

THE YEARLY PRESS

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YES! WE'RE 62!!!

I know it's been awhile since we last published a newsletter, but I (foolishly) let someone talk me into working at a high risk high school in Charlotte last year; and, as is usually the case in education, there was time for little else. Coupled with the fact that I'm just old, I passed on the newsletter. That school (Waddell High School) just about wore me out and I have declined invitations from two schools to work this year. I think I've surprised Jim, who thought I'd be climbing the walls by now, with the fact that I'm totally happy staying at home. I will supervise student teachers from UNCC this spring, but that'll take about one day a week. Also, I had knee replacement surgery in the summer and while my recovery has been easy and uneventful, it was not a walk in the park and for a long time I didn't have any energy to do much. I am fully recovered, having graduated from therapy, and am happy to be mobile again.

Jim is still working with Pactiv and plans to continue to do so until full retirement at 66 (provided that his health holds out), which doesn't seem to be in much question at this time.



Our biggest news is that our house in the mountains will be finished in the spring and we will be moving up there at that time. It has been a long haul, and since it was a renovation it has taken more time and money than we ever expected. However, it is a quality product with work done by artisans and we are very happy to have it so close to completion. We've chosen the kitchen layout and the floors recently, as well as the paint colors. The tile man is working and the gutter guy will start to put up the copper gutters this week. There is a lot of rock work that is beautiful. We hope that each of you will be able to come visit us.

Since our last letter Jim's mother has left us. She fell and broke her hip

and, as is often the case with the elderly, she never recovered. We miss her, but rejoice in the dimension she added to our lives. My mother is still living alone, is in reasonably good health, and still has her boyfriend. We like him a lot and he feels like a part of the family to us.

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Jon and Patti

Jon and Patti have not graced us with any more babies since our last letter. I believe that they have decided that three is enough, and, I must admit, I think they're right. Nevertheless, the three of them (Katie, 8; Lauren 5; and Jon, 4) are just precious! All of them are in school. Katie (third grade) and Lauren (kindergarten) are enrolled at Saint Gabriel's Catholic School, while Jon is in a pre-school class there. We love to be around them and keep them pretty often, If they would just go to sleep! Jim always falls asleep before at least one of them does, and MiMi is left to be sure all are safe! Now that I've had my knee replaced I can actually keep them by myself and chase them around! Jon is 38 and still doing that work thing...no rest for the weary...and Patti is a full time mother. Needless to say, they have their hands

full, but they are good parents and we are grateful for the love and care they show our grandchildren. This sweet family still lives in Charlotte.



Adam and Shanna

Adam and Shanna have been the ones to provide us with our fifth grandchild. Avery Ana was born June 4, 2008 to the great delight of her parents, sister Gracie, and MiMi and PaPa Jim. Gracie is 2 1/2 and goes to "school" a couple of days a week. She is very gregarious and friendly and is just a joy to be around. Avery (AveyAna, as Gracie calls her) is a pleasant baby and smiles a lot. We were able to keep them while their parents went to a concert and, other than Avery crying for about an hour non-stop, all was well. She finally ate and then went to sleep and slept all night.

Not much has changed around there. The little family still lives in Chapel Hill in a house they bought a couple of years ago; Adam still works for Restoration Systems and Shanna is a stay-at-home Mom. Adam helps Jim out with the property that used to belong to his mother, and that is a real blessing as it

removes the necessity of Jim running up and down the road to Chapel Hill. I didn't really think that Gracie and Avery looked alike, but when I looked at the pic that was in the last newsletter, it seems like the same baby! Will wonders never cease!



GREAT PICS

Katelyn Georgina
October 14, 2000
8 Years



Lauren Elizabeth
May 1, 2003
5 1/2 Years



Jonathan, Jr.
October 11, 2004
4 years



Gracen Elise
May 9, 2006
2 1/2 Years



Avery Ana
June 4, 2008
6 Months



Our new house
Near Cashiers,
NC

