

December 8, 2012

Time for the annual exercise of writing something to give friends and family the flavor of our past year. Here's what Karen & I jotted down about our family of nine. (Yup! Nine stockings this year on the mantle.)



Daniel saw the most changes in 2012. Was a program director for the summer youth camps at Highland Retreat, a nearby Mennonite camp, and will do it again next summer, adding a leadership training track for 15-17 year olds which he designed. A friend of his named Meg Smeltzer was also at Highland as a camp counselor. In August he packed a picnic meal of local food and took it and Meg to Reddish Knob, a high point on the Virginia/W. Virginia border where you can see every direction ... and they saw a future together. Meg graduates from EMU in May; on Aug 10 they'll be pronounced husband & wife. Daniel will have one more year of seminary; here's a [video of him](#).

April still keeps the Inter-Library Loan office at JMU humming. Scott has been taking Anatomy & Physiology classes while working full-time (blowing the curve for other students with high test scores); just applied to enter a local nursing school.



Rachel keeps adding to her teaching experience, doing things like giving after-school classes (in book-binding, knitting, sewing, star-gazing) and home teaching a high-schooler who had a baby. Also serves on the Trissels worship committee, leads children's times on Sunday mornings, and just wrote an awesome Advent candle-lighting script. And [knits and knits](#).

Darrel with his spreadsheets and phone contacts helps Shenandoah Growers keep the East Coast supplied with fresh herbs. During their rush before Thanksgiving, two guys from Trissels were temp help there; one came back telling us that Darrel runs the place. Briana is now working days at the hospital.



After Karen volunteered 8-9 mos at the local little Salvation Army thrift store, the manager suggested that she apply for a part-time opening; so the last months she has been experiencing the whole variety of donations and persons shopping. She's also piecing a quilt top (tiny pieces and hard angles!) for Daniel and Meg. And is treasurer for the district churches. On Tues mornings I have been leading a table group at a large men's breakfast and Bible study in Harrisonburg; I was asked to teach one and will teach several more next year. In Sept my 92 year-old father gladly left this world for that bright and glorious one. God gave an incredible gift: Karen & I got to be with him for a long weekend just days before his passing. All of us but Meg (in South Africa this semester) trekked to NY for the funeral celebration.

The two of us look forward to celebrating a marriage milestone next month: our 30th anniversary! We'll head to the Florida Gulf, with Karen taking the roads less traveled while I read out-loud to her, staying several days in a trailer that a southern Miller cousin keeps for friends and family to use.

