

Christmas 2011

The Mooney Family



Merry Christmas to all. We are slowly getting into the Christmas spirit as we prepare for the fast-approaching holiday. The picture above gives an idea of what we **hope** our house will look like by Christmas. We'll see if we can really make it happen.

Once again 2011 has been an interesting year. The children have continued to grow physically (Cheyanne is now 5' 1" and Will is 5' 4") and to advance slowly in other ways. Joan has been working steadily to create a better home, and Jim has been moving slowly towards retirement. We have acquired a dog. Joan's brother Jim has spent a good deal of time with us. All four of our daughters are gainfully employed. As the year comes to a close we are finding we have a bit more time and a lot less money.

Now to the details.



Will is making much of his life during his first year as a middle schooler. After missing the football signup day last year he was excited to be able to play this year. His 11 & 12 year old team, the Falcons, assigned him as a defensive tackle. He found his calling. Will is fast and strong, and made many good tackles (he says 53) in the team's short season. He was quickly nicknamed "the beast".

Will also continued his love for scouting, moving up from cubs to boy scouts. He had a great time at summer camp, and in the Fall Will and Grandpa took part in an advanced weekend backpacking trek of 30 miles, ending at the summit of Spruce Knob. Grandpa though he would never make it to the top, and needed a lot of help from Will!



Cheyenne is now in fifth grade and continues to enjoy Girl Scouts. She is now a Junior and working on her Bronze award. Recently she joined the school band and began playing clarinet. This has become her great love, and she is learning rapidly. We often have to push Will to practice his drum, but Cheyanne will play for hours!

In June we finally succumbed to our promise to Will and Cheyanne to get a dog. We had in mind a smaller, older, well-trained animal. What we came home with was Murphy, a 65-pound mostly Lab year-old puppy. He has taken some getting used to, but we haven't sent him back yet! Now if we could only get the children to take care of him ...

Meanwhile our four daughters continue to work their way through life's changes. Tara left her large law firm this year and began a partnership with just one other lawyer, specializing in intellectual property. So far they are doing very well. Tressa is continuing her work as a nurse at a local hospital. She has been thrilled to finally have some money to help meet the growing needs of Asia (now 14) and Lydia (now 8). Alishia has finally been hired for full time work at the WVU Mountainlair (student center) as she tries to be the best mother she can be for Gabby, who is now in kindergarten. Asonda continues her studies in early childhood development, working at Subway as she plans for a career in day care.

Jim is halfway through his 3-year phased retirement cycle. Unfortunately as work at WVU phases down, consulting opportunities have become scarce, resulting in more time but much less money. Jim also continues to advise the Alpha Phi Omega chapter, though no longer chair of the board, and has moved up from the Cubs with Will to the Boy Scout Troop committee. He is still active in the church choir and volunteers at the local prison.

Joan continues to hold down the fort, and has spent a good deal of time caring for her less healthy siblings. Her brother Jim has been a frequent visitor as he slowly recovers from his second stroke. She is again working with the RCIA program, this year as assistant team leader. In her spare time she continues to look for opportunities to continue her work as a Master Gardener.

Check our website and find most of us on Facebook if you want to know more about our lives. We wish you all the blessings of this holy season, and we hope to see many of you in the coming year.

Jim, Joan, Will and Cheyanne (and Murphy)

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