

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

**2019** was a year of new things for the Isleys. In January, we welcomed grandchild #3, born to Kaytee and Perry. Theodore James Raymond has been a sweet spot for everyone this year. He's been smiley and easy-going most of the time, and it's been a joy and privilege to have a significant part in his life.

Then in February, Micah, Betsy and Freya moved in for a few weeks as they were between places on their way to a new job in Idaho. We really enjoyed having them here those weeks, Freya participating in Dawn's daycare program, and of course, lots of rowdy cousin time. But the long drive across the frozen USA was new too. Geoff and Micah drove the almost 3,000 miles in 3 days—both vehicles packed to the gills with all their worldly stuff. Betsy and Freya flew to Boise the day after we arrived. Their little apartment was starting to look like home just in time for Geoff to fly back to PA.

In the spring, we had a little birthday celebration for Geoff's mother, Carol, which drew a small crowd of family for some times of feasting and storytelling. Another spring highlight for Geoff was to visit his sister Meri's stained glass studio in Ohio. She sent him home with gobs of cool glass which found its way into several recent completed window projects. This has been a year of expansion in his glass artwork. Geoff now has several new pieces of mosaic stained glass on display (and for sale) at the Village Artisan's Gallery in Boiling Springs.

Early summer was full of health issues for Carol, which required some intensive medical treatments and precipitated a move from her cottage to something smaller. Her new apartment is still conducive for independent living, but only has two rooms to manage, and her energy levels are better matched to her new space. We now have both our mothers living nearby, and we see them twice a week or so for meals, games, and service projects like making comforters for MCC's 100th anniversary year. So far we've finished more than a dozen!

We managed to get away for two weeks in July to Idaho to see the family there. Seeing Micah, Betsy and Freya in their new place was great, and we got to explore a little of Idaho on our own too. It was especially nice to have James and Maddie join us for a few days, and to watch his quartet compete (online) at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

This summer, we welcomed a Malaysian student at Messiah into our home. Linn stayed with us two months, and helped manage our cat and the house while we were in Idaho. In August, we spent a week in Cape May with a group of our dear church friends. We shared a house, and really loved the change of pace and fellowship times. James and Maddie joined us there for a weekend. This vacation time has been a part of our yearly pattern for so many years, it just feels right to turn the corner in early August and head towards fall after a week at the shore.

This fall we saw Geoff's sister Colin, cousin Beth and Tracy Berry, at a wine and music festival that brother Skip was organizing, and then we also had a Siblings Weekend, (minus Meri) in October at Skip's house in Quakertown. We toured the Mercer Castle in Doylestown together. What a place! We started the school year with Wallace in first grade, and a whole new routine. Not seeing this little guy almost every day anymore (after 6 years) was a little weird, but we're finding ways to stay connected. We had Wallace for a sleepover at Camp Hebron, played Uncle Wiggly, Yahtzee and Chase the Rat. Wallace learned to read very suddenly this year, and is now reading chapter books on his own!

We enjoy watching Theodore grow and change — almost before our eyes! He comes to day care throughout the week, and he's such a quick learner! He crawls very fast now, and is getting very close to taking his first steps.

This month we're flying to Boise to spend Christmas with Micah, Betsy and Freya, who otherwise might be completely without any family on their first Christmas out west. There's lots more we could say, but we're out of room, so stop by for a visit or contact us to catch up. I've posted a batch of photo highlights on my website (see below). You can also see pics of Geoff's stained glass work for sale.

We hope your holidays are filled with peace and joy!  
Love,

*Geoff & Dawn*

A 2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW PHOTO ALBUM WITH  
MANY MEMORIES CAPTURED ON OUR PHONES  
CAN BE FOUND HERE:

[WWW.ISLEYDESIGN.COM/2019](http://WWW.ISLEYDESIGN.COM/2019)

