

Meade Times

November 1, 2008

Volume 9, Issue 1

Music in the Meade Home

We're so glad that Christopher and Kelly are both taking piano lessons, and we are so thrilled to reconnect with our old friend, Terri Finch, who is now their piano teacher. It's amazing how fast kids can learn a musical instrument. We received an incredible opportunity this year to purchase a one-year old piano from a church member who moved out of state! It's a beautiful mahogany upright piano that serves us well. Thanks Don Hudson! It'll get many years of play.

Another instrument added to our home this year was a trombone... and not just ANY trombone! Christopher decided to take up this

instrument because it was the least-popular one at school, and Robert played it in high school, too! Thanks to Mom and Dad Meade, they dug it out of Robert's childhood closet back in Michigan, had it cleaned and tuned, and mailed it to us. It's so cool to see the boys with their trombone! If Christopher follows through on his desire, he'll be playing the drums next year in 6th grade.

Kelly loves making up her own praise music to sing and dance around our home and at church (those of you in our church know what we mean.) But she also has taken an interest to imitating this gravely-low voice, but it's beautiful music to her (and her friends') ears.

New Sub On Board

No, we're not talking about Subway subs, or the new "Finding Nemo" submarine ride at Disneyland (even though we experienced both!). What we mean is, Stacey has gone back to work as a Substitute Teacher! The idea came about in June when

we decided it was time for Stacey to make some extra money for a future home purchase when the kids are at school and yet have summers off! A lot of up front preparation and money was invested, but ultimately all 3 surrounding school districts offered her work. For those working

Facebook.com

The best place to see and be seen since the Tower of Babel may be www.facebook.com, but you'll only find one of us there - here's the scoop! Robert will be your friend. Stacey, on the other hand, fears becoming a "Facebook-addict" and has declined participation on it - Don't take it wrong, Stacey LOVES keeping in touch with friends and knowing what's going on, but she also knows she could spend way too much time doing so! Sorry folks, hope you can handle hearing from her once a year through this newsletter, or try the old-fashioned methods of telephone or email. Otherwise, please share it with Robert—just set up an account and add "Robert Wayne Meade" in Glendora, CA as your "friend".

moms out there, you know the challenge it's been with our transition! As my neighbor recommended, she probably won't be hanging up as many holiday decorations as she likes! But thankfully, the pinecones and leaves made it up before the teaching assignments started coming in.



(Update — since this photo was taken, Kelly now has bangs!)

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Greetings!

What a pleasant year 2008 has been for us. Although it seems like the year goes by so fast, it was filled with lots of happenings and memories. We'll highlight a few events in this year's newsletter, and hopefully we'll hear from many of you this year with an exchange of stories.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

The Meades

Book Recommendations

Since Stacey hardly ever reads books, it's amazing that she picked up one this summer and read it in 24 hours! That book was "The Shack". Two other book highlights for Stacey have been "Siblings without Rivalry" and "Parenting is Heart Work"... both are highly recommended! As for Robert, he does most of his "reading" through podcasts such as the Daily Audio Bible, Pray as You Go, Newsweek on Air, This American Life and woot.com, to name a few.

Christopher continues to love reading every morning at 6:30am before going to school, and Kelly has finally taken an interest in reading (thanks to our friend, Faye Kirchhoff, telling Stacey to bring home a BIG personal library for Kelly from our local library so she can pick and chose... wow, how the love of reading took off!... Thanks, Christine Leon, for providing those books moments after I heard the advice! God is great!).

Family Update

We enjoyed spending last December in Michigan, Ohio, and New York with family. Grandma Farrell (Stacey's mom) visited us for 2 weeks this month (November 2008) - Yeah! We look forward to future visits (date unknown) from Papo and Halmony (Robert's parents). If you are coming through Southern California in 2009, let us know—we'd love to see you, too!

SEP Summer Camp—Big Bear, CA

This year, all 4 of us went to camp up in Big Bear. It's sponsored by our church denomination but open to anyone who wants to go (see <http://www.sepsocal.org>). We definitely recommend this Christian camp (the ratio of worker to camper is 1:2 and the directors,

Anne and Mark Stapleton, are the best ever!!). Robert and Stacey worked as junior camp counselors, and Kelly and Christopher were junior campers. It was Kelly's first year at camp and she became quite nervous the day-before but thankfully jumped in with confi-

dence on the 1st day! Robert and Stacey got to celebrate their 13th wedding anniversary while at camp (July 9th), and what a wonderful anniversary get together we had the day before camp began in Big Bear with the Jim and Carla Diehl (50 years on July 12), and Fred and Maryann Stevens (17 years on July 15).

Active Kids

Kelly has always enjoyed several forms of art (especially drawing) and she has taken a liking to an art teacher in Sierra Madre. She would love to pursue another class in gymnastics (she did gymnastics for a month on a membership we won, plus 2 months of Taekwondo from a raffle). Christopher (aka "Chris" by everyone else) has done very well

with after-school flag football, making the 1st 2 goals of the season (it's so exciting to watch him fly on the field) and being asked to play on the All-Star team for San Gabriel; he also participates in Cub Scouts, soccer, and he loved learning Taekwondo (it was exciting to watch both kids break a board to earn their yellow belt).

Robert Casts Up

During our church VBS (Vacation Bible School), Robert served on the "Games" Team. He couldn't resist playing dodgeball with teenage helpers after class and earning a beautiful cast in the interim. Okay, the truth is that they only put him in a splint for a month, but the follow-up visit showed a

break, and so he got to spend an additional month "hard-bandaged" up. Too bad this fell during our families' summer vacation to SilverLakes. Oh well, it didn't stop him from spending a bit of time in the water with the kids with a big blue cast lifted high in the air.

God's Love

Why is it that we focus on God's love at this time of year? Well, for some, it's the only time they think of the message of Jesus Christ. May we challenge you to ask how your relationship has been with our Lord and Savior? God offers us everything we need. His gift is AMAZING! Please keep your mind open to receive what HE can offer.

Blessings to you this holiday season (for our non-Christmas keeping friends, we mail this newsletter pre-Thanksgiving in hopes that you will enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, and for our Christmas-keeping friends, may you concentrate on the meaning of this season this year.

