



Merry Christmas!

It's been quite a year for us. But, in the end, the overall feeling we have is absolute joy and thankfulness for the wonderful people God has put in our lives—people like you. We're all doing well and hope you are, too.

We are still very involved in the children's ministry at Skinner Chapel. Our responsibilities have expanded a bit, but we're still mostly enjoying **playing alongside the children**. Since Shawn hasn't yet married and started giving us grandchildren we've simply started adopting them. **Grandma Rae** and **Grandpa Furry** are enjoying every moment with our honorary grandchildren.

Chris took an amazing trip with some men from our church in late April/early May. They spent 3 days **hiking, backpacking, and camping for 33 miles** along the Benton MacKaye Trail in North Carolina (parallel to the Appalachian trail), dubbing it the **Warrior Training Weekend**. They had a great time, and it was as much a spiritual journey as a physical one. Of course, Chris's reputation as a man of many talents grew as he shared all of that Eagle Scout training. He even started a fire using flint and magnesium, just like they do on *Survivor*. One of the pictures below, taken on the trip, is referred to by the group as the **Sasquatch picture**.

In August he began to experience some pain in his upper back. After seeing a couple of doctors it was determined that he had two discs that were compressing nerves in his neck. So, September 23 he had surgery to **remove the discs, replace them with cadaver bone, and fuse the three vertebrae**. It's taking time, but he's healing well. He's still at Ford Meter Box, though he's moved to the Foundry. He likes the atmosphere in the new department.

Rae has had a slightly less dramatic year, though it started with a **trip to the emergency room** in February. Her first nosebleed of her life couldn't be stopped without medical intervention. A weekend with a medical balloon in place fixed the problem. She is still with The Pampered Chef and is a **team leader with a growing team**. This spring she took over **marketing for Pastor Tom's book *The Day I Was Blessed with Leukemia***. Those things, along with the occasional secretarial temp job and some volunteer work here and there, keep her pretty busy.

Shawn started the year with a **move to Cedar Hill** (another suburb of Dallas) and a **new job** building computer servers for Limestone. In May he started training for sales with the company. In June he was moved to the **Lead Outside Sales** position. He's thriving in that position; the man was born for sales. He's still **pastoring a small group for Church on the Hill** and doing some **street preaching**. He dated a wonderful young woman for several months, but they decided what they had was a very good friendship more than a courtship. He was home for a few days in late July to be best man at a wedding. We're looking forward to seeing him over the holidays.

That's our news. Like we said, we're all doing well and enjoying tremendous blessings. **May the coming year be filled with an abundance of blessings for you and those you love.**

We wish you a merry Christmas,



Sasquatch



Shawn tuning his guitar for worship



At Rae's Class Reunion

Chris & Rae