal Plaza hotel across from Downtown Disney. It was raining when we arrived, but we went over to Downtown Disney and ate in the Rainforest Café - a wonderland of its own. The animatronic animals were so entertaining and the aquariums that ran throughout the restaurant were filled with tropical fish, including a real life Nemo - a Clown fish who had one fin that was significantly smaller than the other. Piper found it within 5 minutes, impressing our waiter - apparently "Nemo" is usually much more difficult to find. Saturday, we drove over to "All Star Movies" and checked in for the week - then we hit the parks, with our first stop at the Magic Kingdom -

The Magic Kingdom was a magical place and by far the location where we spent the most time. The girls were fascinated with meeting the characters (Amber still talks about how nice they were) and they visited the "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boutique" for a princess make-over and photo shoot. Here, Piper was transformed into Princess Jasmine and Amber became Princess Belle. These make-overs included hair, makeup, outfit, and pictures and the girls really enjoyed the "royal treatment." They also were excited to meet Ariel in her grotto, laughed at the Monster's Inc Laugh Floor, and jumped, screamed and laughed during Mickey's Phil-Har-Magic. Piper's favorite ride was Splash Mountain, where we splash down into the briar patch with Brer Rabbit. Amber preferred the thrill of Thunder Mountain Rail Road's roller coaster adventure and insisted on riding it 3 times throughout the trip. We, of course, enjoyed riding into the sky with Dumbo and galloping around Cinderella's carousel. One real treat was to dine INSIDE the castle at Cinderella's Royal Table - one morning we arrived at the park before it opened to meet our breakfast reservations, so we got a wonderful photo in front of the castle with no one else behind us! (See the picture below!) - then, we joined Cinderella, Jasmine, Snow White, Belle, and Aurora for breakfast inside Cinderella's castle.



The food was delicious, but the expression on Piper and Amber's faces was priceless.



Animal Kingdom was probably the girls second favorite, even though we only spent one day there. We enjoyed a wonderful safari breakfast with Donald, Daisy, Goofy, and Mickey Mouse and then took a ride on an African safari to see the magnificent animals. Then, we walked around and saw Turk (from Tarzan) and Lilo and Stich. The highlight for this park was getting to meet Pocahontas, the "last" princess that the girls hadn't gotten to see. They also really enjoyed talking to the cast members about the animals in the park. Everyone got completely SOAKED on the river rapids ride and Piper and Lee hit Expedition Everest (a roller coaster) while Amber and I flew into the sky on a triceratops (she was too short for the Everest ride).

Epcot and Hollywood studios offered their own brands of fun, where the girls found beautiful umbrellas, Mulan and Mushu, and learned to belly dance in Morocco. The Animation Studio had 30 minute classes on how to sketch Disney characters and we almost never got Piper out of there! We found lots of Playhouse Disney characters and even ran into

Mary Poppins, Alice, and Belle with the Beast!

We also got to ride in the front car of the monorail with the driver - this treat is available to those who are patient and ask the man loading you if you can do this - he'll let you if no one else has asked or you're willing to wait. The girls got to ride in the front, get an official "license" from the driver, and touch the controls (with anxious parents watching) before they got out!



We paid for the Disney Dining Plan and I highly recommend it - we had some wonderful culinary experiences. Chef Mickey's, Tony's, The Coral Seas, The Restaurant Marakesh, the Royal Table, Donald's Safari, 1900 Park Fair, and our favorite - Ohana! We also had quick service meals each day and so many snacks that we got some to take home.



The girl's favorite rides were in the Magic Kingdom - Splash Mountain (Piper) and Thunder Mountain Railroad (Amber). I loved the new Toy Story ride in Hollywood Studios. Lee was the only one to brave Space Mountain! A new ride called "Soarin" was also tons of fun. That was in Epcot along with a "Finding Nemo" ride, where Nemo moves along with the ride and you find the little fellow as you travel along. There was so much to do and so little time - we still have a "to do" list! All in all, we can't wait to return!

Two days after we returned from Disney, the girls, dogs, Mom, and I headed down to the beach while Lee headed back on business to Oregon. Mama, Daddy, Aunt Nell, and Kim were already down there and it was a lot of fun to join them. The girls, Morgan, and Tango all love the beach and we wanted to take them this summer. Lee was able to fly into Myrtle Beach airport when his meetings in Oregon were done, so he got to join us a day or so before we had to head out.



When August reached us, we went on our second trip to Highlands, NC with the Schellings. This time, we saw some of the same waterfalls and some new ones. The children love to see the

beautiful falls and we enjoyed a fun ice cream stop. This year, we also grabbed sandwiches and found a neat children's park. The kids enjoyed the playground while we sat down to catch our breath - one of the waterfalls was a rather steep descent, followed by a climb to get back to the car! Before we left, we found a small waterfall with lots of rocks and a swimming/fishing location. The kids begged to get in the water, but it was a little cool, so they just dipped their toes. Then, we headed back to Columbia after a long, fun day.



This August brought an exciting and sad day - our baby started school! Amber has been talking about going to Piper's school since last November and finally the day came. Amber is a "ladybug" and her teachers are Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Harvin. She absolutely loves school and has adapted well. She's learning letters, numbers, colors, and getting to go on fun field trips to the zoo, the fire station, the pet store, and there will be more to come. The first couple of weeks of school, Amber was so tired that she could hardly keep her little eyes open! The photo to the left was sent to us by Mrs. Barrett after an action



packed first day! (Isn't she cute?) She'd doze off whenever she sat still for any short period of time! Piper, meanwhile, is a second grader - I just can't believe it! She's in Mrs. Long's class and now has a homework folder and completes 20 minutes of reading a day and a book report each month. This also brought the start of testing - for science, and geography as well as the spelling and speed-ups from last year. It's definitely been a busy year and both girls are happy to be together as Hammond Skyhawks!



Also this August, we lost a friend and family member. Little Morgan, our Sheltie, passed away at the ripe old age of 15. Morgan had been with me since he was 10 weeks old - from the time I left my parent's home. He met and approved of Lee, traveled to California with me for an internship, herded sheep, was in my wedding portrait, loved long walks on the beach, got up with us for every night feeding with the girls, woke us if they were sick, joined us for several portrait sessions, and taught Tango how to be as good of a pet as Morgan himself was. He was a special part of our family and we miss him very much.

Each year, near the start of school, the K4 classes get together for a picnic and for the parents to get to know each other. It's a nice way for everyone to get to know each other and let the kids have some fun in the area outside of the Kiva.



The annual event of the "Little Hawks" cheering at half time of a football game was a lot of fun this year - both the girls headed out onto the field to cheer with their friends for their team. The girls are so cute in their cheerleading outfits.



This fall also brought a celebration for my Granddaddy Huggins. His church, St. John's United Methodist in Lugoff, wanted to thank him for his years of service to the church. One Sunday, as a surprise, the church got the family together and planted two trees to his honor and my Grandmama Huggins' memory. These were seedlings from the magnolia trees in his yard.



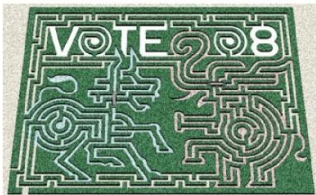
This year, we'd planned a quiet birthday, but Piper wanted to celebrate turning 8 with her friends. We booked a "Webkinz" party at "Justice, Just for Girls". Piper and 7 friends (including Amber) got to enjoy makeovers, games, and shopping in the Sandhill's shopping center. Then, Lee and I walked the girls over the Marble Slab Creamery for a slice of ice cream cake. It was a fun (and exhausting) afternoon!



The annual SC State Fair came rolling into town in October and this year we went with Lee's mom. Hammond's fall break and PC's fall break lined up, so we went on a Monday morning and enjoyed a full day! The exhibits were really beautiful and the rides and food are always fun. A couple of highlights this year included a sea lion show - the girls were fascinated! After the show, we got to take photos with these beautiful animals. The girls also always love the petting zoo where this year they were offering camel rides. I was really surprised at how tall these animals were in person - as tall as the elephant beside him! Piper and Amber took a ride on the camel and were so cute and excited when they got off. What a fun day!



Last year, Hammond switched its winter festival to the fall, and this year we had the fall festival in October. The girls enjoyed fishing booths, cake walks, bubble makers (even getting to be inside of a giant bubble) and face painting. There was also a haunted house to explore. This fundraiser helps the lower school and the kids just love it. What a fun evening!



After the fall festival, we went with the Schelling's and the Robins' to explore a corn maze. This year, instead of Harmon Farms, we visited the Sease farm - what an amazing maze of things to do! There was a "sandbox" filled with corn to play in, a bean-bag toss, and about 6 different mazes. The giant corn maze (over 3 acres) takes a different shape each year and this year it was all about politics. In addition to this, there was a maze made of pine straw, out of monkey grass, out of giant pretend marshmallows, and out of tires. There was a maze where you colored your fingertips the color of the order you found various parts of the maze to get your fortune told. There was also a petting zoo and hay ride to enjoy. What a fun and exhausting afternoon. Tom and Hailey brought their newest arrival, Josh, with them and Zach enjoyed playing with Kate, David, Amber, and Piper. We ended the day by purchasing some pumpkin muffins that were like pumpkin bread filled with some sort of cream. Mmmm!



Halloween brought with it Hammond's annual lower school parade of costumes. The kids dress in their Halloween best and the K4's - first grade parade through the school while the older children watch. This year, they added a second parade, where the 2nd-4th graders also paraded while the little one's watched. The kids had some really interesting looks this year. The teachers and administration get into the fun also, and the K4 teachers dressed in the theme of their room (Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Harven were wonderful ladybugs!) and the 2nd grade teachers were all "Hannah Montannah" look alikes - the resemblance was uncanny! Their students called them "Mrs. Montannah" all day! Amber dressed as Ariel - the little mermaid, and Piper went as Tinkerbell - outfits they found at Disney World!



In November, we arranged a trip to Greenville with the Angle's so that Piper and Elaina could have some time together. They are such good friends to live so far from each other. But when these two get together, it's like they were never apart. I don't know who was more excited - Piper or Amber - to see their "Laina." We spent Friday night and then on Saturday, explored main street in Greenville to look for the "Mice on Main." If you are in or near Greenville, this is a very fun way to spend an afternoon, as well as see lots of fun shops along the way. Along about 6 blocks of main street, there are 9 small statues of mice hidden. You can get clues to their locations on the Internet or from local businesses. We found all 9, though some were hard to spot! After a fun day, we said farewell and the girls were sad to part, but they know they will see/talk to one another again soon.





The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the second grade at Hammond put on a WONDERFUL show, all about the meaning of Thanksgiving. These kids memorized so many lines and songs! As usual, they did a wonderful job. There were Indians, Pilgrims, and Turkeys - Piper played the part of a "school kid" who informed the adults watching about the Pilgrims making America their home. Each child told the audience a fact about Thanksgiving - it was GREAT! After leaving the show, Lee, Mama, Daddy, and I headed for the Kiva (or the "dining area") to await the K4's for their annual Thanksgiving feast. These little ones had made an Indian outfit and chose their own Indian name - Amber was "Swimming Whale." For the feast, they had a turkey made from an apple, Chick-fil-A nuggets, corn on the cob, fruit kabobs, corn muffins, and a pilgrim's hat cookie for dessert. Just after the blessing was said, Amber grabbed the cookie and was about to eat it when Mrs. Pound told the children that they should thank the parents for preparing this feast! She held it at the ready, but didn't eat until she was told she could! The little ones had made their place mat and "bear skin rug" to sit on. It was SO CUTE!



Thanksgiving came and was a beautiful day. The weather was nice and in addition to Mama and Daddy and Mom, we were joined by Aunt Jeanette and Aunt Rachel from Florida. What a wonderful treat! The girls love their family and enjoyed playing games with them all day. We had a great time together and enjoyed listing all the things we are "alphabetically" thankful for. We went through every letter of the alphabet and listed the things we are thankful for that begins with that letter. It's much harder than it sounds! (Try listing 7 things you're thankful for that start with Q, X, or U, for example!) After dinner, Mom, Jeanette, and Rachel left for Sumter, but Mama and Daddy stayed to enjoy the Christmas lights at Saluda Shoals park. If you get a chance, you must drive through this beautiful display. The girls oohed and aaahed over the lights shaped like deer, ladybugs, fairies, as well as the more traditional Nativity and Santa formations. At the end of the day, the youngest of our number sacked out - Amber and Tango fell SOUND asleep. They were so cute!



As usual, the girls wanted to visit the **real** Santa Clause at Mitchell's photography! Since the girls know from previous years that Santa's "hiding" behind the window, they decided to "catch" him! The girls love to tell Santa all their Christmas desires and were so happy to get to see him again this year. This year, Mitchell tempted us with a CD of all the proofs - how fun!



In addition to Mitchell's WONDERFUL Santa Pictures, we wanted to have a nice family photo done, as we usually close our newsletter with that - so we headed for the Picture People in the mall. We took Tango, who actually did the best of everyone, listening to the photographer and flashing that "Sheltie Smile" for every photo. Not bad for a "not quite two" year old! We got some great shots, so we wanted to share those, too.



As always, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Each year has its highs and lows and this one was no different. We wish you all the best, love, joy, and peace throughout this Holiday season and next year.

Love,  
Lee, Paige, Piper, Amber, and Tango