

Greetings from the Staleys - Ken, Donna, Chu Lee, Lars, and Benny Jean,



We hope your 2012 year was as full of blessings and as wonderful as ours. The year went by quickly, trying to fit in as much family and work activity as possible.

You are receiving our letter because we have crossed paths through church activities, doing church service together, and as friends.

The Staley families are all doing fine and we are fortunate to have both of our boys and their families living in Jacksonville.

We continue to see Chris, Tawney and Benjamin almost daily since Benjamin attends East Pointe Preschool Monday through Friday. We spend a lot of time with him and believe me, we know way more about "Thomas the Train" sets than I ever thought possible.

We also see Shaun, Kristin and Sophia several times per week since Sophia attends the East Pointe Preschool three day program. Sophia is approaching two now and holds her own when both grandkids get into scuffle over a toy or large summer sausage or something.

Donna and I continue to do fairly well with home-life. Because of the emphasis on Dave Ramsey at East Pointe, and modifying our own spending, we have made several life-style changes affecting our daily lives. Among other things, we have cut out our home phone, changed cell phone carriers reducing our phone bill in half, share meals when eating out, and eliminated cable TV. Even this letter for most of you is being delivered via email instead of US postal service, saving us over \$50 in postage.

Not all changes have worked out as planned though. I feel that I have done more than my share as I have learned to eat half of Donna's grits and slimy okra and liver and onions which are her restaurant favorites. Donna has just not pulled her weight and becomes angry when turning on the TV and rapidly flipping through the ten local

channels, not finding her Hallmark channel or movies of that style anywhere to be found. I thought surely local PBS programming would be good enough. She can get quite nasty after going through the channels four or five times. I told her going through the channels five times means she's searching through fifty channels. She did not appreciate my comment or planned humor. In any case, Xfinity just called with a one year promotion and for seven dollars per month for fifty special programming channels, which I agreed with, I got Donna taken care of for Christmas and off my back. Ten of the fifty channels include Food and baking networks and another seven channels provide good housekeeping type programming. I'm hoping to see a cleaner – more organized house and enjoy more home cooked meals and less restaurant liver and onions. Please, if reading this letter before Christmas, don't mention her surprised Christmas gift to her.

I also wanted to update you all on our cruise we took this year in lieu of spending a lot of money on 2011 Christmas presents as mentioned in our 2011 Christmas letter. <http://www.kenstaley.com/pdfs/cl2011.pdf>

The entire family did take the cruise on the "Red Beaver Cruise Line". Our original assigned cruise captain I mentioned last year ended up not being Harlo Farber as he got injured on a previous cruise by getting his arm caught in one of the propellers and almost lost the left side of his body. Instead our captain ended up being Archie Lee Hand. (Go figure with a name like that, it probably ticked off ole Harlo who still can't feel anything on his left side of his body including his left hand with three remaining fingers).

Captain Archie provided just as great cruise experience beginning in Live Oak Florida and cruising up the Suwannee River through Georgia. We even went noodling where we used our hands to pull out these huge catfish. It was a wonderful experience for all until a very large snake swam out of the noodling hole. You should have been there to see fifty cruise passengers climb the side of the boat to get out of the water.

On a serious note in closing, we would like to say thank you to those who have supported and served with Donna and I in all aspects of our Children's Ministry. Also, a big thank you to those who are serving and involved with other EP church activities. We have enjoyed your friendship and serving along-side each of you. Thank you for your friendship. Donna and I wish you a Merry Christmas and may God bless you in everything you do in the coming 2013 year. (Colossians 3:17)

Ken and Donna

To catch up on previous letters visit www.kenstaley.com

