

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



**[We're sticking with the "go green" approach 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 2013 holiday greetings from the Cincinnati Longs! Here are some family highlights:

**Family overall**

- It's wonderful to have all 4 of us in the Cincinnati area, allowing for regular gatherings over a meal, game playing (a recent smartphone favorite is Heads Up!), sports playing, sports watching and more!
- We continue to appreciate reunions and gatherings with immediate and extended family members. This year included trips for Steve's mom's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; celebrating the conclusion of life for two treasured Cline "originals," the Wiley reunion afternoon plus a week with the Cline reunion in Branson, Missouri
- Kim and Steve stay busy with regular activities as a couple including regular neighborhood walks, dinners with friends, our "Bookies" spiritual group, travel (including trips to Savannah/Charleston/Florida and to Acadia/Montreal/Ottawa) plus ushering at our local "Broadway series" venue

**Kim**

- Forest-Aires women's chorus still takes lots of her time though this year involves less leadership
- Participates in a women's book group on a monthly basis
- Traveled to visit the Biltmore estate with her sister

- Church bell ringing continues and she's added singing with the Praise Team periodically during our "blended worship" service
- Still working at the American Cancer Society resale shop
- Helping out the local school district by handling reservations for a women's 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
- Will be spending part of 2014 deciding if "cozying up" with her newly-acquired Kindle is for her

#### Steve

- Has gone to "mostly retired" status from marketing research, though hoping to keep his toe in the water with a couple of projects since he still loves the work.
- Had a great year working on Long Memories ([www.LongMemories.info](http://www.LongMemories.info)) in conjunction with Kim, Cliff and Sam. We're still finalizing all that this little side-business might be. In the process of considering this, it made sense to do this for our family so [www.ClineClanChronicle.wordpress.com](http://www.ClineClanChronicle.wordpress.com) was born. It's an effort on my mom's family in case you're interested in what we're doing. [www.SteveLongMemories.wordpress.com](http://www.SteveLongMemories.wordpress.com) is the beginning of Steve's site for an example of individual technological storytelling.
- Our steering team decided to put Job Search Learning Labs on hiatus, hoping that the worst of high unemployment levels are past us. Anyone looking for jobs can still check out some of our internet-wide resources here [www.jobsearchlearninglabs.wikidot.com](http://www.jobsearchlearninglabs.wikidot.com)
- Took a 4-month role as volunteer, unpaid Director of Communication at our church to help develop and nurture a new MWPC website and organize efforts with our new AV system in the sanctuary. It utilized a lot of his core strengths and was quite satisfying, if not a little frustrating, at times!
- Enjoys lots of fun playing the guitar and worshipping with several "congregations" – our home church plus a senior living facility, people's homes and our county jail locations
- Is blessed to be surrounded by some wonderful people. Sadly one of Steve's best friends died of cancer and his physical presence will be missed by friends and family alike and reminding us once again to "Seize the Day!"
- Loves opportunities to gather with individuals and men's groups at local eateries and coffee shops
- Enjoys kayaking and biking, especially around the Little Miami River and East Fork Lake
- This was a particularly fun year for Cincinnati baseball watching and political diversity discussions
- His low-intensity gardening efforts continue to be fun and yields one of the key ingredients for his "stuffed collards" culinary delicacy
- Loves time with the boys playing ping-pong, pool, sports-watching and just hanging out!

#### Cliff

- He and Katie have been dating for over two years now.
- Started with the Cincinnati Insurance Company as a Software Developer in July, loving it so far.
- Still getting over for dinner with the family most weeks.
- Continues enjoying gaming online with friends and sports-watching, plus a weekly trivia contest where their group has won on several occasions
- Having fun playing Ultimate Frisbee during the warmer months
- Continues to play a mean game of ping-pong
- Enjoyed playing softball with Steve and Sam on the church team again during the summer

#### Sam

- Landed a 6<sup>th</sup> grade long-term subbing job at Monroe Elementary School in New Richmond during November and December. Over the six weeks spent teaching math, he has learned a great many things about running a classroom, managing stress in healthy ways, and building respect and relationships among colleagues. Overall, the experience was humbling, challenging, and a real opportunity to test skills and build many new ones!
- Joined the bass section of the Ft. Thomas First Presbyterian Church choir, and is currently teaching Sunday school for kids in grades 4-9

- Uses his drums and creating mayhem in the kitchen as two healthy stress relievers after long days teaching
- Emma and he have been dating for over 5 years now; she's an art student at NKU (focus on ceramics)
- Has become a beer enthusiast, and enjoys trying new, wacky flavors when possible
- Loves disc golf, church softball, and working out

Having written all of that, if you get the chance, we'd love to hear of what the past year has brought to you and yours. Please email, call or stop on by when you have a chance!

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

The Longs – *Steve, Kim, Cliff & Sam*

P.S. If you're interested, [click here](#) for some highlight photos

P.S.S. Some good humor can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ShUyXI> (may need a computer - some "smart phones" don't cooperate!)