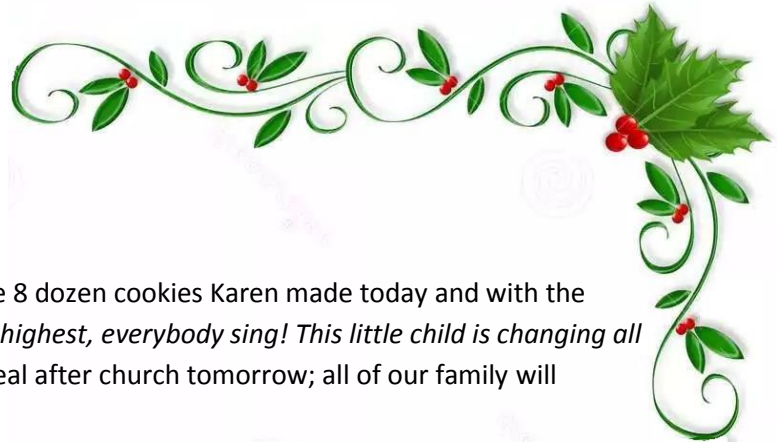


December 17, 2016
Broadway, VA



Holiday greetings from Karen & Harold!

Our house is filled with the smells still wafting from the 8 dozen cookies Karen made today and with the sounds of carols playing on her computer. *Glory in the highest, everybody sing! This little child is changing all we know!* Now she is mixing a batter for part of our meal after church tomorrow; all of our family will probably be here except for Daniel & Meg in Colorado.

Somehow as Karen & I thought of what to tell about our year, we both thought of two little boys! We get a front-row seat at watching the personalities of our grand-sons develop, since Karen is their primary baby-sitter, averaging 2-3 days a week for Miles (April & Scott's son) and 1-2 days a week for Lewis (Darrel & Briana's son).

So far it sounds like only Karen does anything around our house. Quite true! I (Harold) still spend much time in sermon prep, visitation, and giving leadership to the congregation here at Trissels. We rejoice in new faces, including families with school age children. And many babies—during worship services in Nov and Dec I held three while speaking words of blessing and dedication, with another in Jan. I've finished a season of conversation on the Bible and same-sex [see interactingwithjesus.org/conversation]; I hope to spend more time in 2017 in conversation with persons on following Jesus in everyday life and on strategic plans for Trissels.

Quick updates on some amazing young adults we delight in:

- **April** continues in the JMU library; has taken on additional responsibilities and hours. **Scott** began a masters in nursing at EMU while still working fulltime at the local hospital. Both are great parents to a precocious, 17-mo old little boy.
- **Rachel** added responsibilities at the local Mennonite camp, Highland Retreat; she now is accountant as well as webmaster and other office roles. She continues to substitute teach when not at camp, and to knit awesome creations. She also has done a bit of free-lance editing for MennoMedia.
- **Daniel & Meg** are in their second year in Colorado Springs, leading a Service Adventure unit of high school grads. Daniel continues doing full service banking support, answering phone calls of Park View Federal Credit Union customers—who assume he's in Harrisonburg (the wonders of the internet!). He's on the leadership team of the church there. Meg has begun a masters in public administration that will help her lead a community-based non-profit someday.
- **Darrel** continues as a main go-to guy (basically Operations Manager as well as Director of Procurement) at Shenandoah Growers, a fresh herb distributor that has 130 employees here and many more in Atlanta, Indianapolis, Dallas, and now Seattle. **Briana** continues as a nurse at the local hospital, a shift coordinator most of the year. Both are great parents to a quick, smiling 16-mo old little boy.

So that's an update for this year. Who knows what next year will hold?! Thankfully, the one who knows is the All-knowing, Almighty One who is Love. So as well as much present joy, we have peace and confident hope!

Blessings,

Harold & Karen



[starting from left; clockwise] Miles fascinated by Grandpa's lunch concoction (Oct); Miles and Lewis at church playground (Oct); Daniel & Meg this Fall; Karen with Miles and Lewis (Dec); boys with favorite Aunt Rachel (Apr); Briana & Darrel with Lewis being adorable in church at his dedication (May); April, Miles, & Scott at a photo shoot this Fall