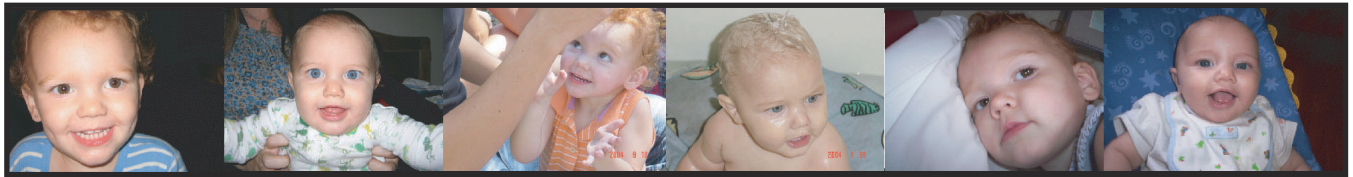


The Troutmans

EST. 2001



Merry Christmas to You All!

Happy Holidays to your family from ours! We pray that the Lord will bless you during the next year with full bellies, happy faces, and joyful children. We pray for the health of all of our friends and families, and peace within all your homes. May you enjoy the bounty from His hands, and the fruits of His grace! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wanderings of the Troutman Family

In October, Christo had to go to Washington D.C. for a week on business. Because of the length of the stay, he invited me and the children to come along and enjoy the sites by day while he worked, and to spend the evenings discovering the area together. We took him up on that offer and so we packed and assembled the children and a mass of baby gear and loaded the van. The best thing that we took on the trip was a friend and helper, Melody Knecht, 20. She was such a wonderful companion and mother's helper. Because of her attendance we were able to see several of the Smithsonian museums, push the double stroller up giant Virginia hills (she did that) and have a layed back adventure with the toddlers, not overwhelming at all. Because Christo was gone at the Naval Observatory for the majority of the day, Melody and I had to hop on and off the metro and virtually direct ourselves around an unfamiliar city. We had an unforgettable time bumming around in the most Historical and



Educational city in our country! We also had an opportunity to play in the fall leaves on several occasions which made Lily a happy little girl, despite her loss of shoes in a deep thicket of leaves. We were

We were able to visit the Yatsko family in Falls Church and see where my 16 year old brother Danny works at a coffee house in this artsy and adorable little town. We visited with our old pup Marnie whom they had adopted and she remembered us and jumped around like a maniac for several minutes. The trip was wonderful and we were so blessed to have been able to have joined Christo and see some

wonderful places. If Lily had written this, all that she would have discussed were the bones and how scared she was of the dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum. She still talks about how big they are and how "scerred" she was. Asher had a blast eating at wonderful new restaurants everyday and hugging his Miss Melody! Thanks Mel for all the help and fun!
~LAT

A Quick Biblio Update

Lily and her daddy finished reading the gospel of Matthew and have since moved through 1 Peter, Amos, Zephaniah, Ruth and are currently working our way through 1 Samuel. She is a very attentive listener and will not let me put her to sleep without saying, "Daddy, read a Bible?"

The Ploughshare - *A Garden Update*

We planted our garden on the first of October, which is a little late, but we live in Florida. I planted rows of lettuce, carrots, basil, parsley and lavender, and little mounds for cucumbers. We got some shoots within a few weeks and were so excited. But I must admit to you, I have no idea what I'm doing. The lettuce seems pretty self-sufficient, and I think I planted the carrots too close together. I have seen nothing of the herbs, but the cucumbers are doing good, and sprout beautiful flowers! Thankfully, my family is not dependent on my skills as a gardener!



Book Nook - *Books we have been reading*

Orthodoxy, G.K. Chesterton

Mother Kirk, Douglas Wilson

Systematic Theology, Charles Hodge

Autobiography, Thomas Guthrie

Hospitality Commands, Alexander Strauch

Easy Chairs, Hard Words, Douglas Wilson

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

The Fruit of Her Hands, Nancy Wilson

Dancing in Dresses - *Music we have been listening to*

Lily loves to dance! She stands in front of the stereo bopping around and spinning in her dress. She is constantly talking about "dancen in the chresses." Among the top 40 are:

Bela Fleck - Bluegrass Sessions

Vivaldi - Seasons

Michelle Tumes - Listen

Ella Fitzgerald - Christmas Songs

Handel - Messiah

Veggie Tales - A Very Veggie Christmas

We had a wonderful Christmas with our family this year. We made the rounds, going back and forth from each of our parent's houses. We are

so thankful that both of our parents live so close by, and are such hospitable people. Lily and Asher of course loved receiving their gifts, and Lily even squealed when she opened up a box containing princess sheets.

The church we are now attending had a very nice Christmas Eve service. My sister Leslie was also in town, and it is always a treat to see her.



New Year's Eve was just as special for our family this year. As always, we broke out the silly hats for the night and enjoyed each other's company.

We dined on the ceremonial artichokes and lobsters. Lily especially liked the lobsters, constantly calling them bugs! It was Asher's first Christmas and New Years, and he ate as much food as he can to celebrate! Our family loves to celebrate the Lord's blessings,

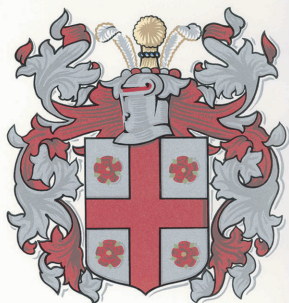
and we are grateful that He has provided us with so many.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High
Psalm 93:1

Our family participated in one of the most enjoyable Thanksgiving celebrations we have ever experienced. We spent the day at my parents house along with the rest of my family, Lindsay's mother Nancy and step-father Mike, and another wonderful family that we love the Knechts and 9 of their 10 children. We began the day at about 1:00 by gathering around the table for an enormous feast. My father Dave had cooked two delicious turkeys, one smoked and the other baked. There was casseroles, potatoes, breads, wine, pies, cookies, and all other imaginable deliciousos. After the dinner we relaxed while waiting for all the food to settle, as Emily Knecht, the third oldest daughter, played the piano for us. The children played with toys and read books on the couches. We then gathered together to celebrate the Lord, the true reason to be thankful, while we descended upon pumpkin and pecan pie, cakes and cookies. Dave shared scriptures relating to our Thanksgiving and we all sang an old pilgrim version of Psalm 100. Lindsay's mother Nancy spoke of how thankful she was for such a wonderful family, and thanked the Lord for blessing her with three grandchildren. I shared a list of blessings that our family has received in the last year (far too many than we deserve) and read Psalm 93. David Knecht read Romans 1 and shared that as Christians, we truly have so much to be thankful for. While we deserve the consequences of our sinful natures, God has seen fit to justify us through His son Jesus. And for this, we have all the reason to tip our glasses of port, and celebrate his goodness. After our sharing, we gathered in the piano room to sing thanksgiving hymns. The rest of the evening was filled with games (billiards, dutch blitz, catch phrase), fellowship, rest and joyous laughter. It was yet another wonderful day of fellowship and celebration that the Lord has seen fit to bless us with during this past year.



We are having a Son! Please pray for Lindsay and Summit David that they would both be healthy. Also, Asher Josiah will have his first birthday on January 6!



Troutman

Troutman Family Clan Song

A heritage we have to claim,
And proud we are to bear the name
Of those who founded this our clan
Led on always by God's own hand.
Our Father's God, our Father's God
Who led them as life's path they trod,
Be with us as we strive to hold

Ideals our fathers knew of old-
And to the God they knelt before
We pledge our faith forever more.
From lands afar they came to build
A nation strong and beauty-filled
In fellowship let us renew
The hopes, the dreams, which they held true.

The Troutmans -

- Tampa - Florida -

Christopher David, Lindsay Anne, Lily Adeline, Asher Josiah and Summit David

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