

# Merry Christmas 2007

What a year we have had this year! Lots of good, a little bad and work, work, work. Sharon and Chuck attended Jessica's graduation from Purdue School of Engineering with a BSChE (Chemical Engineering). This was a long awaited and great event and we took pictures but not enough pictures. The days down there were great and we are so happy for Jess. This was the most momentous moment of the year.



Sharon and Chuck spent the summer sailing, working on the boat and generally hanging out in Saugatuck, MI on the weekends. Really, we spent lots more time working on the boat than sailing but then again boats require a lot of work – especially, the kind that have extensive teak like ours. Much new electronics were installed this summer. We love the boat and the area but are not quite as happy with the work level to keep it Bristol Shape. In the summer, Chuck stays on the boat during the week and drives to work in Grand Rapids.

We hosted the Moore clan for Thanksgiving dinner again this year and about 14 people showed up for dinner – Andy & Ann families, Sharon's sister family & brother plus Jess, Sharon & Chuck. We ate late this year and when Chuck returned from his short nap he was surprised to see half the crowd had disappeared. It is very different from the very long family gatherings we had when we were children.



Jessica accepted a job at Unilever in Whiting, IN and is out on her own now and making all the difficult decisions of an adult. Unilever is one of those mega-corporations that make everything, so there is a world of opportunity is waiting for her out there. Just after graduating, she was the Maid of Honor at her cousin Miranda Doty's wedding. Miranda is now Mrs. Anthony Myers and living in Angola while she finishes nursing school this month. Before Jess started her working career, she and a girl friend from Purdue made a several weeks long tour of Europe. They went to Holland,

Germany, Spain, Italy, France and Austria. Living off the community, rail system and staying in the hostels was quite an adventure. Jess started at Unilever in August and has been very active at work and finding and furnishing a nice 3 floor townhouse in the village of Whiting, IN. Work is so close she rides her bicycle or walks. There is a marina/Casino a few hundred yards from her work so who knows maybe we will sail down there for a few days next summer.

Son Marc Moore and family were with us a few days for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this summer again. It is wonderful to see our grandson's grow into young adults. They are a joy to have around and we miss them when they go home. We appreciate the effort it does take the family to pack up and come clear up to Indiana from Texas. Monica is now teaching in a local school and Marc works at Texas A&M for the state.

There is also news from Beth too. Beth married Ingo Stadtler from Germany and they are living in Northern Germany and are the proud parents of grandson Alex. They plan on coming over at Christmas so we can see him. Garrett Owens is living with Danny in New



Castle and DJ is in Germany with Beth. DJ is having fun learning soccer and touring around with the school group. Garrett is doing well in school and that makes us proud.

Sharon continues to work at TRIN in Ashley on the second shift and provides the two of us with a wonderful insurance plan. It is an automotive non-union shop but she is nearing the top rank of seniority and this carries a little weight when vacation time is desired. She enjoys the crew she works with and stays on this shift because it is small (30 people) and fairly non-political; whereas, the day shift is pretty vicious. To Sharon's surprise she found out she is borderline diabetic and has been take sugar levels every since. Through a lot of discipline she has lost weight but still wants to lose more. Her favorite activity is to go Geocaching and we are approaching 500 caches found. Geocaching almost always leads you to a place you would never go otherwise.

Chuck works in Grand Rapids 4 days a week and 1 day at home for URS Corporation. URS is now the #1 ranked engineering firm with 55,000 employees and sales in the area of \$7.5 Billion – talk about being a little cog in a huge wheel. Chuck had cataract surgery in his right (dominant) eye in July and it has been a real trial for him. This is due to the diopter difference between his eyes – one eye sees bigger than the other and it is confusing to the brain. The other eye has a cataract too but is developing slowly and he still sees 20/15 in that eye so the Drs do not want to operate on it until necessary. Despite all the above, he sees 20/20 or better from both eyes for the first time since 2001.

