

Bistline Family Christmas Letter... December 2023

As another year closes, we want to share with you some updates and memories from the past year. As you can see from this family picture taken in the fall, our “little grands” are growing up fast. Nora is 2.5, Zoe is 4.5 going on 14 and Ella is 10 months. Their parents, Emily, our oldest daughter, and her husband Greg continue to thrive in their careers, and they do a great job with the “juggling act” of parenting three girls. Emily teaches second grade in the Ephrata School District and Greg is an accountant for the Webstaurant Store.



Our youngest daughter Katie and her finance, Montana, will be getting married in February. Everyone is busy finalizing plans for the celebration. Katie teaches fifth grade for the Manheim Township School District and Montana is a Millwright for R&K Mechanical. After they are married, they plan to live in the Elizabethtown area in Lancaster County.

This is a family picture from our annual Christmas weekend in Philadelphia. We love how the city comes alive during the holiday season and we certainly enjoy the “hustle and bustle”. This year, we made it an overnight trip.



Sharon continues to work for Fulton Bank and Tim is finishing 10 years at the Church of God of Landisville. We just celebrated our 35th Wedding Anniversary; not much fanfare but a day spent feeling blessed and grateful for all that God has provided for us over the years. Our anniversary and Tim's birthday and Emily's birthday all hit around the same time which makes for a very busy holiday season. Now with Montana joining our family, we will be celebrating his birthday as well; December is a crazy month for us. We love the crazy, chaos of family stuff!

In many ways, we have had a difficult year. We have assumed the role of caring for our aging parents and helping them navigate "next steps" for their future. In the spring, we had to say "goodbye" to our beloved and quirky pet dog, Murphy, who suddenly developed bone cancer without us knowing it. We are also experiencing the change that comes with getting older and hope to "downsize" in 2024 as we will truly be "empty-nesters" for the first time in our lives. While this brings us some sadness, we look forward to new adventures in the coming new year.

We are still mourning the passing of Sharon's father, Leon, who lost his long fight with a variety of illnesses in August. We miss him dearly.

We have also experienced a lot of joy this past year. Katie went to India for two weeks through the University of Alabama where she also received a masters degree in Technology in Education. We traveled together to Tuscaloosa to see her graduate. We had the opportunity to vacation ALL together at the beach for some much needed relaxation in August and have spent countless hours at Dutch Wonderland watching the "grands" laugh while twirling around.

Our faith in Jesus Christ is central to all that we do. In various ways, everyone in the family serves with the "joy of the Lord", using our gifts and talents to bring honor and glory to His name! We believe each one of us is called to be "on mission" with God to bring His love and truth into this world through our daily work, our daily travels and to the people we meet along the way. Our prayer is for you to discover and encounter our friend, Jesus, and allow Him to change your heart so that you will choose to follow Him and discover His plan and purpose for your life.

May the Lord bless you in unexpected ways, and may you have a very Merry Christmas and joyous New Year filled with hope, peace and love.

