

# Happy Epiphany from the Clontz Family!!

January 2, 2012

Hello everyone! So sorry I didn't get any Christmas cards mailed during the last few years. You have been in our thoughts and prayers throughout the years. And as 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.



Our biggest news is that Steven married Jessica Stuckey this past June. 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 graduated in May with a degree

in Elementary Education. She is currently working at a pre-school in Auburn. She is a wonderful addition to our family!

In December 2010, 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 teaching Calculus and Honor Calculus classes. Steven and Jessica have recently moved into a new condo in Auburn and are doing really well. (And it is great to have a place to stay for Auburn football games!)



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 junior at UAH majoring in mathematics and secondary education. (Teacher number 2 for us!) So far he is maintaining a 4.0! He lived on campus for two years but this fall he moved into an apartment with Austin Kizer, whom he has known since they were babies, and another friend.

Phillip has a wonderful girlfriend, Christina St. Clair, whom he has been dating for nearly four and a half years. Christina is also a junior at UAH majoring in elementary education.



In May 2010, 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.

She is now a sophomore at Birmingham-Southern College majoring in Collaborative

Elementary/Special Education (Teacher number 3!). She was accepted as part of the Honors program, and is working as a Resident Advisor in one of the Freshman dorms. She also plays flute and piccolo in the BSC marching and concert bands.

Laura has been dating Trent Webb for four years (on New Year's Eve). Trent is a junior at that school in Tuscaloosa ;-D, majoring in Engineering. Laura loves Trent's family and they love her enough to invite her to come with them to the 2010 Iron Bowl game —which turned out to be a happier occasion for her than for them! (This year was not so fun!)



Craig continues to work at Dynetics, which has expanded significantly since he started there 29 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 Rison-Dallas website and he still enjoys singing in the choir at Trinity.

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. Sherill's ministry has continued to go in unexpected directions. In June of 2009, she was appointed part-time as the Associate District Superintendent (DS) of the Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference (yes that is a mouth full!) while still serving New Life. In January 2010, She left New Life to serve the District full-time. Then in June, as part of her duties, she took on responsibility as the primary preacher at Trinity's UMC's Cappuccino and Christ service. And more

changes are ahead! Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, she is being appointed as the Superintendent of the Cheaha District and her preaching responsibilities at Trinity will end on Easter Sunday. (For those unfamiliar with the position of DS, a DS is both the supervisor and pastor to pastors in the District as well as an advisor to the Bishop.)



As a result of Sherill's new assignment, she will move to Birmingham this week and she and Craig will live apart during the week. This will be quite a challenge! But they are both looking forward to dating one another and enjoying the plays and concerts in Birmingham (and maybe season tickets to Auburn football in the fall!)

On a sad note, Sherill's Grandpa Sisler died in March of 2010 and Craig's mom died in April 2011.

Each year, we gather with the extended Clontz/England/Sisler clan at Tybee Island Georgia. And each year we have to get a bigger place as the extended family grows larger!

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!

God Bless!

Craig, Sherill, Phillip and Laura

(Steven had his own newsletter this year!)