

From the Poolehall



We got a late start on all of our Christmas decorations this year. We didn't even have our Christmas tree up until October 8th. Yes, I know what you are thinking. But we had to get the tree and decorations up in time to do our video for this year's Living Christmas Tree program. The four of us were involved in the drama for the tree and it was filmed at our home. Picture this: it is 80° outside; we are all dressed in winter clothes; the fireplace is going; and our air is set at 55. It took us about six hours to complete the taping.

The scene has drastically changed since that day. Now we have four inches of snow on the ground, the temperature outside last night was 15°. But we haven't used the fireplace yet because we haven't been home much since we started the eleven performances of the Living Christmas Tree last Sunday.

Ashton just turned twelve this week. He moved into the youth group in August. We were not ready for that, but he has done great. His first youth activity last summer was Adventure Week. He got stuck in a sinkhole (he called it quicksand) in the river on the first day. He then got lice from sharing a go-cart helmet on the last day. However, he had the time of his life. He continues to love computers and has been teaching himself linux programming. His favorite is ebuntu.

Zachary, on the other hand, has not grown much. His doctor wanted us to take him to an endocrinologist. We were seeing one in Florida, but felt that all of the expensive tests which came back inconclusive were a waste of time. While he is short for his age, he is still growing each year. Just not as much as his doctor thinks he should. Zachary's passion is video games and wrestling with his dad. He gets very aggressive with both activities.

Wendy continues to homeschool the boys and was part of a planning committee to begin an umbrella school at our church. She has also started teaching piano at the music academy at our church. So far she only has one student, but several prospects for the beginning of the year. She has been very busy with this year's Living Christmas Tree as the Praise Band accompanied the choir on half of the songs. We have had several new people join the band and Wendy really likes it that now she gets to play the piano instead of the keyboard.

Steve has continued to work on plans to grow the music academy at the church and to begin adding technical training as well. Our church is the largest Southern Baptist Church north of Washington D.C. The church has been asked to take on a greater role as a teaching church for the other churches in our area. Steve has shared with the state directors that our church would like to begin offering music workshops for smaller churches. Steve has experience with this as he worked with another person in Texas to design this exact program for their state's music ministry.

We know how difficult it is to keep in touch throughout the year, but feel free to contact us at anytime. We also always have room for those of you who are traveling to this part of the country. There are some great historical sites all around us. Have a wonderful Christmas.

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