



Brunke Christmas Letter

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Angela & Brandon's
Wedding



Christmas 2009

The Brunke Family

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." - Isaiah 9:6. Our prayer is that the spirit of Christ dwells richly in your hearts during this Christmas season and that our love and friendship would be with you and yours. Merry Christmas.

Brian's News

² My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, ³ because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. - James 1:1-3

These verses from the book of James has been foremost in my mind throughout this past year and as I look back these words have provided me with both guidance and comfort. I can not remember a year that has seen my faith more tested and the realities of having my daily needs met become so real. Despite the challenges that have come though the losing of my job, I have been comforted by friends and family and the love and encouragement that they have supplied in abundance. Our church has been very kind and has been a great source of encouragement and comfort to us. I want to personally thank God for Westridge Church in Dallas, Georgia who has been a place of healing and support for Melissa and me. As I look forward to the beginnings of a new year I am hopeful that our time of challenge is drawing to an end. The birth of my daughter Savannah has also provided me with great joy and hope for the future. Thank you and Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart! My prayer is that God will continue to show his favor upon my family and upon yours in this New Year.

Melissa's News

OK, I guess it's my job to talk about what we did this year.

In January Brian and I traveled to Marshall for my sister's wedding. Brian performed Angela and Brandon's ceremony and I was her Matron on Honor.

In March I traveled back to Marshall for my baby shower that was hosted by my mom and sister. We had a lot of fun, and it was great to see all of the girls.

Later in March we went to the Cherry Blossom Festival. It was freezing, and we didn't stay long, but the trees were really pretty.

We also drove up to Kentucky to meet Angela, Brandon and my Mom so that we could see Angela and Brandon one last time before they shipped out to Okinawa.

In May Brian and I spent a day at the Georgia Aquarium, Olympic Central Park, and we ate lunch at The Varsity. We thought about visiting The World of Coke, but there were a lot of schools there on field trips that day, and my very pregnant body couldn't handle any more time on my feet, so we decided that it would have to wait for a different day.

I had a small container garden on our deck this summer. I got several tomatoes out of it, and lots of flowers. I can't wait until we can afford to over haul our back yard and have a real garden. Our back yard needs a lot of time and money invested into it.

And of course, our biggest news of the year on June 15th we welcomed our beautiful daughter Savannah into the world! She is the center of our universe now and our day revolves around her wants and needs.

On the 4th of July we took Savannah on her first trip to meet family. We spent the weekend of the 4th in Paris, TN with Brian's aunt Karen, uncle Bob, and cousins. Then we drove up to Marshall to see my family. Then down to Marion to see his mom and step dad. We went back to Marion for Labor Day weekend and got to see his aunt and uncle Bob & Annett, and cousins.

In August Brian's dad was able to come visit us to meet Savannah. He also went golfing with Brian while he was here.

In October Brian's dad came up to visit again and then we all drove to Paris, TN again to see his aunt, uncle, and cousins. Brian went fishing on this trip and we came home with several large mouth bass to eat.

For Thanksgiving we were able to drive up to Marshall and Marion again.

Melissa

Savannah's News

Hello everyone!! I'm so excited for my first Christmas and first newsletter.

In September I was dedicated at church. Mommy and Daddy promised to raise me up in the church and to teach me about God and Jesus.

We've traveled several times to Illinois and Tennessee to visit family. I still haven't met my Aunt Angela and Uncle Brandon. I can't wait for them to visit in February, so that I can meet them!

The day after Thanksgiving we found out that I am going to have a cousin. Aunt Angela and Uncle Brandon are going to have a baby next summer!!

I've learned to do lots of cool stuff. So far I can roll over both ways, and sit up by myself. I also just started to eat real food. So far I've had avocado, and I think I'll try sweet potatoes next. Milk is still my favorite though.



Baby Shower



Angela & Brandon before they left



Night Before Savannah Was Born



Our new bundled of joy!

Maggie's News



Savannah Kathleen 6/15/09
8lb 12oz 20 inches



Monkey for Halloween



5 Months Old



6 Months Old, ready for bed



Bark in the Park

That's right everybody!! I'm a big sister! I'm still not too sure about the little squirt, but I guess I'll let her hang around for awhile. As long as she doesn't try to touch me, I'm happy. She seems to think I'm funny for some reason.

Mommy and Daddy took me to the dog park as usual this year. They even let the baby come along once or twice. Even though she didn't do anything but lay there. She hasn't figured out how to run and play yet.

We also went to Bark in the Park in May. Each year the Brave's let us doggies come cheer them on. It was really hot, but thankfully we were in the shade for most of the game and they had waiters to pass out ice water to us hounds.

I was sick for awhile and had to take an extra trip to the vet. She was nice enough, but I don't trust her. Mom and Dad think that I hurt my foot and I had to take pain pills until it got better. Thankfully I'm as good as new again.

Madison & Madeline's News

Merry Christmas everyone from the cats who live in the basement!! Yeah, we're still down here. But, we don't mind it too much. We get soft beds to lie on, a big window to watch the birds and squirrels from, and lots of treats and attention.

We're a little more tolerant of that new baby than the dog. We even let her pet us when she comes down to visit. Maybe she'll learn how to feed us and sneak us extra treats some day!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Love,

Brian, Melissa, Savannah, Maggie, Madison & Madeleine Jo

