

Merry Christmas
from
The Duponts!
First Baptist Church, Beaver, Utah

Dear Family & Friends,

December 12, 2024

Merry CHRISTmas to all of you! Thank you so much for your prayers throughout this year. We trust that at this time of busyness, you will be able to take some time to remember that Christmas is the beginning of the gospel story when Jesus came from heaven's splendor to take on humanity to die for our sins.

MINISTRY

Church

We are encouraged by how our church has been doing. We have continued to gain a few new folks this year and are working with them in their various walks with Christ. The spirit of the church continues to do well. We often hear a testimony of our people traveling and reporting how glad they are to be back with their church family.

As for our church activities, in November, we had a good turnout for our church Thanksgiving dinner, and we even had some visitors for our Pie and Praise. We are now preparing for our Christmas services. Like many churches, this is a time when we look for visitors to come and hear the gospel. Mark decided years ago, in December, prior to Christmas, it would be a time to emphasize preaching on the family. The church always seems to respond well to these messages. We are also in the midst of our traditional services, hoping to make an impact for Christ. We begin with our Missionary Christmas on December 13. Our church always enjoys hosting a missionary family to spoil. We particularly enjoy seeing the response of the children. This year we are hosting a local family who is just starting into doing a construction ministry. On December 18, we will be going caroling to our local nursing home and then to several shut-ins who so often find themselves lonely at this time of year. On December 22, we will be having our Christmas Sunday Service. Our Sunday morning service will be based all around the Christmas message, but the church may be even more excited about our Sunday School time when we have a Christmas potluck breakfast along with our Christmas Bible Quiz. Each year our folks "study-up" to see who the winner will be. It is a joy to hear of family members studying together as they prepare for this. Our best attended service is typically our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Every year we get to report on various visitors who attend. Please be in prayer for one LDS family, in particular. They have attended every year for at least the last 5 years. They are very devout in their beliefs but come to our Christmas Eve service because of our emphasis of exalting Christ rather than Santa. Mark has had some interactions with the family in other ways and has begun to develop a friendship with these folks. We pray that they will eventually be open to truly hearing the gospel. On New Year's Eve, we will be meeting to bring in the new year. We will begin the evening with some of our men giving short messages and then transition to a family game time until the new year comes in, or until we get too tired to endure. Our bones are getting older, and we no longer have a great urge to stay up until midnight. But with the increased number of young people now attending, we may find some extra adrenaline.

Radio

We are thankful that this is the time of year when we know more people are listening to the station. As you know, this year we were able to have some upgrades completed and we believe more people are listening as a result. We have now revamped our ability to be heard online as well. If you desire to listen to our station, you can either go to our website, www.fbcbeaver.org, and follow the links or if you have an Amazon device, you can ask it to "play KEZB Beaver on Tune-In."

FAMILY

We were able to have our family reunion over Thanksgiving at our daughter's house in Virginia. We had a wonderful time, and the typical Dupont shenanigans were in abundance.

Mark, Jr. continues to work bi-vocationally as a pastor and as a customer service rep for a cable company. Lezlie works a few evenings per week at a local restaurant. Our oldest granddaughter, Emma (12), is officially taller than Nana! It's hard to believe Emma will be a teenager next year! Kate (10) was thrilled to be able to read to some of the younger cousins, who love stories! Alice (4) also enjoyed "reading" to younger cousins. They didn't know the difference!

Ruth and Tyler are crazy busy! Tyler works from home most of the time, which he is happy to do. Ruth stays busy running the household, homeschooling and working on a master's degree from home! Rose Elaine (11) is not quite as tall as Nana yet, but is developing a sweet personality. Logan (9) has branched out from Minecraft & enjoys a variety of things, including ocean life. Annaliese (7) is a bubbly little blonde whom you never know what she's going to say! Connor (4) is a happy little boy who loves to eat! (How do you say "no" to an adorable little boy who is begging for a bell pepper, which he eats like an apple?!)

Nathan continues as assistant pastor (and minister of miscellany!) at their church. Christina keeps busy with the two littles at home. Elizabeth (8) and Hannah (7) attend their Christian school, where they are doing well. Elizabeth would LOVE to have a dog, so she got a little bit of a doggy fix at our reunion. They are both voracious readers, as are all our grandkids who are reading! This makes our hearts happy! Lydia (5) is a happy little jabber-box who goes about commentating on life in general. Andrew (2) is a sweet little boy who loves all things with wheels!

Joel keeps busy with work as adjunct voice faculty at Anderson University, working at the Walmart optometry dept, teaching private voice students & often theater productions in the works. Sarah still teaches music at a local junior high school. Brielle (2 in March) goes to day care, where she is well taken care of. The staff call her "Bri Bri," so she calls herself such. She is an adorable, fun little girl. She loves her 4-legged siblings and likes to hang out in their crates.

Our prayer for 2025 is that we all will look grow closer to the Lord as we walk with Him. We do not know what this year may bring, but God is always on the throne and is always working His good will.

Because of Him,

Mark and Diane Dupont

It's been over a year since Diane's shoulder surgery. She is pretty much healed. The Dr. said she regained more of her mobility than expected, but there are still some limitations. Oddly enough, one of the hardest things for her is to buckle & unbuckle her seatbelt when she is in the passenger seat! She experienced a few months with a trigger thumb, which could have led to another surgery, but a single cortisone shot seems to have fixed the issue. We are thankful! She has had a new client since July as a private caregiver. She's enjoying being able to help someone again. Diane also keeps busy with her Sunday School class & playing piano at church.

Mark continues to plug on with the ministry and has occasional times of getting involved in the community. His latest venture has been playing trumpet with the community band. However, it seems that age is creeping up on him as well. Two years ago, he tore his Achilles tendon playing pickle ball, and just last August he tore a tendon in his other foot playing softball. Let's just say getting older is not for sissies. At the end of January, he is supposed to see the podiatrist to see if he has taken care of it well enough to avoid surgery.

We did gather at Ruth & Tyler's in VA this summer! It was so much fun (and noisy!) to have all of us under one roof. It's fun to watch the cousins interact when they get together. Papa got to meet our granddaughter, Brielle, for the first time. Our traditional family hymn sing had us in tears again. We SO miss singing God's praises with our family!

Mark, Jr. is working as a bi-vocational pastor there in PA. They just added 2 birds to their menagerie of animals. Emma (11) is growing into a sweet young lady. Kate (9) is living up to her red hair, but also learning to be sweet. Alice (3) is an adorable dynamo that keeps the whole family in stitches. Lezlie keeps busy chasing after her!

Ruth & Tyler have had a difficult year with Tyler's job changing, as well as their church there in VA making the hard decision to close their doors. Please pray for them as they search for a new church family. Rose Elaine (10) is tall & thin, like her father. Logan (8) is absorbed with all things Minecraft. Annaliese (6) is a cute little blonde who is losing her adorable lisp. Connor (3) is a sweetheart with a ready smile. Ruth is working on a second degree, so she can be legally qualified to tutor in VA.

Nathan & family are still in OH, where he is the assistant pastor at their church. Their church has a Christian school, so the older 2 girls are able to attend there. Elizabeth (7) is in first grade & loves school. Hannah (6) is in kg and is a voracious reader! Mommy keeps busy chasing after Lydia (5 tomorrow!), who gives a non-stop commentary on life in general, & Andrew (17 months), who is one step away from walking & is cute as can be!

Joel and Sarah had an adorable baby girl, Brielle, in March. Sarah ended up having an emergency c-section, but both are fine, thankfully! Brielle is a happy baby with a ready smile. She's still not sure how she feels about solid foods. Joel keeps busy teaching voice at Anderson University, working in the optical dept. at Walmart, and participating in various productions at local theatres. Sarah still teaches music at a local middle school.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas as you reflect on God's goodness to YOU this year!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Mark & Diane, Sam & Ranger

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