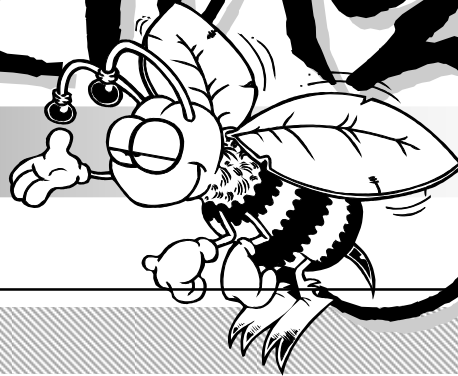


# Buzzings

The latest happenings from the family of  
Albert & Rena Bakker



## GRANDMA BAKKER

Sept. 27 – Cal, Lisa, Anna & Baby, Brian, Lydia and Cody here for visit.  
 Sept. 29 – Arla came and took me to farm. Cal & Lisa were there too. Cal cleaned needles off from roof and also branches on the roof. Cal also discovered a coon in the woodstove in the basement, so he built a fire in the stove. That made him leave.  
 Sept. 30 – Saw a slide show about Traverse City, Suttons Bay and Northport.  
 Oct. 4 – Elaine picked up me, Bob & Arla at a parking lot and rode to Dave & Karens cabin. This is not too far from where Dad and the boys used to go deer hunting.  
 Oct. 8 – All the girls and I to the farm. Did lots of cleaning.  
 Oct 10 - The Moline Christian School 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders were here to give a short program.  
 Oct. 15 – Also had a very nice program by the Musical Seimens.  
 Oct. 18 – Bob, Leah and Whitney came here for a visit. Bob was watching the girls. They're too old to call it babysitting.  
 Oct. 20 – I went to Dr. France for my yearly eye exam. No changes.  
 Oct. 21 – Mary took me to the doctor for a checkup. Found my blood pressure is rather high. Had a flu shot.  
 Oct. 24 – Tom called and said Jason & Marie have a baby girl, Krista Joy. That makes 32 great-grandchildren for me.  
 Oct. 25 – Went to a deacon's dinner. This was at the family restaurant right here in Byron Center.  
 Every now and then we have some kind of program. Some very good, others just not my kind. Like today they had a Halloween party.  
 I was glad Mary took me for my hair appointment. This is all this time.  
 God bless you all. - Grandma



## JASON & MARIE

Hello from South Dakota. We finally have something to put in the Buzzings... On Oct. 23. we welcomed our first baby, Krista Joy, into the world. She weighed 5lbs. 13oz., she measured 18 1/2 inches long. She is so adorable and loves to be cuddled. We've had lots of visitors in the last few days. Right now Becky and Chloe are here, and Chloe just helped Jason hand out candy and tracts to about 55 'customers'. Now that Krista has arrived, I am taking 3 months off of work (I graduated as an RN last May and have been working as a nurse in the Pierre hospital since) and am very excited to get to spend lots of time with her. Jason was able to stay home for a week and then will take some extra time off during the holidays. Our black lab Casey is still trying to figure out what this baby's doing. He's a little jealous not getting all the attention anymore. A couple of weeks ago we got away to the Black Hills for an extra long weekend and toured the towns of Lead and Deadwood and then did some shopping in Rapid City. Now the only trips planned soon will be the ones home to see grandma and grandpa.



Jason, Marie, & Krista

**Next newsletter deadline: FEBRUARY 1, 2009**

## JARED

I'm in Ireland, working for my undergraduate college, Taylor University. I'm the residence director for their study abroad program, based in Greystones, which is a small community about 20 miles south of Dublin, on the east coast. There are 31 students here this semester, all but three of them are freshmen, and those three are "personnel assistants," basically meaning they're students who get paid a small amount to do whatever I tell them and simply be around for the other students' needs. My primary job is to take care of needs that arise, such as eating, heating, that sort of thing. I also have served as something of an adjunct professor for their discussions on C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, as well as taking care of getting their assignments together and then emailed to the professors back on Taylor's Upland campus back in Indiana. The rest of the job is to just be and do whatever is needed at the time, whether that's some short-notice counseling or looking up and booking travel schedules for trips. It's a fairly challenging experience, but I've been blessed with an incredible group of students with a strong drive to grow spiritually, socially, and intellectually.

Over the course of the semester I've been to most of the tourism attractions in Ireland, especially the ones with educational roots, such as monasteries, famine museums, and revolution locations from the early 20th century. We'll be visiting Northern Ireland, mainly Belfast, early in November. Most of the time I get to explore the surrounding area of Dublin. Also, over a 4-day weekend break, I went to Rome and Venice with a small group of the students. Italy's a fun place, though I don't recommend more than a day for Venice. Also, three days in Rome isn't quite enough, and that's without visiting museums.

All in all, the job has been challenging, rewarding, and in many ways feels like where I should be. I'll have two months off when the fall term ends, which I'll spend back in Northern Michigan with my parents, and then I'll have a spring term with a mixed group of 30-40 students, this time of every year of study. As for after that, we'll just have to wait and see.

Jared

## DON & MARY

In mid-October we took a few days off. First stop was to Dave & Karen's new cabin in Paris. What a wonderful place! Took a ride to the Bitely area and checked out the "party place". Saw about 20 deer! On to the U.P. and to the Munising area for 2 days. We looked up and walked to these waterfalls: Alger Falls, Scott, AuTrain, Rock River, Laughing Whitefish, Wagner, Tannery, Munising, Miner and the best for last, Chapel Falls. I'm not sure how many miles we walked as all but 2 of these are a hike to get to.

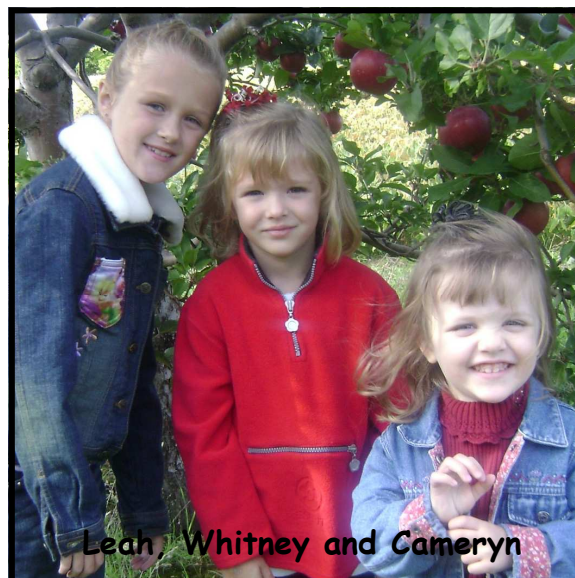
Dan has been here twice this fall and will come again for Thanksgiving - with Bonnie. We watched him referee volleyball at Western Mich University.

We have been to 2 trade shows this fall. How much do we order for Spring/Summer 2009??

Hope you are all having fun raking leaves, pulling annuals and getting ready for snow. We are having a beautiful, colorful fall here in Caledonia MI!  
Don & Mary

## SCOTT & SHELLY

The biggest news at the Boerman house is our NEW addition ( no, it's not what you are thinking--getting way too old for that!)-it's Arthur, our new kitten! He is a rescue--my boss had a pregnant cat dropped off in her front yard, but he is fitting in well and I think the girls are going to squish him to death, they are "loving" him soo much! Whitney is enjoying pre-school this year at Marshall school in the Byron Center school system. She went on her first field trip last week to Pumpkin World in Middleville. We celebrated Leah's birthday here in September with a party --Randy made a beautiful horseshoe cake for the horse themed party! Cameryn is still busy being resistant to potty training, but the Lord is teaching us patience!! We took the girls to Veggie Tales Live last week at the Central Wesleyan church in Holland--they had a great time. Shelly is still working for Tendercare and making some trips to Traverse City. A few weeks ago Randy came along and Shelly had her first motorcycle ride up the Old Mission Peninsula! Scott finished his first graduate school class--so far, so good! We are all looking forward to the holidays, and the girls are especially excited about their birthdays. I think that's all for now!



Leah, Whitney and Cameryn

## ANNA

Hi Bakkers!

Braden John Totten was born on September 7, 2008. He weighed in at 7lbs 14oz & 21in long. We have been enjoying the past couple months taking care of him and watching him grow. Cody gets to spend the most time with him right now but Morgan was able to join us for a long weekend over October 11th, he has been in North Carolina for the school year. About a month ago I was able to spend a couple hours with Johnathan and Aleena and let them meet their new baby brother.

We have also been spending a lot of time working on getting my new house ready for winter. We have been gathering wood the last 3 Saturdays. Mom & Dad's Sunday School Class joined us on October 25th and we were able to knock out enough truckloads to feel comfortable for winter.

I am back to work now and Braden has been enjoying being the center of attention at the daycare center. We are looking forward to the holidays and all of Braden's "firsts". He is already smiling and recognizing mom, Cody & his Grandma & Grandpa Bakker.

Hope to see everyone soon.  
Anna, Cody & Braden



Braden John Totten

## BOB & ARLA

The Black, Red and Grey squirrels are busy in our yard and the beautiful falling leaves tell us winter is on the way.

In September we took a Road Trip with friends to Manistee and had fun at the Victorian Festival there.

We are thankful for our pocketchange jobs and we keep busy volunteering at our church.

This year we are helping with AWANA on Wednesday nights.

Thanks to Dave and Karen for their invitation to visit at their Log Cabin in Paris on October 4. We had a great time walking through the woods to see the deer tree stands where the hunters will hide. We carpoled with mom and Elaine again.

Just 5 more days until election day and we all know whatever happens, we are all in the Lords hands. He is in control and He never fails.

Blessings to all, Bob & Arla

## ALAN & LYNN

It is a busy time up north. Mostly have been having beautiful fall weather- has been clear and dry, and warm until the last few days. Just a bit of a nip in the air now. Had a bit of sleet and snow last week, but now back to sunny. The apple pickers have just a few days left and they don't want to work if it is rainy and cold, so we are praying for a couple more days of fair skies.

Have a huge apple crop. Lots of varieties, including Honey Crisp. They have been very popular at the local farm market- especially after a newspaper article featured our new variety, the SweeTango. We only had 65 bushel, but we probably could have sold 300 or more! Other flavors were popular too, as were the peaches, pears, apricots, plums, and cherries, and garden vegetables like broccoli, peas, and zucchini! We went to several farm markets a week this summer, and had others also selling for us in Traverse City.

The boys are busy with school work and Boy Scout projects. (See wreath ad at the bottom!) Josiah and Andrew had a great soccer season this fall. Ben has been attending TaeQuonDo and now has started firefighter and EMT training (any input, Ryan?) He can drive himself to stuff now! He also helped install the irrigation we put in on the apples- it seemed to help, as it was very dry this summer.

We went camping to the UP this summer. Enjoyed Two Hearted River area. The Boy Scouts went out to South Manitou Island for several days in August as well. All three boys hiked all over, went to see the shipwreck, climbed the lighthouse. We saw a sailing ship come into the harbor. Lynn swam out to and looked down at the shipwreck that is under water near the lighthouse.

Ben got his wisdom teeth out last month, and Josiah is having a tooth out soon, too. The woodburner is warming the house quite nicely. We are considering getting a few horses in the spring, as a non-gasoline way to mow the lawn. Leland school just had a mock election that is apparently famous, we went over to watch the excitement. We have been keeping Sara, Brice, and Ellie in our prayers.

If you would like to order a beautiful Christmas wreath, please let Ben and Josiah know. Large 2 foot across plus (26") wreath with pine cones and a red bow is only \$26, and are made locally with fresh greens. We will deliver in time for Christmas!

Happy Fall to All!





## ELAINE

In this season or the year a verse that comes to mind is " O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom thou hast made them all: the earth is full of thy riches." Psalm 104:24

Although I did not travel far this autumn the greatness of the Creator is displayed everywhere day and night; in the vivid colors of the trees, on the stands of the outdoor markets, and in the bright full moon. What a creation! And how much more we feel His mercy from day to day with His care; with the birth of children and the care of each of us from day to [day, as](#) we recognize His promises of grace.

It was a quiet yet busy enough summer. I enjoyed being outside taking care of the yard and being amused by visits of the forest creatures. The six Fabers spent a week at a roomy cottage on Pentwater Lake. There was time for boating, swimming, reading, lots of eating, and just the right amount of togetherness!. (The boat is now in NC in warmer waters).

Cousin Alice and I took three nights in the Traverse City area. There was plenty of walking up/down/on dune trails to bluffs overlooking the BIG lake and checking out lighthouses. A highlight was taking a ferry to South Manitou Island and having a tour on a 1976 dune buggy to the sights there,

Now it's time to be a bit more structured on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at school, reading advanced books with beginning 1st graders who read like last semester 2nd graders. Women's Bible study is biweekly on Wednesday mornings. And on the weekends there may be time for a symphony with Shari ... and there's always time for the growing grandkids!

Now, can anyone tell me why there have been days with flocks of robins twirping loudly in my neighborhood lately? Robins were not seen for about 6 weeks and now there have been so many flitting about.

And to let everyone know how old I am, I went to my 50th class reunion from South Christian High last month. The years do fly by. Before long, it'll be your turn!

Elaine



Grandma found a note in one of her old checkbooks from 1956 -  
Bought a cow from Al VanderWoude for \$125.00.

## DAVE & KAREN

It's been a busy fall. The school year here is a bit different for us, since Abi now attends Baker College in Muskegon and lives there. She comes home some weekends. Zac is a senior at Crossroads Charter Academy and is also taking a class at Ferris State University. He has had a busy soccer season and scored a total of 27 goals with 15 assists for his final high school season. They were District Champs, but lost the first game of the Regionals to Suttons Bay - a much bigger school - which was played on the soccer field that was formerly the playground for Muskegon Christian School - where Aunt Elaine used to have recess duty (just a few years ago!) Zac is hoping to play soccer for Trinity Christian College in Chicago next year. Dave continues with his job as Assistant Principal of the elementary school and Curriculum Director for the Reed City Public Schools, and Karen keeps trying to sell houses and property. She also has spent quite a bit of time lately at City Hall in Big Rapids helping prepare for the election, and will be working early morning to late at night on election day as chairperson at one of the precincts. We also have been spending as much time as we can at Hidden Creek Lodge, our cabin which is just a few miles west of our house in Big Rapids. We enjoy having visitors there as well. So far we have seen it in late spring, summer and fall, and wonder how it will look in the winter!

Dave is having physical therapy 3 times a week following surgery on his right shoulder to repair a torn rotator cuff and have bone spurs removed. It's a long, slow process to get the arm working. That's about it from this bend in the road!

Karen

## CAL & LISA

Cal wanted me to mention the following things (and there may be some of my own in there some where):

We vacationed for a few days in the Western Michigan area in early October – camped at the Miller Lake Campground about 10 miles south of the farm. Anna, Cody and baby Braden joined us for the first three days, Lydia and Brian came up to spend the day with us on Saturday, and we had a visit from Lisa's Sister-in-Law Marian and niece Gina and her family. We had a great visit together. We visited with Mom at the Manor, and worked at the farm on Monday where Cal had to chase a big, fat raccoon out of the woodstove and chimney. It took a lot of work, a lot of thought, and some ingenuity (supplied by Lisa and Arla), but we finally got Mr. or Mrs. Raccoon to seek out another home without filling the house with too much smoke.

In late August we bought a "new" big red truck – big enough to pull our camp trailer and probably anything else we'd ever have need to pull. It's a 2004 one-ton turbo-diesel 4-door, 4 wheel drive. We used it to come down state on our vacation. It rides really nice, and Lisa can drive it without too much trouble because the gas and brake pedals move towards the driver if needed. That only leaves the problem of getting Lisa into the truck as it is quite high off the ground – but we plan to put steps on it. For now, we've tied a stool to a rope that she can use to get in, then pull in behind her.

Our lives changed wonderfully when Anna delivered baby Braden John Totten on September 7<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful blessing a baby is – and Braden is no exception. We spend most evenings with Anna and the family, and a lot of time in between, helping her and the boys and getting to know Braden. He's almost two months old now, and we are all still spellbound with this little miracle gift God has bestowed upon her and us. The past three Saturdays were spent getting Anna's wood in for the season. Over the three weeks we had about 17 people from our churches and our workplaces come and help us, along with four of our nephews and some other friends. She is all set now, and may even have enough wood to get her through two winters! The next task is finishing the basement bedrooms and livingroom – scheduled for Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have Morgan and Cody into their own new bedrooms by Christmas or earlier.

When not working on Anna's new home down the road from us, we have spent several hours working on her rental home 20 miles away. Two of our nephews and a friend of theirs is renting it from her, but we needed to get it in shape. The house has never looked better! Yesterday we put cedar shakes on the front of the house for about 13 feet to repair the siding after a window was replaced, and the third bedroom was prepared for our second nephew to move in this week. We have to lay new carpet and get the room painted yet, but we're nearly finished with the work there. Angelo, the oldest nephew, is talking about taking in a troubled teen (brother of the other roommate), a neat Christian kid who has had a tough road living in a very messed up situation. Angelo is a new Christian himself, and is reaching out in the best of ways to help these other two Christian siblings get their lives in order. We're very proud of him.

Jared is spending several months in Ireland – Greystones in County Wicklow. He is one of a team of two resident advisors overseeing Taylor University's Ireland campus for two semesters. He will be home for a couple months around Thanksgiving, then finished with his second semester there in May. He took a group for a long weekend to Rome and Venice, and will try to plan a few more trips to Europe while he is there. We don't hear from him very often, as he is rather busy being the only adult male on campus and advisor to a class of freshmen college students. He tells us it is an amazing job, and seems to be enjoying his visit there very much.

Bowling season is in full swing, but Lisa has curtailed most of her bowling and coaching in favor of spending most of her free time with our new grandson, Braden and his mom and brothers. She is coaching the children's leagues about three hours a week, and bowling once, but not coaching the high school teams this year which took up about 10 hours of her time a week. Lisa has been running the Pro-shop at the bowling center for the last couple of years, as well, which she continues to do on an appointment basis, so if anyone needs new bowling equipment or lessons at a significantly reduced rate, feel free to give her a call.

Please keep Anna and the family in your prayers as we all work through our grief. We had John in our family for such a short time, but he made a very big impact on all of us and he is greatly missed. Every day, sometimes every hour, something comes up that reminds us of him. We look forward to seeing him again when we join him in heaven, but our time here seems emptier without his presence.

I can't think of much more to write about – the time change has addled my brain. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you, not continuously of course, but each in time as The Lord brings you to mind. Take care, and we hope to see most if not all of you sometime soon.

Love, Cal and Lisa



## TOM & DENISE

We are happy to be blessed with a new granddaughter, Krista Joy Haug. Mother and Baby and Dad are doing great! Tom and Denise went to Pierre SD to hold her the 1st weekend she was home.

Brice and Sara and Ellie seem to struggle with illness and being very busy in Haiti and need our constant prayers. They are planning to be home November 18 - December 9. It will be so good to see them again and receive one of Ellie's hugs.

Janine and Daniel are busy in school - Janine is in the 9th grade and has just finished the season with volleyball. Dan is in the 5th grade and his favorite thing at home is building rockets and trebuchis (catapult) out of legos and knex and wood. A pop bottle with a cork and small amount of water can be aired up to make a nifty rocket. He says he'd like to spend some time with those Apol cousins in Michigan cause they build some really cool stuff that blows up!! Trevor has been doing some hunting. He has shot a few pheasants and hopes to get a deer this year. He was invited by Travis and his dad to see a Vikings game and the Vikes even managed to win that game for them.

Katrina takes a couple of classes on-line for college, has a full-time job with a sign company, is still doing her special needs adults care part-time and sells Mary Kay makeup. We see her once in a while since she still lives here.

Tom was priveleged to be in Moorehead MN (by Fargo ND) the same day Todd Palin was in town. He was at a Scheels sporting goods store and now Denise's car proudly sports a "signed" - "Read my Lipstick, McCain/Palin" bumper sticker! Todd said he was glad to see that in the restroom there was a fold out changing table so dads could change diapers, he likes family friendly places. Then he went on to tell some interesting hunting stories. He likes family outings but he like's just "guy-vacation" hunting trips too! It was good to see he's a pretty ordinary guy!

The fall harvest is well underway and yields are ok. The farmers have had a real good year. We like that because it sort of trickles down to us. The change in the seasons is such a wonderful reminder of God's great care and the fall colors are such a beauty to enjoy!

That's it from Minnesota

## RYAN & JAYNE

Hello Bakker Family!

What a fun time of year! Although the kids are still a little disappointed we can't stick leaves together to make a house, they're still having tons of fun outside. Natalie is 15 months, and just finally started walking well. Why walk sooner when she has Jake and Darcie to cater to her? Darcie is going to pre-school this year, and just turned 4! Her birthday was a fun excuse to go bowling again. Ryan found the bumpers came in handy. I might have used them a few times myself. Jake is 5 ½ and going to kindergarten half days this year. We are having so much fun teaching the kids to read. It won't be long and they'll be reading to us! Ryan is attending Grand Valley getting his Masters of Public Administration. In between classes and homework, he rakes leaves. I have been involved quite a bit at both of the kids schools, and working in the garden on these beautiful days. Sometimes I even clean the house, though not often enough.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Ryan, Jayne, Jake, Darcie and Natalie

## JASON & JOLEEN

Since there was a corner left in the newsletter, I thought I'd share what we've been up to last few months without adding extra pages.

We spent most of September in Jacksonville Beach, FL. Jason was going to be working at a bottling plant there, and he urged me to find a place where we could all stay. I was able to rent a little house just a block from the ocean for the first 2 weeks, then a condo the final 2 weeks. While we were there, we spent many hours on the beach swimming, boogie-boarding, surfing, walking and observing the tides coming and going. The kids and I also took the opportunity to drive down to St. Augustine and visit Castillo de san Marcos (old fort built by the Spanish), Olustee Civil War battlefield and the Kinglsey Plantation. When Jason was home on the weekends we visited many freshwater springs including Ichetucknee, Madison Blue Spring, Troy Spring, Alexander Springs, and Blue Spring. We took our snorkeling gear along so we were able to snorkel in most of those except Troy Spring which was flooded due to recent rain. The kids favorite spring was Madison Blue b/c it had a 10' tall diving platform—Dave and Bee jumped off too. We also drove on the beach by Vilano Beach near St. Augustine, rode on the St. Johns car ferry and saw dolphins swimming while we were crossing the river. We took the long way home and spent 2 nights in the Smokey Mountains, saw 2 black bears, spent another night close to Florence, KY so we could spend a day at the Creation Museum (AWESOME!). After spending all day at the museum we drove straight home from there and arrived home late on Oct. 7. Back to reality.

Now that we are back, we're into our typical fall events such as soccer on Thursday, cutting and stacking wood, putting away all the summer flower pots and raking the leaves. This morning we saw our first snowflakes after a 55 degree day yesterday (Today is Nov. 8, Alex's birthday—13 yrs). Time to get the birdfeeders filled up!

We hope that everyone is doing well and hope you have a wonderful fall and winter season.

Jason & Joleen, Alex, Esther, Sam, David and Bee.

