



Christmas 2012

As everyone says, another year has flown by and we can't really find where it's gone. We have been busy trying to keep up with Nicholas who never stops asking questions or talking—though now he is at an age that we just can't nod that we are listening.

Nicholas started planning his May "Thomas the Train" Birthday party October 2011 and was very detailed about the colors of everything, who would sit where, what kind of decorations, etc. Though he didn't get the revolving cake he really wanted, engineer Dan went above and beyond with the piñata design of Thomas. Nicholas also didn't want the other kids to have a turn at bat but in the end everyone got a swing and Nicholas ended up being the one to open it.

Nicholas still loves to clean, and is now very interested in being a referee any chance he gets. He also still loves the organ and the retired organist from church, Judy. He was able to go to her house and play her organ again and was in heaven. This year his Christmas list (started last May) is full of musical instruments: organ, tuba, drums....

Between baby showers, birthdays, graduations and other occasions we were able to see quite a bit of our extended family this summer on both sides, which was fun.

We went to Hilton Head Island again this year but a little earlier in hopes of finding warmer weather, but didn't. Dan enjoyed building sand castles and Nicholas loved to knock them down. We asked what he was doing hopping around on the beach and he just kept saying, "digging and dancing." We did notice that it would clear out the few people in our area and we had pretty much the whole beach to ourselves.

We just had our Christmas Pageant at church and Nicholas was a reluctant shepherd, after he found out he could have been a tiger, giraffe or dog. So he ended up being a dinosaur-shepherd and loved having all eyes upon him.

Dan is still at IBM (15 years) and Janet at OSU (11 years). Janet helped Columbus be selected to receive Cherry Trees from Japan and ran a big conference at work in October which took up a lot of time this summer and fall. Nicholas is looking forward to Kindergarten next fall with his friends from the neighborhood.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



Dan, Janet & Nicholas Smith

