

Merry Christmas from the Cincinnati Longs! May you be showered with blessings this Advent season and the year ahead!



[We've decided to "go green" again this year by sending these greetings electronically. Please read on if you want..... or just move on to your next email and know that we're thinking of you during this wondrous holiday season! ☺]

Hearty 2012 holiday greetings from the Cincinnati Longs! Here are some family highlights:

Family overall

- Special times with family are great – we continue to be blessed by geographic closeness to family and appreciate family gatherings with immediate and extended family members
- We spent a week in the Great Smokey Mountains hiking, boating and enjoying lots of time with Cline family members from around the U.S.
- Kim and Steve stay busy with regular activities such as dinner with friends, our "Bookies" spiritual group study. This upcoming year we'll be volunteering as ushers at our local "Broadway series" venue
- We had the final of our "Double Digit Days" on three separate times with Thomas, Ben and Thaddeus - it's been fun doing this with our nieces and nephews over the past 10 years!

Kim

- Forest-Aires women's chorus still taking lots of her time
- Participates in a women's book group on a monthly basis
- Traveled to California with her mom and sister as part of WWW
- Church bell ringing continues
- Still working at the American Cancer Society resale shop
- Helping out the local school district by handling reservations for a fund-raiser to benefit after school education opportunities
- Working on video projects together with Steve – we had a lot of fun putting some family video up on YouTube [don't forget to get those precious family videotapes put to digital!]
- Continues to love gardening

Steve

- Is enjoying the “partially retiring” lifestyle with income-producing business intentionally dropping off a little each year. Amazingly, it’s the 14th year of independent research consulting – many wonderful aspects to this arrangement (<http://stevelong.wikidot.com>)
- Is having fun working with Kim and Cliff on “Long Memories” with hopes of helping people “Making & Capturing Memories That Last Throughout Your Lifetime (and Beyond!)” <http://longmemories.wikidot.com/>
- Continues volunteering with “Job Search Learning Labs,” providing technical learning opportunities for those in job transition. Anyone looking for jobs can check out some of our internet-wide resources here www.jobsearchlearninglabs.wikidot.com
- Enjoys lots of fun playing the guitar and worshipping with several “congregations” – our home church plus a senior living facility and our county jail locations
- Loves opportunities to gather with several friends and men’s groups at local eateries and coffee shops
- Enjoys kayaking and biking, especially around the Little Miami River and East Fork Lake

Cliff

- He and Katie have been dating for almost 18 months now
- Moved to Cincinnati in April, starting with a new company. Sadly that company over-extended and he’s found himself looking for a new opportunity in the Information Technology field, ideally as a problem-solver
- Moving back allows for weekly dinner opportunities at home
- Continues enjoying gaming online with friends and sports-watching, plus a weekly trivia contest where their group has won on several occasions
- He and Steve have been enjoying weekly conversations about “Thinkertoys,” a book they’re reading together about problem-solving skills
- Continues to play a mean game of ping-pong
- His move back to Cincinnati allowed for his participation in the church softball team again this past summer, re-uniting the “Long boys outfield”

Sammy

- Graduated from the University of Cincinnati in June with a degree in middle school education, with focuses in Language Arts, Social Studies and Math.
- After some active interviewing, he “came up empty” in a very glutted teaching market in the Cincinnati area. We’ve learned from several in the field that substitute teaching is the way into a district. Since school started he has been substitute teaching in our district and has been in the middle school and all 5 elementaries. It’s great experience but filled with plenty of challenges (I keep remembering back to what my friends and I did to subs!) He’s also working another school district in northern Kentucky as a back-up plan
- Worked a couple of hands-on opportunities to make some money, first as a landscaper and then as an electrician’s helper. Both helped him realize that while he may have some talents in these areas, he’d still rather be a teacher full-time!
- He and Steve spent time in Canada working at the Long Family “Rendez-vous”
- Emma and he have been dating for over 4 years now; she’s an art student at NKU and has joined us for Christgiving (Wileys) and Christmas (Longs)
- Loves cooking, disc golf, church softball plus working out

We wish you and yours all of the peace and love that Christ shared! With much love,

The Longs – *Steve, Kim, Cliff & Sammy*

P.S. Here’s a location with some additional highlight photos <http://longfamily8643highlights.shutterfly.com/pictures/97>