

2020 Meeker Family Christmas Newsletter 2020

Merry Christmas!

Well, 2020 was certainly a year many people would like to forget. Personally, we've had more loss of friends and family than any year in my memory. However, I like to look for and remember the good times – and there were also many good things that happened in 2020. Here is what happened with our year.

We certainly saw God's love for us throughout the year – in the good and bad times. And one thing was certainly made clear: ***We must be ready at all times to meet our Maker.*** Friends let me say, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Heavenly Savior and God as your Heavenly Father, please have a conversation with me or someone else who does. You don't want to wait until it's too late. I believe God loves you. I believe He wants a relationship with you. I believe he cares for you. I believe that He wants you to follow Him. If you'd ever like to talk, please call me. (803-463-1583). Call Lee (803-463-2065). Anytime. Day or night. Now, let's take a look back at 2020. **For the full version of our newsletter, with more details and photos, please visit <http://meekerchristmassite.shutterfly.com> with password "meekerchristmas"**



Lee has really enjoyed his work and moved into more leadership positions there. He was home recovering from a minor surgery in March, just before we all started staying home. Because of his commute, he is no longer able to join in on the Run for God group at church and really misses it, but continues to help with the church media group on some Sunday mornings. Lee and Paige both got a commuting break from March to about August, but both started back to commuting to work within about a week of one another.

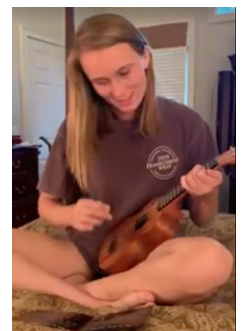
This year, Paige decided to end her tenure at Presbyterian College after nearly 14 years and move to Anderson University as Professor of Coding and App Development where she leads the minor program and directs the certificate program as well as coordinates with the community through dual-degree enrollment for high school students and app development with hospital systems and local interests.

While unsure if she should move in January or August, Paige was thrilled she moved when she did as the events of the year played out. AU was more than prepared to go online, with much IT support and engaged, hard-working students. The Christian atmosphere is so supportive as well, with the added bonus that Piper can drop by the office to see her anytime she likes. Paige is very happy at AU.



Piper ended her freshman year at home, due to COVID, but was very successful in moving forward toward her goals. She e-dated a young man, John, throughout the summer and was happy to be able to see him in person in the fall. She's doing well at AU, interned at a barn throughout the summer, and is currently surviving Organic Chemistry along with other upper-level courses. She was elected the treasurer of ASA (a science association on campus) and helps plan meetings and collect money while tracking member participation. She also has an opportunity to graduate early and is deciding if that is the path God wants her

to follow. She taught herself to play the ukulele during her COVID time at home and is actually quite good! She has also gotten very involved in her new church, Crosspoint, in Clemson, SC, leading a small group Bible study and participating in two others. She and John also witness in the community – visiting apartments and Clemson's campus to tell others about the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She has seen the Lord do great things this semester.



Amber has been so busy this year; she finished her sophomore year strong, and really flourished when Hammond



went online. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in January and set an ambitious Junior year schedule, sacrificing her study hall to take AP Art. She took her first college course online this summer – Coding – and then took the second on top of her busy schedule in the Fall. She's also succeeded in her sports, achieving her second-degree

black belt and ending the IEA season as a Regional Qualifier (Nationals was canceled). She also showed NRHA this year, for the first time, and did well in the Youth and Green classes, pointing out of Green 1 in her first year! She and Spook were quite the team! Spook also put up with the end of the year costume class and Amber worked really hard on it – the “Scaly Green Dragon led by the Flame in the Red Dress” took first place and they came home with a movie projector and movie package! Amber celebrated her Sweet Sixteen at home (COVID) but was well remembered by her family and friends. Then, as things started to reopen, she and her friends Alysa and Marci traveled with us to Walt Disney World for an amazing time of no ride wait times, delicious food, and many fun adventures! Since her ZooTeen internship at Riverbanks Zoo was suspended (COVID), she went to volunteer at the Carolina Wildlife Center where she spent her days working with opossums, turtles, and bunnies. Teens can’t work with birds or animals that can contract rabies. At the wildlife center, she met her first boyfriend, Logan, who helped create Spook’s Halloween costume and has been so sweet to her. Paige and Lee don’t quite know how to handle both daughters now dating! All in all, quite an eventful year for her.

Unfortunately, we also had many losses this year among our family and friends. We lost our friend, John Talkish, in February, just before COVID hit. Then our cousin, Phillip Odom was one of the first 60 people in SC to pass due to COVID. It’s a horrible virus. Amber’s martial arts instructor missed her belt graduation for the first time and later that afternoon, the school released that he’d passed away from a bad fall earlier that week. Our dear friend Susan lost her love and husband David Boone, as well as her uncle and her aunt, all within 3 weeks, while a total of 11 family members including herself battled this virus. I’ve since heard of two friends that also suffered losses due to COVID – one, her husband, and another, his mother. In October, Amber’s friend lost her mother, Monique after a long battle with illness. Just before Thanksgiving, my Aunt Lois passed away peacefully in her sleep. It’s certainly been a year of loss.



Just before sending these, we had one (hopefully last) loss: our sweet boy, Tango. We were blessed to take care of him for nearly 14 years. Our hearts are heavy, and we miss his sweet demeanor, sheltie smile, and little bumps on our leg asking if we would just pass him some table scraps, please. Tango is now with Morgan, Coosa, and our other dear pets that have gone on. I wish God would give them to us for longer – 14 years doesn’t seem like enough.

So, friends, before I close this letter, let me once again emphasize how very important it is to be ready to go when God calls. I believe He gives everyone a chance (one or more) to repent, accept His gift of Jesus’ sacrifice, and follow Him. Please, if you do not have a relationship to God, talk to someone – a pastor, a friend, me. But especially, talk to God. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you; ask Him to forgive you for your sins; ask Jesus to come into your heart and life; ask Him to save you from your sins; ask Him – and He will forgive and accept you into the Family of Christ. **Nothing can be more important than that!**

Merry Christmas Friends. As we close 2020, may we remember that life has always had ups and downs; perhaps not so many in a single year, but always. Love your families – love your friends. Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ birth – the birth of a Savior who gave His life for you. Remember the true reason we celebrate this season. And God Bless Us All!

Merry Christmas to All!

Love,

Lee, Paige, Piper, Amber, Tango (RIP), Snowball, Oreo, Fynn, Duke, Fancy, and Spook