



*Dear Children's Workers, EP staff members and friends,*

*Well, here we are, down to the last few days and hours before Christmas. I hope your planning, preparing and shopping are fairly complete. We are ready for the Christmas event with a few days to spare. My parents visited during Thanksgiving so we exchanged Christmas gifts with them during their visit. Donna's parents who live in Pennsylvania were also easy this year as we paid for their annual Webtv subscription (internet service). We also have Chris and Shaun's gifts purchased and wrapped. I believe it will be a digital Christmas knowing what the boys got from us and if Donna gets me the hand held PALM (PDA) I hinted for. I also did well with Donna this year. Don't say anything to her before Christmas but one visit to Kmart and "poof", her name may as well be Kathie Lee. For those that don't shop upscale at Kmart like I do, that is one of Kmart's name brands. I got her Kathie Lee shoes, Kathie Lee slacks and matching tops, Kathie Lee simulated leather jacket with large buttons.... She got it all this year. Please be nice now and don't call her Kathie when you see her walking the halls of church.*

*I was warned this year not to pull what I did last year with my gifts under the tree. I came home early from work one day prior to Christmas and opened my gifts that were for me and exchanged them with old clothes and belts. I was wearing my new stuff for several weeks prior to Christmas and Donna and the boys never knew the difference. Got in big trouble though when I opened my gifts and they saw worn belts and dirty shirts. I'll never do that again. They made me sit out Christmas dinner – no turkey...no dressing.*

*Christmas is such a nice time of year – if you take time out to look at the Christmas lights, enjoy the parties and socials and take advantage of free time with family*

*during the holiday work break. I am taking advantage of the last days before Christmas and taking my family out for breakfast and just hanging around and having fun with them. My family has been blessed.*

*One of those blessings for me was the change in jobs and coming on board East Pointe as full time Children's Director after five years of lay-service at EP and ten years at our previous church. It has been so exciting and a wonderful opportunity to be able to work with such a great staff of folks at East Pointe. I am also blessed by such a wonderful group of volunteers who love our EP children and dedicate their time during our Sunday school, children's church classes, Awana and other special events. I only wish I could give some tangible gift of appreciation but I know that those rewards mean nothing compared to the rewards each children's worker have waiting for them in heaven. All I can say is thank you so much for being there and loving and working with our EP kids.*

*I am excited about my children's responsibilities and can't wait for 2003. I believe we have some neat things happening during this next year. We will be restructuring our Sunday 10:45 children's service to insure outreach of the local neighborhood children. I want children to be excited about coming to church. Plans for 10:45 include dividing the time into activity time, large group time and smaller group time. Large group and small group time will focus on Biblical and practical life applications. Activity time will include options for children to watch videos, play board games, play air hockey, outdoor tag football, crafts and play Awana and other Bible PC games. Each children's class room becomes an opportunity for fun with hi-key and low-key games and activities. We also have such nice outside grounds to develop for special kid's events and scheduled weekly outreach activities for things such as camping, bike trails, skateboard, go-carting and other outdoor fun. This of course requires additional volunteers and game equipment for activity time. Please pray that when we start to recruit workers and attempt to acquire resources that God will bless quickly. I can't wait for the changes in 2003.*

*Once again I want to thank the EP pastoral and administrative staff for who they are and the privilege of working with such a nice group. More importantly I want to say thank you to all of the great folks who volunteer and give of their time and talents freely to make East Pointe a special place where our kids who can't wait to come and learn God's word. What a great group of folks. I thank you.*

*I pray that each one of you and your family feels the blessings of God through this joyous time. I look forward to working along side each you in 2003.*

*Merry Christmas,*

*Ken, Kathie Lee (Donna in disguise), Chris and Shaun*