

# APOL'S Salizce

Issue #26— March 2009

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF JAY & GRACINE APOL

## Beppe

Hello Family!

We have added 3 new members to our family – welcome Megan and congratulations Shane and Megan. We are looking forward to your April visit where we will welcome you in person!

We also welcomed two little members – in January, Hannah Elizabeth Negen and February – Violet Whilhelmina Bird. Congratulations Rachel and Nick and Shannon and Jodi.

February also brought Kari and Craig and the kids to Michigan for a short visit. Enjoyed their visit – nice when I have visitors. By the way, the two babies make 54 great grandkids, and so that evened up the girl and boy numbers – 27 of each!

I'm waiting for spring. I haven't seen a robin, so I guess it is not quite spring. The snow is melting and I was surprised after the thaw that I have forgotten to have the boats taken off the beach. They have been completely covered with snow!

I had a visit with Jason and David. David was in his wheelchair – he is a good driver. He made it through two doors and down the hall. He is also a good card player – beat both Jason and Beppa. We played Uno. David still has his big smile.

I'm looking forward to warmer weather, birds at the feeder and flowers in the garden. I'm thankful for good health, good family and God's grace –

Love and prayers – Beppa-Grandma-Mom

## Rick & Mary

We left home on Feb 20. It took us two days to drive down to Port Arthur TX. We worked there for a week for CRWRC. We worked at one house for the week. Rick worked on the electrical stuff with John Sterk. John and Rick fixed the mistakes that the previous group did, and got all the outlets working. Then they put down the flooring. We tangled with a few fire ants. the weather was warm and sunny; the azaleas were blooming. The house (Miss Kay's) was almost finished when we left. She was a very special lady.

After that we went to Galveston for a day, and went to Moody Gardens. The next day we went to the Johnson Space Center. Monday we drove down to South Padre Island. We have a very nice Motel right on the beach. We are going to sit here a few days and relax, and then drive home. We called Julie this morning and were happy to hear that we were missing 10-20 degree weather while we were sitting on our balcony in the sun in shirt sleeves. Wish you could enjoy it with us!



## Congratulations to Shane and Megan!

There will be a reception for them on April 18, 2009 at 6pm. Invitations will be sent later.



Dear Apol Family,

*Thank you so much for your generosity in giving items for Christmas bags and birthday bags! You had a great variety of items that filled many bags. These bags brought many smiles to faces as they were opened at Christmas and are still being opened this month for their birthdays.*

*I looked up the word compassion since it is a word that describes Jesus. He had compassion for those around Him. Compassion means you have empathy, feeling and tender-heartedness toward others.*

*Thank you for showing compassion for our growing population in the Heartside Area. Thanks to the kids, also, who gave to children who find themselves in homeless situations and are staying at Mel Trotter or in a safe shelter with their moms. I was afraid that I would have to tell the patrons that the birthday bag program would have to be abandoned, but God provided once again through families like yours – families who care. THANKS!*

Ruth

*PS A special thanks also to whoever sorted the items!!*



Next Newsletter Deadline is changed to August 1, 2009

## Shannon & Jodi

Hey all! We have exciting news! Violet Wilhelmina was born on Feb. 9. She was a whopping 10lbs. 2oz. and 21 1/4in. and had a head full of beautiful brown hair. I guess her size explains why I was measuring 43 weeks on my due date. I think she has gained another couple of pounds in these 2 weeks. She doesn't look like a two week old more like a month or more. She is well loved by everyone in the family although I think Emmitt was a little disappointed she was a girl. He likes to act like he doesn't think she's that great but he gives her lots of hugs and kisses. The kids are all great helpers and the girls really love holding her. I think they would prefer to stay home from school to spend more time with her. The girls are enjoying school for the most part. Ally is in 3rd grade and is learning about Indians and has fun writing to her pen pal from a Wyoming school. Bridgett is in 1st grade and is learning to read really well. Emmitt usually says he's bored at home but doesn't think school sounds that fun either. He has made some pretty cool things these past couple of months. Cardboard is his favorite material to use. He has really put his imagination to work and creates whatever he thinks up. We have bow and arrows, swords, animal houses; all kinds of boy stuff. It's fun to see the difference between the girls and him.

Work has been steady for Shannon, so that is a blessing. He also has been helping with Cadets this year and is enjoying it. I have been busy with the kids, coffee break, MOPS and now Violet. I forgot how long it takes you to go somewhere when you have a baby. It's great though.

We hope everybody is well and are looking forward to everybody getting together this July. I'm going to sleep now to see if we can break the record for sleeping consecutive hours! ☺ Jodi



**The Little Ones**

**Violett Wilhelmina Bird**  
February 9, 2009  
Shannon & Jodi Bird

## Bill & Helene

Greetings from the frozen tundra. Yes that would be Minnesota. We are actually in a snow storm at the moment! Schools were called off today and Sara didn't make it to work. Could you have a better day to pack your suitcases for ARIZONA! I knew that state was good for something 8-) Well weather permitting we plan to head out west on Saturday the 28th. Bob is coming along and we will be trading in Gus for Maddie and Jessie in Sioux Falls. Sara has claimed the front seat so we will be taking turns sitting in her chair.

I think I was packing for Guatemala before the last newsletter. I thought 3 weeks was going to be kind of long, but the time flew by. It was fun renewing acquaintances with both volunteers and Campers. You only wish you could do more for them, like heal pressure sores, infections, and all the problems of living with a paralysis due to gunshot wounds, birth defects, skin diseases and etc. You do come home with a different perspective on life. They teach you how to really depend on the Lord for your daily bread and simple needs and comforts we so take for granted. They are really beautiful people and so appreciative for the opportunity to come to Camp and have a week away from their meager homes.

Mae took care of Sara while I was gone and helped make Thanksgiving dinner. Ann and kids came home after Christmas and we hung out with Mae and kids for a week at the home front. The kids got to make a big snow bunny and caves with Uncle Bob and Uncle Doug. Bill is chomping at the bit to get the greenhouses started. Once we get back from Arizona he will fire up the furnaces and get his hands dirty. We are going to offer light lunches or tea parties this summer in the garden. Freewill donations for Guatemala. So get your reservations in. We do have beds and breakfast too.

Hope to see you all at Easter. I hear you have a big get together. And we are looking forward to meeting the newly weds, Shane and Megan. Tell me what to bring. That is Bob and myself. Bill will be planting and Sara is going to visit Mae. What would we do without sisters :-)

Til then, Love, Helene

## Josh & Katie

Hello to all from the frigid state of MN!

I know that we haven't written for a long time but not a whole lot is new here. The weather has been cold and very windy. Mother Nature has been toying with us the last couple of weeks. There will usually be a really nice day into the 40's and then the next will be around 0 degrees.

Josh is continuing to stay busy with his job. Other carpenters have been real slow this winter but he manages to stay busy working a full day every day. I am continuing to work part time on the Women's and Children's Floor at Rice Hospital, while also doing a side job of selling Pampered Chef. We also have been crazy busy at the hospital. People must have been bored 9-10 months ago =). I absolutely love staying home more and am trying to convince Josh to let me be a full time stay at home mom.



Trypp is growing up so fast. He will be a year old in the end of March. Time has flown by so fast. We definitely cannot wait to get outside with him when it decides to get nice. He is starting to learn how to walk. He loves to walk his toys around the house (thinks he is big stuff) and cannot get enough of climbing stairs. We are definitely staying busy with him.

Anyway, hope everybody is having a great beginning of the year and we cannot wait to see everybody again.

Lots of love, Josh, Katie, & Trypp

**Schedule Change**

Hey Everyone!

Just a note about our next deadline—I've decided that the next newsletter will be created in August 2009 since we'll be seeing everyone so much in July! I'll continue to send out reminders to everyone just before the deadline!

Thanks! - Joleen

**YOU HAVE A MESSAGE**

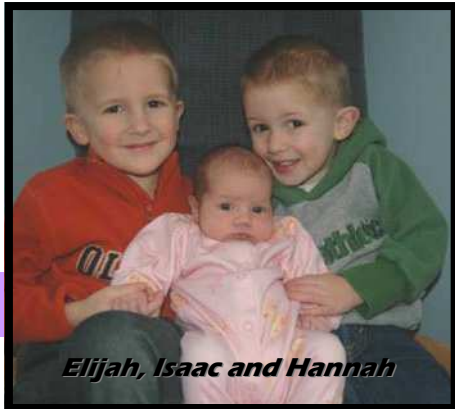
## Chris & Gwyn

Hi everyone,

Well, I think I finally have some news worth writing about. Chris and I are expecting a new addition at the end of JULY!!! About time right?? Anyway, must be the right time. The date is July 24, am I doubling up on anyones birthday? We are very excited and debating on whether or not to find out the sex. I absolutely do not want to know and Chris wants to plan. By the time this comes out, the debate would have been settled as our ultrasound was on Fri, Jan 27th.

Oh, I also started a new job at ADP, automatic data processing. I will be selling software as a service for businesses with 50-999 employees in regards to payroll, taxware, benefits administration, hr services, expense, time and labor management and the list goes on. I will be finishing up my final training Mar 6. (I started Dec!!) Anyway, that is all that is new right now!! Take care everyone!!!!

love  
Chris and Gwyn



*Elijah, Isaac and Hannah*

I had a wonderful trip to Australia – let me tell you about it. ☺ After a great flight, although a day late, Shane & Megan met me Sydney. It was in the morning so we had the rest of the day to site-see the city. Of course we saw the Opera House and the Harbor Bridge and took a boat tour around the harbor. Into the city a bit around the gardens and a drive out to the North Head to look across to the South Head where the harbor starts. We spend the night at a friend's house and after celebrating Christmas at a CRC church in Sydney we then headed south to Megan's sister Wendy and Chris's home in Berry – Blueberry. We stayed with them for two days and they graciously took us down the south coast to Jarvis Bay and other wonderful points along the way.

We had to keep moving so we left them on Saturday headed south then went inland to Megan's sister Karen and John – Snow Gum Lodge. The inland road was through the mountains and was just beautiful. We left them on Sunday morning and took back roads to Abercrombie Cave and camped the night. Along this road we saw a number of kangaroos. Left the next morning for Dunns Swamp. We took the Bridle Trail. The sign says it all. But it was really beautiful and just so much to see! And yes that is the trail you see under the sign going across the field. We even had to slow down for the sheep on the trail. Then we arrived at Dunns Swamp! What a beautiful place! Not a swamp as we understand it at all. The backwater of a dam. The best swimming! We did some hiking and canoeing and just relaxing. We camped for two nights, then packed up and headed for Shane's place and got there News Year eve.

The next week I helped Shane and Megan at both of their places and did whatever wedding stuff that needed to be done. I also was able to meet more of Megan's family and friends. It was a busy week. BUT THEN the day I went for THE WEDDING! It was beautiful. This picture says it all.

Of course this is just a snap shot of my trip. I can't wait for you all to meet my new daughter-in-law Megan! Please come to a reception for Shane and Megan on April 18 at 6:00pm at Cutlerville School Gym. Watch for an email invitation too.

AND how much more can I be blessed that I have a new granddaughter too!! Hannah Elizabeth Negen born Jan 9.

Well it has been a busy time. But good. And spring is coming! May God be with each of you. Love Lutz

## Craig & Kari

Hello to all!

We have had a great winter and a wonderful, though short, visit to Michigan. I think that one was close to a record!

Things are going well for us here and we enjoyed showing Mom and Dad around. The weather cooperated and didn't get much below -20. It was even warmer part of the time, allowing us to do some snowmobiling and other outside stuff. We all had a great time and have really wonderful memories.

The kids are all doing well and we are having fun with school for the most part. ( They will not always agree....) I am so amazed at what I am learning. I'm not sure I am much smarter than a fifth grader! I am keeping up so far and love my new math skills.

Shannon, Reanna and Zack are taking horseback riding lessons. They really enjoy being around the horses and as a bale of hay goes for \$13 dollars, it will be the closest they get to having one.

The girls have their dog sled races in the next couple of weeks and are really looking forward to them. I am not sure they will update the website, but you might be able to check them out on FJDMA.com

They have trained hard and are ready to compete with someone other than each other. Not much else to write, the door is always open and we'll keep the light on for ya' ...  
love Kari

## Don & Mary

Greetings from Caledonia MI where we have had a long, hard winter! We did escape a few times, first in January with our Fremont friends to Chicago to a trade show. We also enjoyed the Cheesecake Factory with them again. It was the coldest few days of the winter, but it was a good escape for us and going by Amtrak sure beats driving to the windy city!

In February we went to San Diego CA. The first week was cold and rainy and I had to buy an extra jacket. We attended a Koi Conference including a nice pond tour. We visited the San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park, Joshua Tree National Park, met friends from church in Palm Springs and also Randy in Escondido. We rented a Toyota and had a flat tire. We decided CA is huge/vast/enormous so will have to go back some day.

Back from vacation and I'm doing taxes and hope to clean some files and cupboards before spring. Matt painted our office so it has a fresh look. Don has been repotting aquatic plants and playing with his Koi. The calendar says it's only 22 days until spring! We'll be ready!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon when Shane and his new bride come out!  
Don & Mary Jo



## Lutz

Hello All, The sun shine of the last few days have been wonderful! Maybe because I had a lot of it in January I miss it more now.



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## Doug & Mae

We are doing well here in South Dakota. We were sure spring was right around the corner when the grass started turning green-Mae even packed up some of the winter gear in preparations for flip flops-but the ground turned white once more. I am feeling sorry for myself right now while Madison & Jessica are getting a suntan in Arizona visiting the Memmelaars with Mom, Dad, Bob and Sara. Not sure how they got to go and I had to stay home!

We are looking forward to getting outside soon and starting a garden. We also need some major landscaping done so if any of my talented family is in the area and needs something to do please stop by! (bring your tractor)

We have been busy with school and church. Benjamin is getting PT, OT and speech and is now sporting some new leg braces. He just kinda has that land back thing going and doesn't feel the need to walk. My back would like to argue the point that carrying a 20 month old is getting old but frankly the kid is so cute it is hard :) He's world has really changed since getting his glasses. Now if we can just get the kid to walk....

Sam got a rifle (not real) for Christmas and is having a blast hunting the raccoons, possums, deer, badgers, moles, rabbits, woodchucks and the cats that frequent our yard. His dream is to take down a bear-he gets that from his father talking about the bears on his hiking trips. He will come in handy when he is old enough to actually do some hunting around here. He is still planning on being a farmer when he grows up. Not sure where he got the farming bug but he sure has it.

Doug is busy planning his next hiking trip-if anyone is interested please let him know. His group keeps getting bigger and are coming from about 3 different states. I believe the hike is in Wyoming this year (don't quote me on that)

He has really gotten good at sewing up the stuff that he needs so that everything is lightweight, making the camp stove out of V-8 cans and making his own sleeping quilt. He is also taking his Cadet group hiking this summer. Not sure if their parents know what the boys are getting into but I suppose if they all come back in one piece things will be fine.

Can't think of much else to share. We are looking forward to the camping trip this summer and hanging out with everyone! Brings back alot of memories from the past camping trips we use to do. It will be fun to start these memories with our kids.

Praying you are all well!

Doug, Mae, Madison, Jessica, Abby, Sam & Benjamin

## Mike & Faith

Hi there family,

Another 4 months has passed since the last letter. Wow, time is flying!

We have had a very busy winter. We sure do appreciate the support of family as we have had quite a little grief in the Wubben family. With both Harriet and Rachel's death we still will say "Thank you, Lord." There is a hole in our families but He supplies the needs for all of us. Both of them loved the Lord and are now celebrating eternal life with Him and all the loved ones who have gone before. What are they experiencing?!! One day we will know.

But we have had such blessings also with the birth of little Violet Bird. It sure is fun having a little one to hold again. It is so much fun to see the joy on the faces of the kids when they look at their little sister. What a precious little gift.

We also got to spend time in Alaska with the kids. It was so good to be with them in their own homes and to be able to share time together. The grandkids were such a joy. Sawyer said a Dutch word he had never been taught to say. Would you believe he couldn't say grandpa but instead said "Paka". We went to Chena Hot Springs and swam in the pool outside with the temps at -18\*. What a hoot! Our hair was quite stiff but the body very warm. The temps were at -38\* while we were in Alaska. It would have been -58\* if we would have come 2 weeks before. Our coats sounded like crinkly paper when we stood outside so bundle up was the word. We also took a snowmachine (that is Alaskan for snowmobile or maybe that is the word I grew up with in MN) ride on a -8\* day. That was cold and eventful!!! What a beautiful country - someday, I sure hope we will be able to see it in the summer.

Just a quick reminder, Easter will be celebrated together in Wayland CRC. I sure hope we will all be able to get together for a wonderful time of being together as a family. Take things along for the kids to play outside or inside. We will be able to use the ping pong table etc. It will be good - We all need each other. We will let you know more details later.

May God bless each one of you,

Mike and Faith :) this gal is on Facebook:)) Crazy!!! but fun

## Curt & Denise

Well, Well, Well – here it is – time for an update from the Gulker's.....

We have been keeping VERY warm and toasty here at home since Curt finished the outdoor woodstove and installed it himself with lots of help from the parents! It feels soooo good to be warm with this cold and long winter.

Curt is finishing up the mentor program at Deerfield Correctional facility (jail) in Ionia, since it is closing soon. I believe he has one more visit with his guys and then they move elsewhere. Depending on where they go, will see if he can keep up the mentorship program. I got to go to this facility in Feb. to see where he goes and meet some of the guys when they had a special revival ceremony/graduation. It was wowing to me on what their testimonies were and what they hoped to take from the w/e to practice living the Gospel.

I had a chance to feel what is was like with no income on my behalf for the whole month of February. Work was sooo slow and I got canceled for the whole month! I finally had the chance to work Feb 28th and it felt good! I did enjoy the time off, though, with being healthy and not so tired all the time:O)

The boys are itching for warmer weather lately so be outdoors for longer periods, and frankly, I am too. Ready to get down to yard-work, cleanup and landscaping work. My house is showing the effects of 3 energetic boys housebound for too long. Far too many dings in the walls this winter.

So in looking ahead to the summer.... The annual Cousin Cookout will be July 25th this year, so get it on the calendars!!! Hope to see most of you at Easter this year and Blessings to all!!!

Curt and Denise, Jarod, Keagan & Parker

## Don't forget about the Apol Family Reunion!



**Starting on  
July 11, 2009  
at Stony  
Haven  
Campground**

[campground.com/](http://campground.com/)  
[stonyhavencampground](http://stonyhavencampground)

**If you have any questions,  
contact Aunt Mary Ann!**