

APOL'S *Saturday*

Issue #24— July 2008

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF JAY & GRACINE APOL

Beppe

A year will have past, a year of adjustment without Jay and Gertrude.

Family, friends, prayers, cards and visits have helped ease the loss. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us that the Lord has plan for us—to help us—thank you, Lord.

In May, Memorial Day, we had an Apol gathering here at 7718—the great-grandkids caught fish, had rides in the boats and Nate went swimming.

In June, my friend, Gladys, and I took a tour to Lancaster, PA. We saw two biblical dramas—*Daniel* and *Abraham and Sarah*. We also went to the 9-11 memorial of the plan that went down and saved many lives in the DC area. The victims were brave people. The memorial is an American flag in the field. You can't get near it, but they have an area where left plaques, flags, messages, hats, etc. Our tour people reviewed this quietly, very much in awe. They have labeled this area "holy ground".

The weekend of July 4, Paul, Michele and Andrew came for a visit. Kay and her 3 kids also came, so we had a busy 4 days—a house full! The Apols came late afternoon and we had a picnic.

We have added 3 greatgrandchildren and one grandchild by marriage since July 14, 2007. We keep growing. Thank you Lord for the blessings of children!

Love to you all—you are in my prayers. I covet your prayers. Thank you for your caring.

Mom/Gracine/Grandma/Beppe



Dale & June

Frying news: Come see my new kitchen , its been a great upgrade. Living with out a sink for two weeks was not much fun but the results have been well worth the wait.

Now its time to go camping we have the cottage for the next two weeks so come out for a visit.

In August we will be camping at Holland with Dales brother and family who will all be coming for a nephews wedding.

As for family news we welcome a new grand daughter Julia Grace on May 31, what a sweetie with black fluffy hair and lots of it. Brooklyn even likes being a big sister.

Josh and Tara have moved out to Jenison, not as convenient when the girls forget their shoes.

Sue is working at Target and will be waiting till next fall to continue school, also spending a lot of time with Aaron.

Nate is working at the airport and still chasing Rachel.

Trev just got a new bike that he can ride with some one else doing the work, {lazy bum}. Its a tricycle with dual pedaling so if he would be so motivated HE could help. One problem also is it has coaster brakes that his feet like to put on even while you are doing the work, makes the hills a little work.

Don & Mary

Greetings from Caledonia MI where the weather has been most enjoyable lately. We have had a few big thunderstorms, one which brought 5" of rain overnight. Our koi pond in our circle driveway overflowed on both sides and we had fish swimming down the driveway. That has never happened before. There are many fish stories around here.

The guys have worked from Kalamazoo to Manistee this summer. Here at the retail water gardening we have been busy selling Water Lilies and Lotus - and Koi. Lutz has been a great help here on Saturdays.

Matt & Joni's garden froze, then flooded, then flooded. We have enjoyed asparagus, sugar peas and strawberries. They picked 300+ quarts. Maybe they will report on more.

That's it from the two of us.

Don & Mary Jo



The Little Ones

Julia Grace Fryling
May 31, 2008
10:10 am—6 lbs 9 oz.
18-1/2 inches long
Aaron & Nicole

Next Newsletter Deadline is—November 2008

Curt & Denise

Happy Summer -

Boy, where do I start? Since it has been a long time since I have participated in the newsletter - here goes - recent things first - or should I say upcoming - If you assumed the cousin's cookout would again be at our house you are right - we will be around and able to entertain the pool party. The date is July 26, anytime in the afternoon till whenever bedtime is for the kids for you that day. We will provide the hotdogs, buns and the fixin's plus all the tableware. So bring a dish to pass, a beverage, maybe a chair or two, sunscreen and mosquito spray.

Boy have those buggers hit us hard - Parker looks like he had a round of chicken pox this week. He frequently asks for some "itchy scream". Parker is three and into many, many things - he really doesn't play with toys but needs the things the big kids have, fishing poles, hatchets, knives, hammers and oh yeah, the never ending squirt bottle, which he now can fill himself when it is out. The second to last week of school he pulled the fire alarm while I was talking to Jarod's teacher - fortunately they could cancel it right away and I didn't have a fine to pay - it also worked out for the school since they had one more drill to go and this counted! This week he also learned how fun it can be in the pool not hanging on for dear life to mom, with just a swim ring. He is my shadow and works right along side of me as long as I allow it.

Keagan spends 75% of his day trying to catch the mud bass in the pond and is getting really good at taking fish off the hook himself rather than calling for Jarod to do it. Keagan also has fun in the pool since he is a bit taller and can stand tip toes if having no swim rings on. He is looking forward to Kindergarten at Allendale Christian this fall and excited to ride the bus to and from school as well as having Jarod as his 'bus buddy'. He always has a hug for me more than one time a day and likes his mommy time yet, too.

Jarod will be starting grade 4. This summer is a little slower for him and calls out the word 'bored' at times - to which I jump all over that one with a 'great! here are some jobs you can do for me' As he goes to do them he mutters under his breath how unfair it is that he is my slave - whoa is me! The poor boy needs a farm to live on so he can have a zoo of animals to care for b/c his mean old parents won't get him a pet or let him have any pets (he does have a rabbit) I am not THAT mean. Now he wants Keagan to get a female so to get babies and sell them - He looked at me in horror when I said maybe we should raise them for eating - "MOM - you can't eat pets!!" Jarod was able to take a woodchuck with his bow this spring. He is getting to be pretty accurate now which is good b/c he can bowhunt this fall with dad. He doesn't like to sit near me too often, but will let me rub his back when watching TV at night.

Curt maintains at Allendale Communications (Telephone) this year marking his 20th year full-time. His mentor group is on the downswing with about 6-8 months left (out of a two year process). On Father's Day W/E the group did a relationship seminar in Ionia - Deerfield Correctional Facility - so the boys and I got to say, when asked, where was their dad? - 'He's in jail!' He had an awesome experience and can tell you lots - too much for the newsletter. Curt also is busy around the house finishing up the smoke damage projects we took on ourselves (finally complete!) as well as fixing the schools lawn tractor, and general outside work of stacking wood, mowing and vehicle maintenance along with hunting a little with Jarod and playing with all the boys.

For me - I eagerly await heading out to MN July 1. We will be at Josh and Kate's for the first week, then out to Rod and Sharon's. I have my 20 year high school reunion on July 5th and am excited to see many I haven't kept in touch with for a long, long time. I work 8 hours a week, still in Labor and Delivery at Butterworth, with a week off now and again for vacations. I am now in my 13th year there. While I love labor and delivery, sometimes leaving at 10:15 pm is a struggle. We have a high school neighbor come to watch the kids so they can be in their own domain and stay home to have a leisure morning rather than getting hauled to a sitter. So far they really like it and I am able to sleep very well and do not hear them. I do not get to do my hobbies of rubberstamping or scrapbooking as often as I would like (or at all), but I figure I'll have time later - (I am banking on it) For the summer my hobbies of gardening and flower tending as well as weeding have taken much of my time - I do share the watering and weeding with the kids, though. My garden always tries hard to be nice, but we have rabbits, deer, raccoons, woodchucks and now geese - the geese mowed off 5 rows of 2 inch corn - that was new this year - so up went the fishline for awhile. I had it too good at our old house where nothing invaded the garden except me!

That is it for now - I think - from the wild acres in Allendale!!! Denise

Dan & Bonnie

Hi Apols,

I am going to keep this one short as I have written quite a bit on my blog. Please bookmark <http://dbapol.blogspot.com/> to keep up with all that is going on out west. I promise to work on attaching pictures this week. All is well and summer is in full swing for both of us. Hope all is well with everyone and you are enjoying your summer too.

SCRABBLE AND UNSCRABBLE

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH:

When you rearrange the letters:
HE BUGS GORE

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

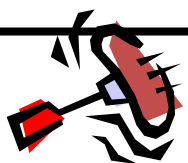
ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER



Cousins Cookout

July 26, 2008
at Curt & Denise's House

Matt & Joni

Strawberries, Strawberries, Strawberries. That's what we've been up to our elbows in lately. We started picking quarts on June 11 and finished up last Saturday (July 5). Michael and Jonathan were determined to beat me (Joni) this year, so on our second day of picking, they secretly set their alarm clocks for 6:30 a.m. and got out of bed and snuck outside before I even had a clue. They did this for 4 or 5 more days, always trying to stay ahead of me. They did pretty good, but I think they got tired of waking up so early. It was a lot of fun with everyone trying to outdo each other. We all kept track too. We made it up to 343 quarts. Here are our final totals:

Michael 74

Jonathan 81

Luke 26

Rachel 25

Mark 10

Joni 118

Matt got 2



(For all those math addicts out there, the kids' grandma picked 1 quart, and some customers came and picked 6, to make it up to 343) Our highest number we've ever picked in a year was 345. We tried to beat it. Oh, well, so close, but it just didn't happen.

Now we are onto tackling the weeds which have overtaken our whole garden. We gratefully accept any volunteers who are willing to help. ☺

Doug & Mae

Hello Apol Clan,

The summer is flying by way too fast. We celebrated Sam's 3 year b-day and Benjamin's 1 year b-day and Maddie has the countdown going for her 9 year b-day. Where did that time go? We don't have a lot of new news here. Doug has been busy trying to take care of a very naughty raccoon and one ugly possum. He is very hard to find...think he can smell the gun. Sam is ready to go on the attack, but just don't think he will be able to do much damage with a water gun?!

We have had the opportunity to hang out with Auntie Sara for a week and we are looking forward to spending the 4th up there with the whole family! It has been a while since we have all been together. Should be a good time!

Doug went on his yearly hiking trip this year to the Superior Hiking Trail. He had a good time and came back in one piece which is always nice. He is taking Maddie on a caniking trip in Aug (canoeing/hiking/hammocking) Not sure how she is going to do sleeping in a hammock, but we will see.

We pray you are all well and taking time to enjoy the summer.

Take care

Doug, Mae, Madison, Jessica, Abby, Sam, Benjamin, Raccoon and Possum



Ryan & Jayne

Hi Apols!

As I write this, Ryan's on his 16th call for the night since the storms have begun (it's July 2)- and it's an attic fire. He won't be home any time soon! Lightning is good job security! It will be interesting to go out tomorrow and see what the hail did to our garden. Speaking of Ryan, he has finished his Bachelors in Science- Fire Science. And he's now preparing to begin the Masters in Public Administration at GVSU. But we're still having lots of fun on his summer off.

Our kids love picking fruit/veggies of any kind, so we've picked strawberries a few times, and cherries as well. There is no need for additional fiber in the Tibbets' house!

Jake (5 yrs) has been busy trying to earn money. Since his crayon-colored pictures aren't selling too well, he has begun harvesting Japanese Beetles in a cup of soapy water, which he gets 5 cents apiece for. I'll let you know how much I loose on this deal!

Darcie (3 yrs) has been busy playing in the sandbox and swings every chance she gets.

Natalie (1 on the 12th) has conquered the steps and goes up and down, up and down all day long. "Down" needs some work yet, so there are a few minor bruises to show for her new hobby. Which is quite minor after her little trip in an ambulance in May! Apparently, our little "Peanut" needs a new nickname. After a reaction to a pb sandwich our babysitter gave her, and after 50 pokes to her back at the allergist, we now know Natalie is allergic to peanuts. We are so thankful that her reaction wasn't worse, and that she is otherwise healthy. And happy most of the time! Now we just have to figure out how to go down those steps . . . ☺

Jayne

Jeff & Annie

Happy Independence Day and greetings from a place that no one should live May-October. It is nice and toasty here. We hope to get a reprieve this week going to MN. We are excited to see everyone.

Will and Jules are doing great. Julia is busy crawling all over the place and getting into everything! Will is busy learning how to swim. I am busy taking care of a 5 month old baby 5 days a week.

Jeff will be busy starting a new job when we get back from MN. He's going to be the office manager for a friend's dairy and trucking business. We hope to get free milk and a pet cow out of the deal:)

Hope this finds everyone happy and well.
Love, Annie

Jason & Joleen

Hi—this is Esther.

We just got back from our church campout at Sonlife camp. We did lots of swimming, playing in the game room, and helping prepare and serve food in the kitchen. Two of my friends and I went riding in a canoe with one of the adults and we got a lily for the Moms. Alex was baptized in the lake at the church service. We had a big thunderstorm with lots of rain early on Saturday morning. I got a little wet in my hammock, so I moved into the truck at 5:11am.

Thursdays are our busy day. We play soccer in the morning at Douglas Walker then we go to Grandma Schut's house in Jenison and play softball in Hudsonville at night from 6:30—8pm. Alex, Sam, David and I all play, but on different teams.

We've been playing in our new pool a lot lately. Dad bought us an 18' round pool to put up in the yard. Bee even does belly flops off the ladder. We also got two new rabbits for David. We still have our two dogs, Max and Min. We also are starting our raspberry picking and Alex has 4 quarts already!

Sam has been digging up stumps in our yard using a backhoe. He likes it so much, he won't let Dad use it.

That's about it for now.

Esther and the rest of the Hopkins Apol crew.



Have a good summer!

Shane

G'day from the land Downunder

Yup, we're still down here, just pluggin along with life in temperate climates. Winter has hit us full force and it's cold – got down to 33 degrees F the last couple of nights...oh wait, we did have one or two nights where it got down to 32.5 (yup, they count half degrees here when it gets this cold J). But fear not, for most of our days find the temperature to be around the 50s to low 60s with lots of sun. I do miss the snow and it's about this time of year that all the Christmas songs start coming into my mind and I start thinking about maybe putting up a Christmas tree – all the feelings brought upon by cold weather. But it is so very nice to be able to do lots of stuff outside pretty much year round down here.



Megan

I spent this Christmas at home in the states as most of you know. I had the most wonderful time I've ever had at home I think. Being home for Christmas is very special and I will miss not being home this Christmas very much! I had some friends from Australia come and visit me on their round the world trip. Their names are Megan Blatch and Paula Trevor and we have been friends for quite some time now. In fact Megan and I have become even better friends and have started dating. She is a primary school teacher and just so happens to work at the same school I do; she teaches year 3. We both attend the same church as well.

School has been pretty "full on" as they say down under which means quite busy. I am in the midst of robotics at the moment with teaching them to my year 8s and also running the Central West Robotics Competition, which draws schools from about 200 miles around Dubbo to compete using mainly Lego NXT robots. It's all very exciting and heaps of fun but lots of work as well. Our second school term of the year is about to finish which means a three week break from students. However, I will be attending a masters level course from the National Institute of Christian Education (NICE) in Wagga Wagga, NSW titled 'Perspectives on

Learning.' for one week. I always enjoy these courses even though they are very intensive. It's a great way to take a step back and reflect on my teaching and challenge myself to teach more Christianly. And this one will be good because we will look at the different learning styles and critique them from a Christian point of view. I'm also thoroughly enjoying teaching computing. I recently found this amazing site called ToonDoo where you can make your comic strips and books and also create characters. It's a very cool site and if you have kids from kindy onwards they will love it. Just go to www.toondoo.com and play around first and then let them have a crack at it. If you want other links to good kid sites just go to my webpage – <http://www.dcslearner.com/computing>. There are links suitable for all ages.

There are always lots of things going on down under – it would be great if you dropped by for a visit. Always more than happy to put you up and show you the place, just let me know!

Shane

**My five-year old students
are learning to read.**

**Yesterday one of them
pointed at a picture in a zoo
book and said, 'Look at
this! It's a frickin' elephant!
I took a deep breath, then
asked...'What did you call it?'
'It's a frickin' elephant! It
says so on the picture!'**

And so it does...



**'African Elephant'
Hooked on phonics!
Ain't it wonderful?**

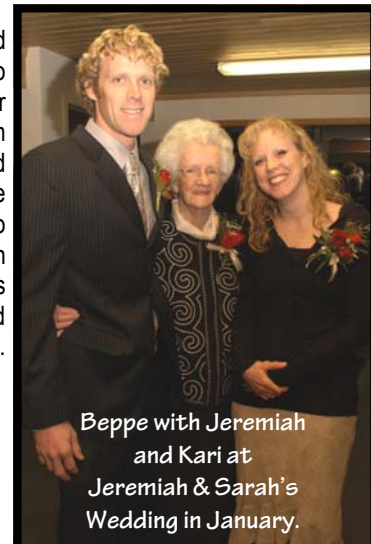
Craig & Keri

Hello to all!

Summer is here and in full swing..Finally!! It seemed like the spring was a long time in coming and only now are we enjoying the heat. The wild roses have just finished blooming. The kids have been swimming since the 3rd week in May even though the ice went off the week before. My garden is a bit behind, but the sun seems to be catching things up. Christina and I were talking the other day and realized that we are now beginning to lose minutes of daylight each day. Even though we still won't see the dark until the middle of August, it was a sobering thought:) Our whole family walked the midnight sun-run. The 10K race started at 10 o'clock pm and we were finished around 12. There was not a light on anywhere. It was pretty cool. The kids did so great and didn't even fall asleep until we were half way home. I think that it was around 2:30 when I crawled into bed. There is talk of doing it next year if anyone else is interested! (hint-hint)

We really enjoyed our time with Uncle Glen. We traveled around a lot of the state and did some hiking. He was only able to take a few pictures though. I guess he'll have to come back for some more! The decks are now all around the house and I am dreaming of the flower gardens that I am going to put around them. I am challenged to pick what I love and then to make sure that it grows here. We have been taking the boat and the kids out to wash some worms. We have yet to bring anything home, or even get it in the boat. I guess that saves on cleaning also right? It is great just to get out and see something different. And as we heard a Loon yesterday it made the trip worthwhile. Time to get going. Hope all is well in your lives.

Love the Brinks



Beppe with Jeremiah
and Keri at
Jeremiah & Sarah's
Wedding in January.