



We would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. We hope you are spending time with those you love.

We are celebrating our eighth Christmas season in our home in Woodstock and look forward to many more here in the Valley. Being involved in church activities and having good friends means so much as we spend our years together.

Our year of 2008 has held many wonderful experiences for us and some “bumps in the road”, as they say. We have traveled from the bottom to the top of the country during the past twelve months. We started the year off, as we have in years past, by traveling to Florida for winter relaxation. We started our winter in the Florida Keys, Marathon to be exact, and spent a week with our good friends, Tom and Marty Haske. They had rented a two bedroom condo on the ocean side of Marathon and the weather could not have been more relaxing, just what “northerners” need in January. We spent the week getting comatose and spent one day in Key West and Mallory Square. We left the Haskes and drove up to Pompano Beach and stayed in Wyndham’s *The Fairways of Palm Aire*, for a week, where we continued our rest and relaxation techniques. Our next week was in Orlando at our timeshare, *Sheraton Vistana Resort*. We had invited the Haskes to stay with us and enjoyed another week in their company. It was on to Port St. Lucie up the coast for another week at our *Sheraton PGA Resort* and a chance to spend time together in a quiet setting. We then traveled back to Orlando and stayed in our new timeshare at Wyndham’s *Fairfield Bonnet Creek Resort*. We were situated on the twelfth floor facing the large lake and the view of the rest of the resort off our balcony. We may have bit off a little too much traveling this year but we love Florida and seem to get substantial rest and relaxation to face the challenges of the coming year.

On our way home from Florida, we stopped in Ashville, N.C. to visit with our daughter Julie for a couple days. She was in the process of packing up her belongings for yet another move, this time to Anderson, S.C., and since then, she has moved to Wilmington, N.C. Hopefully, she will stay there long enough for us to visit with her on our way south after the first of the new year. We pray daily for our kids that they will do well, stay well, and stay put, especially Julie. She, like our son Rick, are independent contractors in their respective business, Julie, a veterinarian, and Rick, a Title/Escrow/Settlement Manager in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C.

In July, we spent a long weekend with Tom and Marty Haske in their home in Kitty Hawke, N.C. and had a brief rest before taking a major August vacation to Alaska. One thing about flying to a vacation site, you lose a sense of just how far you’ve traveled until you sit down, pull out a map, put

one finger on Washington/Dulles and another on Fairbanks, Alaska. Now that is a long way to travel!! David just had to visit Fairbanks for obvious reasons. He and his brother Charles have now both visited Fairbanks. We spent two weeks in Alaska, one week on a land tour of places named: Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Mount McKinley, we had scenic tours on buses, wonderful trains, and got used to some rainy weather. We could write pages and pages of things we did but just take our word for it, we had a wonderful visit. The second week was a cruise on the Princess Line, *Island Princess*, which sailed from Seward, Alaska to Vancouver, B.C. The *Island Princess* cruised through College Fiord, Glacier Bay, stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan before our final docking in Vancouver. David took nearly five hundred digital pictures and about ten hours of video, most of which we will probably never look at. Ten hours, WOW. The photos did get printed and are securely in two photo albums, which are looked at quite often. Like our European and Hawaiian vacations some years ago, this was one of those trips of a lifetime, which will never be forgotten.

That “bump in the road” that was mentioned earlier in this letter was an injury that Janet suffered, and still suffers, when she had to jump off the bus two times on our Denali National Park tundra tour. The tour lasted eight hours and at each stop, she had trouble stepping down off the last step to the ground. Upon returning home with two swollen and painful knees, and after an MRI, it was determined that she had torn the meniscus two places in her left knee. Her surgeon ruled out surgery for the time being and opted instead for a series of injections of Cortisone in both knees and Hydro-Visc times three in the left knee. She is taking physical therapy at our local facility and is now on the mend. She has had to forego her volunteer work at the Shenandoah Valley Pregnancy Center for the time being, at least until she is finished with her therapy. This year is Janet’s tenth year anniversary in her recovery from ovarian cancer, we both thank God for that Goodness. David injured his back at work on the golf course and has had much pain and anguish. He missed a week of work in November when it happened and still is bothered by the lower lumbar strain. This is not new to David; he has had a habit of trying to keep up with the younger crewmembers on the course and doesn’t know that at seventy, one should watch what one tries to pick up.

Our son Rick presented us with a grandchild on May 1st of this year. He and his fiancé, Kelly Cerio are looking forward to their marriage in July of 2009. His name is Cody John Fairbank, and he is about the most handsome boy we know and love. His pictures are on our family website where they can be viewed: http://www.fairbankhome.com/our_family.htm Scroll down the family page and click on his name. Kelly has a wonderful mom and dad, Kathy and John; we spent this past Thanksgiving with them in their home in Culpepper, Virginia. The wedding plans are in full swing and it will be held in July in Culpepper. .

Our family spent a wonderful day together on October 18th when our niece, Kathy Reitz, and her fiancé, Tony Grimsley were married in Mt. Sidney, Virginia. All of our Fairbank family was there to help them celebrate the joining of their hearts and lives.

We look forward to each day together and with Christ’s blessings, we will live our lives one day at a time, giving thanks for all of our blessings, family, and good friends.

We feel great joy to write this letter to you, and we pray that this Christmas will be a very special time for you and your family. May God bless you in this Christmas season and throughout the New Year, and may He be everything that you wish, for your family and your friends.

David and Janet Fairbank