

Merry Christmas 2006!

We hope you are all well and enjoying the holiday season. It is always good to hear from you and catch up on the news at Christmas time. If you, by any chance, don't like these letters, don't read another word! Just toss this in the recycle bin!

In April, Dale celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> year at Kawasaki. It is hard to believe that he has been there so long! He still keeps the mainframe computer up and running and seems to enjoy his work most of the time. Maybe not so much when the phone rings at 3:00 in the morning! He has also been singing regularly at Irvine UMC in a group called Gospelfolk with friend and fellow-picker Howard Simpson and a group of very talented people.

Matt is in his senior year at Sierra Nevada College. He will receive his Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in May. He has really enjoyed taking pottery and ethics this fall, and carried a heavy load as well as working in the computer lab. This was the first semester he did not come home for a weekend, waiting until Thanksgiving. We are glad he survived such a challenging semester!

Sharon spent the summer as a hospital chaplain intern (aka CPE), one of the requirements for ordination. Like Matt, she is in her final year of school. She will graduate in May from Claremont School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity. If she passes all six of her ordination papers and her Board interviews, she will be commissioned at conference in June and be appointed to a church starting July 1.

Due to Sharon's summer work, summer vacation was limited to two short trips to San Diego, one with Matt at the beginning of the summer and one without him at the end of it. We really like San Diego, especially Balboa Park and the zoo, but we are looking forward to something a little more exotic next summer as we celebrate double graduations!

2007 will be a very exciting year for us! We hope it will be filled with peace as well as excitement for us and for all of you as well.

Merry Christmas! May the spirit of Christmas, which is hope, bless you all in the coming year.

Love from Dale, Sharon, and Matt McCart