

Merry Christmas from the Clontz Family!!

Dec. 15, 2010

Hello everyone! So sorry I didn't get any Christmas cards mailed last year. You have been in our thoughts and prayers throughout the past two years. And always we have prayed over each Christmas card we have received!

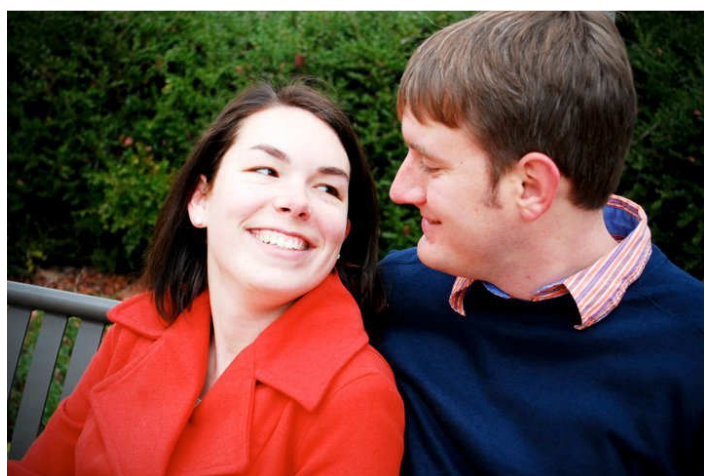
Of course, getting together around the Advent Wreath has become more difficult as our kids have all moved on to college! There have been LOTS of changes in the Clontz household since last I wrote. So here is an update on our family and what we are all up to these days.



Steven and Phillip

Phillip has also been busy since I last wrote. He graduated from Buckhorn in 2009 in the top 10 percent of his class. He is currently a sophomore at the UAH majoring in mathematics and secondary education. (Teacher number 2 for us!) So far he is maintaining a 4.0! He rooms with Austin Kizer, whom he has known since they were babies. Austin lived two doors down for most of their lives.

Phillip has a wonderful girlfriend, Christina, whom he has been dating for nearly three and a half years. Christina is currently a student at Calhoun Community College and has recently changed her major to elementary education.



Jessica and Steven

Our biggest news is that Steven is engaged to be married! This fall he asked Jessica Stuckey to be his bride and she said yes. The wedding is scheduled for June 25th here in Huntsville. They met when he was RAT (rookie Auburn Tiger) Leader for the Auburn Marching Band but only started dating in October of 2009. Jessica is from Huntsville and will graduate in May with a degree in Elementary Education. She has already been a wonderful addition to our family and we look forward to having her be an official member!

On Monday, Steven received his masters in mathematics from Auburn. He has already started work on his Ph.D. and is working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Auburn. Last semester, he taught Calculus II and Honors Calculus and is hoping to teach Honors Calculus III this coming semester.



Phillip, Christina, Laura, and Trent

Last May, Laura graduated from Buckhorn and was one of the two selected to give an honors student address. Madison County doesn't name a valedictorian or salutatorian, but the two honors addresses are generally given by the two with the highest GPAs out of their class.



Kathy, Laura, Sherill, and Beverly

She is now a freshman at Birmingham-Southern College majoring in Collaborative Elementary/Special Education (Teacher number 3!). Laura just finished her first semester and got all A's! She was accepted as part of the Honors program, which, among other benefits, allows her to live in the Honors dorm. She chose to go "pot luck" with her roommate and is rooming with Hope Lloyd, whom she met last summer at Camp Sumatanga and who is also a United Methodist preacher's kid! She is also playing flute and piccolo in the BSC marching and concert bands.

Laura has been dating Trent Webb for three years (on New Year's Eve). Trent is a sophomore at that



school in Tuscaloosa ;-D, majoring in Engineering and will begin co-oping with Shaw Flooring in January. Laura loves Trent's family and they love her enough to invite her to come with them to the Iron Bowl game this year—which turned out to be a happier occasion for her than for them! (Trent's

uncle is an Auburn Grad—the picture above is of Laura and him at the Iron Bowl.)

Craig continues to work at Dynetics, which has expanded significantly since he started there 28 years ago! We were worried that he would have a hard time with our empty nest. But since Laura left for Birmingham, his work has kept him very busy. Craig continues to work on the Dallas-Rison Mill website. He keeps the New Life website up-to-date as well as playing in the bell choir and singing in the choir.

In January of 2009, Sherill began work on her Doctorate in Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary and got a year and a half of work completed before she had to take a sabbatical. In

June of 2009, she was appointed as the Associate District Superintendent (DS) of the Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference (yes that is a mouth full!) as well as continuing as the sole pastor at New Life.

Those of you familiar with the organization of the United Methodist Church are probably asking, "What is an Associate DS?" And that is a good question since there are very few of us and I am the only one in North Alabama. I serve on the Bishop's cabinet as the Cabinet Secretary and, yes, I am involved in appointing pastors to churches! For those unfamiliar with the position of DS, I can best describe the position as both the supervisor and pastor to pastors in our District as well as an advisor to the Bishop. In June I was appointed to this position part-time, but next month I will leave New Life and serve full-time in this position.



Beverly, Jerry, Josh, Dave, Kathy, Matt, Laura, Sherill, Steven, Phillip, and Craig

We hope you are all doing well! And we hope to do a better job of keeping in touch with folks in the coming year. If you are on facebook, you can find us all there! If you email, you can reach all of us by our names @fivebandgeeks.com. We hope to hear from you all!



Craig, Kathy, Sherill, Dave, Laura, Nick, Matt, Zach, Alyssa, Rob, Michele, Josh, Ronnie, Phillip, Christina, Steven, and Jessica

God Bless!

Craig, Sherill, Steven, Phillip and Laura