

Happy Holidays from the Cincinnati Longs! May your blessings be apparent all this season and for the upcoming year!



[We hope you'll "read on" for some 2017 Long family highlights..... OR just move on to your next email and know that we're thinking of you as 2017 closes with 2018's excitement (and challenges) ahead! 😊

Family overall

- **It was an exciting year – we gained a daughter on November 18th when Cliff married Ginny!** We love Ginny dearly and are excited for all that life holds for this couple. During the year we had the joy of participating in multiple showers (thanks Mindy/Alexis and Victoria/Beth!) and the pleasure of getting to know Cliff & Ginny's family and friends so much better
- It's nice to have all five Longs living in Cincinnati – Kim & Steve remain at 8643 Manitoba (with a smaller house in our future at some point,) Cliff & Ginny are settling into an apartment in Fairfield and Sam is in Northside. We are together regularly, usually around a Sunday meal
- We appreciate reunions and gatherings with immediate and extended family members. This year included the Cline reunion week in Michigan, multiple trips to the Canada property plus the wedding shower trip to Fremont
- The Long Libation League continues and details are [HERE](#)
- All 3 guys play softball together on the church team and enjoy ping pong action regularly
- 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 trips to Florida, Biltmore, Toronto for family/friend visits and sightseeing)
- Kim and Steve are planning 2018 trips to Florida and to Yellowstone/Tetons (Cline Family Reunion)

Kim

- Enjoys plenty of singing 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 dementia that is progressing)
- Rings hand bells at church, including regular worship participation
- Volunteers at the American Cancer Society resale shop a couple times a month
- Video editing continues when needed for Long Memories video production efforts
- Has thriving, beautiful gardens of flowers and vegetables
- Values time with the boys -- watching sports, fashion and cooking shows with Sam and playing cards and watching sports with Cliff
- Enjoys the infusion of more women in our home with Ginny's official entry to the family and Rachel's recent visits

Steve

- Enjoys “[Binder of a Lifetime](#)” – many people “get it” but far fewer find time to actively do it
- Encouraging others to make, capture, share & organize memories remains a passion. This includes writing periodic articles for our local newspaper with [Long Memories](#) themes ([articles HERE](#))
- Actively working on senior citizen efforts with local senior center and church. Along these lines, *Being Mortal* is a great read if you haven’t enjoyed it already
- [Christian Playbook](#) efforts are fruitful between the challenge of writing twice-weekly devotional emails (sign-up is [HERE](#)) and continuing to collect helpful Christian resource links, music and ideas
- Guitar playing and singing continue to be joys -- with Chapel Folk friends; with Guitar Guild buddies; worshipping with several “congregations” (senior living and county jail locations); [Joyful Noise Boys](#) (care facilities, hospitals and homes); and weekly hallway music at a 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 scenic Little Miami River
- Gardening efforts continue, even involving a little weeding this year
- Loves spending time with the family playing ping-pong, board games, softball and just relaxing
- Had a great South Africa photo safari trip with his mom – summary and pictures [HERE](#)

Cliff & Ginny

- Exciting times this year – on November 18th they were married! Wedding pictures, video, etc. are [HERE](#)
- Ginny did a fabulous job preparing for the wedding in many ways, including making the flower arrangements and working - with Cliff’s assistance - on the table centerpieces (each a different theme!) The wedding weekend was truly blessed time shared with each other plus lots of friends and family
- Honeymooned at DisneyWorld, enjoying rides, food, drinks, sights and the overall experience
- Cliff had another great year in his IT role with Cincinnati Insurance Company. When asked about the job he says “exactly what I hoped to be doing.” It shows - promotions keep coming regularly
- Ginny is an IT specialist at Solidifi. She has the side-benefit of working with her sister Victoria
- Ginny has various hobbies including knitting, felting and improv comedy
- They can make each other laugh constantly and are very much in love
- Both enjoy online gaming with friends and it’s fun to hear them talk about the group efforts
- Cliff was excited to be joining an Ultimate Frisbee team. The first game he was ready to make a scoring catch and instead ruptured his ACL, resulting in surgery and physical therapy
- Attended the local Renaissance Fair several times – Ginny took the year off as an actor since wedding preparations were taking much of her free time

Sam

- Continues to thrive in wine sales for Southern Glazer’s Distributing. He loves doing high-end wine tastings with restaurants, wine shops, country clubs, and bars in more affluent areas of Cincinnati
- Enjoys living in Northside, a fun and trendy neighborhood in northern Cincinnati. He appreciates the open-minded, bohemian culture that makes the area so welcoming
- Began dating Rachel starting mid-year and they enjoy attending weddings and getting together whenever they can. Distance makes the relationship harder – Rachel works for the family insurance business in the Youngstown, OH area – but technology and interstate highways make distance challenges a bit easier
- Continues to enjoy creating geeky food, studying beer and wine, and singing periodically 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
- Enjoys his local gym and efforts 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 Jesus shared!

With much love, The Longs – *Steve, Kim, Cliff, Ginny & Sam*

P.S. If you're interested in some family highlight pictures of the year, a few are below with more [HERE](#)
P.S.S. Laughter is mighty good medicine - website links for some laughs can be found [HERE](#)

