

# Merry Christmas!

So, I've been writing this newsletter for 24 years now. Wow! And this year's letter was the biggest ever. I love this tradition of sitting down, looking at our family's year, pulling together photos, and sharing them with you. The full (32 page) version is online at <https://meekerchristmassite.shutterfly.com> with password "meekerchristmas". It's mainly photos of our year – it's been a year of change for us! The highlights are below. I invite you to view the full version online.

Lee has continued to enjoy his new work. He finds it challenging and rewarding, and is doing so very well. I love seeing him happy and doing something that he loves.

Paige has decided, after almost 14 years at Presbyterian College, to make a move. Starting in January, she will be the new Professor of Coding and App Development at Anderson University. She's really excited about this! She also had a bit of a surprise with an unexpected surgery a week before Thanksgiving, but is doing well now.

Both girls have become more independent this year – Piper through high school graduation and college; Amber through getting through her surgery, getting back into competition, and driving on her own.

Piper completed a two-and-a-half-year high school project called "Public Policy for Social Change" – she now has a TedX talk online (google Piper Meeker conflict minerals TedX) and graduated with special recognition from Hammond. She enjoyed a summer filled with friends and travel – the beach, Oklahoma, Disney, and St. Augustine – and has successfully started the Honors College at Anderson University. Her horse, Duke, has also started his college career as a member of the St. Andrew's University IHSA Western Equestrian Team. We miss Duke, but he's happy and has a great place to live and work with many people who care about him. Piper completed her high school ZooTeen Internship and is doing well in her first semester at Anderson. She's considering volunteering at Greenville Zoo in the future. She and her roommate, Eliana, are great friends and their room looks great!

Amber dealt with not one but two surgeries this year – scoliosis and wisdom teeth (that was a surprise) with grace and dignity. She "grew" 2 inches during surgery when they straightened the curve from her spine. After several months of recovery and the great work of Dr. Piehl, she's back to working on her second-degree black belt and reining her horse. Fancy was there for her every step of the way. She also has a new partner, Spook, who has joined our family, and had her first NRHA show with both horses. She's in all honors courses and doing so well at Hammond. Amber continues her ZooTeen Internship, and is handling small animals and helping with river clean-ups, going on trips, and learning so much. She studied and practiced and is now driving back and forth to school on her own – a licensed SC driver!

Mama and Daddy celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. What an inspiration! They returned to St. Augustine, where they honeymooned, and enjoyed adventures with dolphins, peacocks, the Fountain of Youth, and forts before returning to SC to celebrate with a nice dinner with family.

We got to see so many of our family and friends this year – loved visits with the Schellings, Angles, and Girards through the year and Piper was thrilled to have her family at graduation – bringing together Aunts Jeanette, Rachel, and Nell with Grandma, Nana, Granddaddy, and Kim. We saw Aunt Jodie and Uncle Howard for Mama and Daddy's 50<sup>th</sup> and got to catch up with them a bit.

There's so much more to our year – details and many, many photos are online. Please visit our site to share more.

## We Wish You All a Very Merry Christmas!

*Love,*

*Lee, Paige, Piper, Amber, Tango, Snowball, Oreo, Fynn, Duke, Fancy, and Spook*

