

2023 Mæker Family Christmas Newsletter 2023

Merry Christmas Greetings!

Yet another year has passed and so many things have happened. It has been a year of bittersweet change, which is both treasured and difficult. It has also been a year of loss in many ways, as many we know and love have moved on to their eternal home. I hope you enjoy our newsletter as we share our year with you. We have each had a lot of change this year – here is our annual “recap!”

However, before beginning, I wanted to share how much we have relied on God this year. Without Him as our strength, provider, and Savior, I don't know if we would have made it through. If you do not know God in a personal way - as a friend, a Father, a protector, a Savior - please talk to someone who does. Explore and learn. Know that God loves you and wants a personal relationship with you. I really don't understand how people without that relationship can make it through difficult situations and I know we could not have made it through this year without Him. I thank God for always being there for us and I hope and pray you also know Him in a personal way. Things happen so quickly, and we don't always have the time we expect or the outcomes we anticipate. Look to Him, serve Him, and He will never let you down.

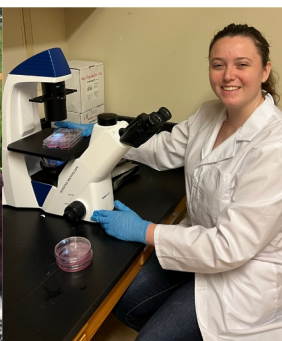


Piper has certainly faced major growing and exciting life changes this year! She is now a college graduate, leaving Anderson University in December 2022 a Denmark Scholar (a high honor) and graduating with honors with a BS in Environmental Science, and minors in Business and Honors. Piper is now a Generation Link Resident and seeking her graduate degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. In January, Piper married the love of her life, John Giuliani and the two of them began the year serving Crosspoint Church, Clemson. They served Treasuring Christ Church in Ann

Arbor, MI over the summer and were invited to move their Generation Link residency to that church on a more permanent basis, which they did in September, following God's calling. They are doing wonderful things for the Lord in Michigan, and we miss them but are so very proud of how they allow God to lead their path. We pray they will be lights for Him for those around them and that He will protect and guide them as they begin their lives together.



Amber came back to SC briefly in May after a wonderful Freshman year at Oklahoma State University and then returned to Stillwater to do summer research, after adopting her puppy, Bear. In October, she and her research team had their first (of hopefully many) publications! Amber keeps a rigorous academic schedule, taking 17-20 hours a semester, volunteering at Turning Point (a therapy riding barn), Grey Snow Eagle House (a rescue/rehab/release facility for injured Bald and Golden Eagles), Operation Cat Nip (catching, spay/

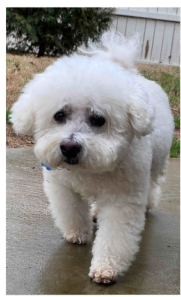


neuter, vaccinate/release feral cat program), an officer in her pre-vet club, and still a beautiful artist in her "spare" time! So proud of all her accomplishments! She and Brayton are happily dating and he came to SC in May to meet her grandparents, aunts, cousins, and sister!

Paige has enjoyed becoming an owner of Smiley, Amber's former partner, and learning to ride with Debra Wright - it has been a source of fun and comfort - everyone



needs barn time! At Anderson University, Paige has been working to develop an online Master's program in Computer Science as well, while building the undergraduate coding majors and planning to run a regional conference for women in computing. Lee continues to enjoy his work as well. We officially joined Crosspoint Church, Clemson after the wedding and serve in the media, helping with the slides and online video. We have an awesome small group also! Lee and I have enjoyed some fun family times, visited Amber in Oklahoma, Piper and John in Michigan, and went with family to St. Augustine, FL. We were happy (and sad) to sell our home in Irmo to a wonderful family and are certainly happy to own only one home now. We enjoyed some fun times with friends visiting and are getting used to being "empty nesters," but not quite used to it yet.



We had a lot of loss of family and friends this year and wanted to pause to remember our loved ones who have now moved on - Lee's uncle, Ronald Harvey, and cousin Colleen Kocher; Paige's cousins Steve Welsh and Cherry Winegard, and our friends Jean Gallman, Bob Lewis, and Joe Speaks. It's been a difficult year. We also lost our sweet little Snowball, quite unexpectedly, with a ruptured spleen. Loss is so difficult; however, knowing we will see them again in Heaven with God is a comfort. We miss them all.

So ends another year of Meeker Adventures. One last change we had was the closing of the Shutterfly Share Sites, which has hosted our full version online for many, many years. We moved them; our letters are now located at <https://lpmeeker.net/Christmas/> with username: **Merry** password: **Christmas!** (case sensitive) if anyone has interest in a more detailed version with lots more pictures to share!



As we remember the reason for the season, we encourage you to take time to seek God - to know Him - and allow Him into your heart. I truly don't know how people without God in their

lives can make it in this world. Remember that He loves you and wants a relationship with you. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call - we'd love to share with you what our relationship with God means to us and what it is like to have a personal relationship of your own. We wish you all the best and hope you have a blessed Christmas!



Love,

Lee, Paige, Amber, Oreo, Fynn, Bear, Smiley, Gibbs, Duke, and Fancy