

Welcome to the year of our Lord, 2005 and a recap of 2004--

The Family-

One of the highlights of my year was taking vacation the last week in July and having all my grandkids down for a week. The first two days were too cold, but after that we went swimming every day (Williamsport pool and Tropicanoe Cove), tubed Sugar Creek (wouldn't do that again for a while), hiked at Turkey Run, set up tents down by the creek with campfires and hotdog roasting and ate at Pizza King in Lafayette where a little train brings your drinks to you. My helpers were Bob (first 3 days) and Jennifer (the last 4 days).

We had our Christmas get-together at my house on Sunday the 26th, this year. David's family came on Friday and left Sunday, Jennifer's family came Sunday and left Wednesday. My sister Kathy, Ted, Josh and Annie spent Sunday afternoon and evening with us. It was lovely having them with me for a few days, and having enough people around to make cooking seem worthwhile. Katie, David's eldest (a teenager now) sang for the 6:30 service at church on Christmas eve. Unruffled, even though the accompaniment was begun while she was reaching for the microphone, she did a lovely job. The house seems too quiet now that they have returned home.

My Music-

Sometimes I wonder what my life would have been like without music. Directing the choir is Monday night practices plus listening to the demo CD's, choosing the year's music, planning the fall choir retreat, extra practices for Christmas and Easter music, and making a schedule for special music for the summer months when choir does not sing. I play the piano for our traditional service every 3rd month, played for a wedding in June, and (you'll never believe this) the Purdue football team's Christmas dinner. I was so fascinated by the fact that February in 2004 (leap year) had 5 Sundays in it, that I decided to organize a community hymn sing for that Sunday evening the 29th. One of the attendees said he hoped it wouldn't be a year until we did it again. It was such an immense amount of work, I can't imagine doing it again until there is another February with 5 Sundays in it!

Last night (New Year's Eve) I asked Bob Whitesell and Margaret Fink (and a few other music-minded friends) over. Bob and Margaret were 2/3's of the band that my Dad played with the last 15 or so years of his life. Bob is 87 and the best guitar player I know; he can play in any key. We play the old dance band songs and some ragtime. Bob brought a snare drum along so we all have something to play. We've done it 3 or 4 times now, and it is a lot of fun.

At Work-

My work life continues at Purdue. I have 15 ½ years in, with 4 ½ to go. I work with great people who are some of my best friends as well as co-workers.



Katie - 13



Erika - 9



Gretta - 7



Max - 7



Rennie - 4

The Vacation-

The week with the grandkids was wonderful, but not exactly a relaxing vacation. For that I went to St. George Island, FL the last few days of August and beginning of September. I invited Bob to come along which he did. It was pretty hot during mid-day, but lovely in the mornings and evenings, and we did manage to duck the hurricanes. The condo was well stocked with videos and I'd brought my own book to read, my keyboard and the choir retreat music to work on. We rented bicycles for forays into the State Park. It was a beautiful and relaxing week.



Home Sweet Home-

I love my home and am so thankful to God for it. It is old and flawed, but it keeps me dry and warm and shaded from the summer sun. Last summer we had our second "100 year" flood in 10 years. It crept up to the edge of the yard, then began to recede. Some major and minor repairs and replacements were made this year. David reworked a section of the family room roof that leaked due to ice dams. I also had the fireplace chimney stuccoed, the two remaining, original windows replaced and a new furnace installed. The lady bug siege has subsided to a few dozen a day, but the plague of fall flies continues as it has since my parents lived here. Thank God for vacuum cleaners.



The Pilgrim's Progress-

I'm slowly reading through the Bible. I think this makes the 3rd or 4th time I have done it, but this time I am not trying to do it in a year. I just finished Luke and have gone on to Acts to get Luke's perspective on Christ's life and the very early church. You know, it is a fascinating book! I do recommend it. I'm also reading through Mere Christianity. I could be the mom to of the rest of the Sunday School class that is working through it. Interesting that I was probably their age, when I read it the first time. And I think Purpose Driven Life will become the book I read again and again.

I trust that your Christmas was all you hoped for and that your New Year is a healthy and happy one.

Jen & Billy at Max's soccer game. (Hard to get a picture of Billy. Sorry.)



David & Carrie watch their girls opening their Christmas gifts.



My dad is gone 7 years, my mom 2, Sami a year. I miss them all. If there is any good that comes from such loss, it is that there is more time to give to the ones that remain. It has been lovely spending more time with my sister, Kathy.