

Dear friends,

Christmas 2006

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your loved ones!

The Styer household has had a blessed year, especially blessings of health and friendships and many great activities. Andy is in sixth grade, loving choir and band (trumpet) and enjoyed a wonderful few weeks in the Upper Darby Summer Stage program. He was also Manager Andre this August in a homeschooler-run production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. The 12 year old director's basement housed this production, with very nice singing and acting, though the climax of the play occurred when the "chandelier" of beads was released and it accidentally took down the spotlight they had hung near it, so the crash was very impressive!



Joey is in ninth grade, and has transitioned well to the greater academic demands of high school. Boy Scouts, soccer, and piano keep him busy, so he plays less computer games than last year. We are still in the PA Cyber Charter School, but Joey joined the ninth grade soccer team, and was happy when the JV team took the five best players, making him one of the better players of the remaining teammates. They had a losing season, but Joey got to play a lot!



Melanie is a junior and spends time on physics last year, and biology and calculus and English this year. She also has 4H and orchestra (flute) to keep her busy, but somehow still finds time to call her girlfriends and to read novels. Melanie got her lifesaving certificate and worked this summer as a lifeguard to earn money for her new flute. She just got her ears pierced, so this year it will be easy to think of a Christmas present for her!

Amy is a first year student at University of Delaware. She has a very outgoing roommate, and when we took Melanie down to visit one weekend, there were five girls sitting in their dorm room. Amy is excited that she will be doing undergrad research in a lab trying to develop a protein that would serve as a scaffold for bone development.

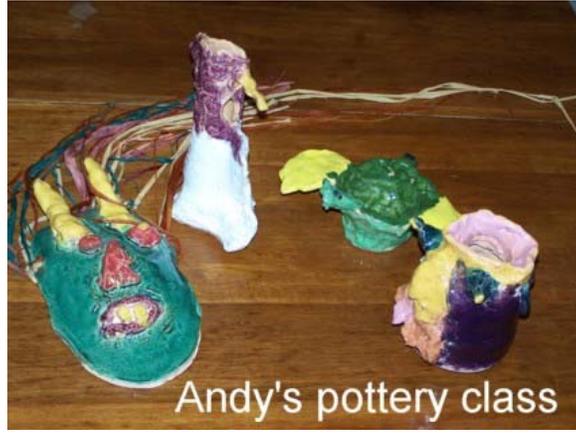
Peggy's dream of adding an addition with a bathroom on the first floor was fulfilled this spring, so we have a nice guest room for our friends (you!). We still host a Bible study and the extra room is helpful. Besides taxiing the children to millions of activities, Peggy is teaching English at a local tiny Christian school as well as running weekly science and math workshops for the PA Cyber Charter School at their area headquarters. Bob likes committee work, and has had plenty of committees at work to keep him busy in between teaching. He also spent three weeks this summer working with a Villanova Science & Theatre Magic Camp. His many outstanding math ideas were not nearly as well received as Peggy's idea to do soap bubbles (aka minimal surfaces, a mathematical idea the students actually seemed to follow).

Bob has always wanted to take the family to Mount Washington, so the last week of May we went. We beat the summer rush---but the road to the top was closed due to snow, the paths to the summit were closed due to icy conditions, and it rained every day. So we drove around to every waterfall in the area---amazing sights and sounds, every fall had far more water than the postcards and guidebooks showed! In October we spent a few days with Peggy's family at Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks. In December we took Nana to see the Statue of Liberty.



We trust that you have had a good 2006, and wish you the best for 2007!

Love, Bob, Peggy, Amy, Melanie, Joey, and Andy Styer



Andy's pottery class

