

The Gene Chase Family • Advent 2011

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Dear Friends and Family,

Our lives this year have been like the weather in Central Pennsylvania: full of surprises. We have experienced an earthquake, hurricane, floods, and a freak October snowstorm, all of which have set new records for the history books. Thankfully the Lord has protected us and our home through each event.

God is also full of surprises. For Emily the biggest surprise was a phone call that came in late February asking her to come in for a job interview at Bethany Christian Services, the nation's largest adoption agency. The interview went well, and they hired her on the spot, so in March, her life suddenly turned upside down. She loves the people she works with and the opportunity to serve God in new ways.

Gene's surprise came in September when he was asked to host a conference at our local church next May. With around 1000 attendees expected, Gene has been recruiting a team of 40 volunteers to help coordinate the event. Also in September, Gene attended his 50th high school reunion on Long Island, happy to reconnect with several friends and family in and out of his graduating class.

Grandchildren are always full of nice surprises. Tim and Elizabeth's Simeon is now attending a Spanish-language preschool, and learning American Sign Language. We never know which words will come out in which language. A highlight of our Thanksgiving week visit to them in Texas was watching Tim sign the worship songs in their church service.

Prisca and Anthony's first-grader Josiah is determined to learn cursive writing on his own, and Anderson enjoys arts and crafts in preschool, leaving good-natured Elliott as the only chick still full-time in the nest.

But the sweetest surprise of all is the news that John and his wife Kelly are expecting their first child in February. John is busy teaching mathematics and working on his master's in mathematics at Johns Hopkins University.

Thus 2011 has been a year full of challenges and surprises for us, but all of them have been good ones. Through each change, God has proven Himself faithful. Now we look forward to celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Savior, an event that rocked the whole world!



With love...

Gene & Emily Chase

For photos visit <http://tiny.cc/GenePhotos>