

Dec 2006

First Milz Christmas Letter

When we wrote last year's letter we were amazed at how much our lives had changed in the previous year and figured it would be difficult to top. Little did we know that we would be sitting down at the computer a year later with even more amazement. We rang in 2006 at a party on the Gulf in Destin. The first quarter of the year is a wedding blur. There was a shower in Alabama, a Mardi Gras bachelorette party weekend in Texas, countless wedding preparations, home improvement and landscaping projects, a conference in Irvine California where Peggy had to speak a week before the wedding and sprained her ankle in LAX, a bachelor party in Destin (although Steve doesn't remember much of it, but has a scar on his forehead to prove it happened), a wonderful wedding weekend, and an awesome 12-day honeymoon in Hawaii. We both had so much fun the entire weekend of the wedding and are blessed that so many friends and family members traveled from far and near to celebrate this special occasion with us.

Re-entry after the honeymoon was difficult, but we managed. We tried to re-acquaint ourselves with the concept of a free weekend. Peggy flew to Pennsylvania to attend Steve's sister Janet's baby shower and we both went to Gulf Shores to celebrate Mother's Day with Peggy's mom, Joan. By then we were entrenched with summer beach activities. We bought season passes to the local water park and used them almost every weekend we were in town. We also tried to get out on the jet ski as much as possible. Peggy had to go to Dallas for work the weeks of July 4th and Labor Day. While there she stayed with her friend Bridget, which made the trips even more enjoyable. Peggy's friend Liz and her daughter Kate came to visit for July 4th. Steve joined Peggy in Dallas Labor Day weekend to hang out with Bridget and her husband John. Of course August also marked the annual trip to Indianapolis for the NASCAR race at the Brickyard. We planned the trip in conjunction with a week in Pennsylvania to visit Steve's family and meet a couple of his Penn State friends (Ron and his wife Amy and Barry and his girlfriend Karen) at Penn State. It was difficult for the Boilermaker in the family to stomach, but that just means a trip to Purdue is in our future. While we were in PA we also got to meet our new niece Sarah and were honored to attend her dedication as her godparents.

In September we started looking for a larger house that would accommodate Steve's workshop needs while meeting Peggy's criteria of a garage big enough to park in and room for a pool in the backyard. We finally found a house in Niceville that met our criteria and managed to negotiate a price we could live with (we hope!) We closed very quickly and moved in three days later. Our house hunting was a few months ahead of our original schedule because the night before flying to the Brickyard, we got some wonderful news...Peggy is pregnant. We are both very excited and nervous, and know that we can't even begin to fathom how much our lives are going to change when baby Jacob (middle name TBD) Milz arrives sometime around April 13th.

We are still trying to finish unpacking and get as settled as possible before the holidays. We managed to squeeze in a trip to Phoenix to visit Peggy's friend Kris and her boyfriend Ken and Steve's friend Tim, his wife Bonnie and their two daughters. While there we also attended the NASCAR race and camped at the track. We are making trips to Chicago, Pennsylvania, and Gulf Shores this month (before Peggy is grounded until after the baby is born), and Peggy is having a Christmas party for her staff the only weekend we are in town. Everyone may be sitting on boxes, but we will surely make the best of it.

Steve still loves working as a software engineering consultant for the Air Force, and is traveling from time to time working on the new Joint Strike Fighter project. Peggy was assigned responsibility for another department (Training) this year, and after her company was purchased by L-3 Communications in June, she also became the Ethics Officer. She is working long hours to meet the challenges ahead while also preparing for her new role as Mom. We have more space in our new house and love to have visitors, so please plan a trip to the beach – it's beautiful. We have been truly blessed and wish the same for all of you. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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