

**Happy Holidays from the Cincinnati Longs! May you be “showered with blessings” all this season and for the upcoming year ahead!**



**[We’re sticking with the “go green” approach by sending these greetings electronically. Please read on if you want some 2016 family highlights..... OR just move on to your next email and know that we’re thinking of you as we complete 2016 and anticipate all the excitement (and challenges) 2017 holds! ☺ ]**

#### Family overall

- It’s nice to have all four of us living in Cincinnati – Kim and Steve remain at 8643 Manitoba (with a smaller house in our future at some point,) Cliff is in Westwood and Sam is in Northside. We are together, usually around a meal, about once a week and get the luxury of time together for activities and sports-watching (now if the local teams could only be more successful? :-))
- We continue to appreciate reunions and gatherings with immediate and extended family members. This year included the Wiley reunion weekend for Kim and the Cline reunion week in Fremont, OH (hosted so effectively by the Gedeon family) for all of us
- This was year 3 of the Long Libation League, tasting small quantities of craft beers and rating them. We’ve done favorably-evaluated batches of our own with the help of nephew/cousin Scott Ketcham and endured Columbus rains for a session beerfest with Ketchams. Details are at our webpage [HERE](#)
- All 3 guys play softball together on the church team and enjoy ping pong action regularly, including hosting periodic doubles action with friends
- Kim and Steve stay busy with regular activities as a couple including neighborhood walks, “Bookies” spiritual group, ushering at a local theatre, “Traveler” small group gatherings and travel itself (including a wonderful trip to Lexington, KY for some historical tours plus food/bourbon/beer tastings in the area)
- Kim and Steve are planning 2017 trips to Florida/Carolinas and possibly to San Antonio

#### Kim

- Enjoys plenty of time with Forest-Aires women's chorus, and she remains in a leadership role as well
- Participates in a women’s book group on a monthly basis – great books and conversation
- Traveling to visit her parents more regularly (her mom is dealing with early onset Alzheimers that is progressing too quickly)
- Rings handbells at church, including regular worship participation
- Volunteers at the American Cancer Society resale shop a couple times a month
- Continues getting more creative and efficient all the time with Long Memories video production efforts
- Has thriving, beautiful gardens for flowers and vegetables
- Values time with the boys -- watching sports, fashion and cooking shows with Sam and playing cards and watching sports with Cliff

## Steve

- It was a challenging year - - four male friends/mentors died in 2016 ([lessons learned HERE](#))
- Held three “[Binder of a Lifetime](#)” workshops with positive feedback
- Encouraging others to make, capture, share & organize memories continues as a passion. It’s fun writing periodic articles for our local newspaper weaving in [Long Memories](#) themes ([articles HERE](#))
- [Christian Playbook website](#) efforts are enjoyable, with helpful Christian resource links/ideas plus a periodic email post ([email sign-up is here for anyone interested](#))
- Guitar playing and singing continues to be a joy -- with Chapel Folk friends; with Guitar Guild friends; in worship with several “congregations” (senior living and county jail locations); [Joyful Noise Boys](#) (care facilities, hospitals and homes); weekly hallway music at a local hospice in-patient unit
- Loves spending time with individuals/small groups at local eateries, coffee shops and micro-breweries
- Enjoys kayaking and biking, especially around the Little Miami River
- Okra and tomato gardening efforts were fun – trying seed saving for next year’s crop!
- Loves spending time with the boys playing ping-pong, softball, watching sports and just relaxing
- Looking forward to a 2017 South Africa photo safari trip with his mom

## Cliff

- Enjoyed another great year with Cincinnati Insurance Company. When asked about the job he says “exactly what I hoped to be doing.” Promotions keep coming regularly in his IT role
- Became re-acquainted with Ginny Norman (went to same HS) and they are a really nice couple, enjoying lots of time together. She’s an IT specialist as well, with plenty of hobbies including knitting, felting and improv. They make each other laugh constantly
- Enjoys online gaming with friends and sports-watching
- Attended our local Renaissance Fair several times in his kilt – Ginny is a committed actor (this year did various roles, accompanied by her goose puppet.) Kim and Steve joined them for one of the days
- Traveled the tri-state for several concerts and really loves symphonic metal music
- Attended Bowling Green’s football game at Ohio State with Steve and had a great time despite the final score. They enjoyed football, the OSU band and a side trip to Wolf’s Ridge for some beer/food tasting
- Traveled to Indianapolis with friends for a weekend at the Gencom gaming convention

## Sam

- Received a promotion in the wine industry for Southern Glazer’s Distributing, and now consults with high end restaurants, wine shops, country clubs, and bars in more affluent areas of Cincinnati. Gone are the days of Kroger, Meijer, and the west side of Cincinnati, and now Dom Perignon and fancy bottles are the norm
- Recently moved to Northside, a fun and trendy neighborhood north of Over-the-Rhine (in Cincinnati,) and greatly enjoys the open-minded, “hipster-esche,” culture that makes the area so welcoming
- Continues to enjoy creating geeky food, studying beer and wine, and singing in the church choir at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Thomas.
- Looks forward to traveling to Colorado, Chicago and other destinations once the crazy wine selling season settles down after New Year’s!
- Recently joined his local gym, looking to become less “wiry,” and can’t wait for softball season to begin again!

We hope to hear what the past year has brought to you plus your upcoming activities. 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 in some family highlight pictures of the year, those are [HERE](#)

P.S.S. Some good website links for laughter can be found [HERE](#)