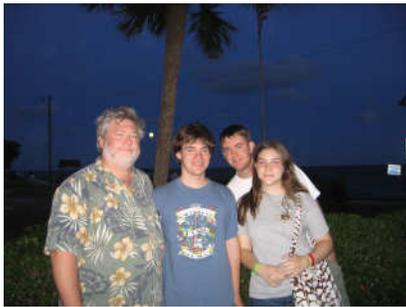


Merry Christmas from the Clontz Family!

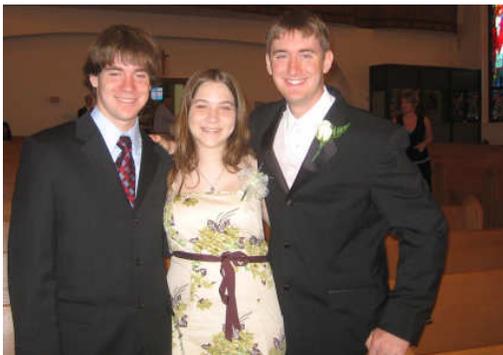


Nov. 23, 2007

Merry Christmas to our friends and family!

Yet another year has flown by. And 2007 was yet another busy year at the Clontz house.

Craig will celebrate 25 years with Dynetics next month. We find it mind boggling to realize that Craig was younger when he started work than Steven is now! Craig continues to stay busy with websites, church choir, and helping me keep the kids and house in order.



Believe it or not, Steven is now a senior and will graduate with a degree in mathematics in May. It has been a full year for him also. He was awarded Outstanding Junior in Mathematics as well as a University Research Grant. He also served as one of the Auburn Band RAT (Rookie Auburn Tiger) Leaders. And he has continued to stay involved in leadership in the Boy Scouts—although now as an adult. He is currently applying to grad school. He plans to pursue

masters in both math and math education. Needless to say, we don't see him enough and he calls Auburn home—and it is.

Phillip is in his junior year at Buckhorn and preparing to apply to Auburn and Birmingham-Southern (he's been convinced that all Methodist Preacher's Kids (PKs) must apply). He gave up his clarinet to join choir and loves it. He continues to love playing guitar and has added an acoustic guitar to his collection. He stays busy with Trinity Youth Choir and Drama Team as well as working on his Eagle Scout. He has a very nice girlfriend, who also keeps him busy. Last spring, he and Laura went on their first cruise with the concert band to Cozumel Mexico.

Laura is a sophomore this year and will soon get her driver's license. She has probably changed the most of all the kids over the year. She has truly grown into a fine young woman. She continues to be very involved in band and has even begun private flute lessons. She sings in the Trinity Youth Choir as well as playing with the youth bell choir and our bell choir quartet. She is also in Beta Club, Key Club, and Scholars Bowl Team (and I'm sure I'm forgetting something else). She is a busy young lady.



I continue to serve at Trinity. In addition to my responsibilities there, I was elected to a full four year term as Conference Secretary and to the Board of the Madison County Habitat for Humanity as their spiritual

director. As many of you know, I was “arrested” this fall for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Thanks to the help of my friends, I was released in an hour and raised just shy of my goal to send 4 children to camp. And while I still have never been on a cruise (unlike my kids!), I did have the opportunity to travel. This spring, I traveled with my Institute for Clergy Excellence (ICE) group to Portland and Seattle to study with Marcus Borg and to visit some innovative churches. Then last month, we had our biggest trip yet to Egypt and Israel. We had a three year grant to study and now our 3 years is up. But it has been a tremendous experience!



This has also been a big year for our extended family. My “baby” brother, Tom, was married this summer in Gadsden to the former Jessica Isbell. They dated in Middle School, broke up and lost touch and then found each other over the internet a couple of years ago. Now they are happily married and living in Tyler, Texas.



We had our annual trip to Tybee Island with my Dad, my brother Rob, and my sister Kathy and their families. (On a sad note, my brother Rob and his wife Mary separated soon after our trip. So next year’s trip will

not be the same.) In addition, Craig and I took advantage of the kid’s spring cruise to go to Memphis. We also made several trips to Auburn to see Steven. And we will travel to Texas after Christmas to see my Mom.



In addition to our website at www.fivebandgeeks.com (where you can see this letter in color), I also have joined the ranks of bloggers. I blog regularly at <http://pastorsherill.blogspot.com/> I share family information as well as observations. Matt, the other associate at Trinity, Jeff, our worship leader, and Tony, our youth pastor, all blog regularly and we have a lot of fun sharing articles and videos that we find. In addition, everyone (except Craig) have facebook accounts. We’d love to hear from all of you by whatever method you are most comfortable!

We continue to make a point of gathering around our Advent wreath and to pray over the Christmas cards we receive. We pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed new year. And we hope to hear from you soon!

May 2008 be a year of joy for all of you and may God bless you every one!

