

Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas from the Dunns! Our little family has had a very full and blessed 2016. We continue to love serving at FBC and are eternally grateful for our church family and the many friends we have made in Aledo. It has also been a sweet blessing to be able to support the mission in El Salvador and to travel there annually with other church members to serve and bless them as they seek to grow God's kingdom. Over the summer we enjoyed traveling to spend time with family, a trip to the Dells, and a week at Life Action Family Camp. This year Maddie turned 11 and started the 6th grade. Lucy turned 9 and is now in the 4th grade. Both girls enjoy a variety of activities including piano lessons, tumbling, Homeschool co-op, and church activities. This month we added to our family a sweet little bundle in the form of a Dachshund, Jack Russell Terrier named Tyke. He's one year old and is adapting well to our family. We thank the Lord for you and want to wish you a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate our Lord and Savior! May your 2017 be richly blessed as you seek to honor him in the New Year!

With much love, Luke, Mollie, Maddie, & Lucy Dunn

*"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
when we pray for you..." Colossians 1:3*



Merry Christmas! Our family has had a very exciting 2016. The first half of the year Denise, Natalie and Jadon were busy finishing up their homeschool year.

Then in May we put an offer on a house and were all moved in by the end of July. I'm enjoying all the home improvement projects we've been working on and love having garage space to tinker. Jadon celebrated his 5th Birthday in July and Natalie turned 7 in September. This year we felt lead to enroll both of our children in a Christian school. Natalie is in 2nd grade at L'Abris Academy and Jadon is in 1st. They both love it there and are doing well in their studies. In August,

Denise accepted a part time job as the Bank Secrecy Act Officer at Joy State Bank. She also works two mornings a week at L'Abris and still does the maintenance on our Church website. Our family also grew this year! In October we adopted Waffles, a 3-year old Cockapoo. He has been a wonderful addition to our family and an answer to Natalie and Jadon's prayers. I am looking forward to the first of the year when I will be full time here at the Church. We have been so blessed by you, our Church family, and thank you all for your prayers and support this year. Looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you!

The Bowkers

Happy New Year!

This year has been full of surprises and seeing God's hand at work in the Quiroz household. Back in August, we found out the house we were renting was being sold and we had seven weeks to find a new place to live. God, by His divine providence provided a beautiful home for us here in Aledo and we became first time homeowners! Rodrigo has been busy around the house with lots of home projects and is always dreaming up the next project for the house. He's having fun and is very handy around the house.



Rodrigo is still enjoying his job as a Corrections Officer at the prison in East Moline and is constantly sharing his faith with people in his work and enjoys ministering at the Galesburg rescue mission. He's recovering well from unexpected shoulder surgery he had this past fall as well.

Heather has been immensely blessed through watching God work in the youth ministry. Students are coming to faith in Christ and now their parents are being reached. She has only a few more months left to finish her Masters degree and will wrap up her last class in March 10th of next year and will graduate from Huntington University with a Masters degree in Youth Ministry Leadership in May of 2017. Heather is loving life at First Baptist, and is thankful for the work God is doing in and through the youth and youth leaders of FBC.



The Rickes wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! We hope you are enjoying this season celebrating the birth of our savior! Kevin and I started 2016 on an adventure with some members of our church family to El Salvador. What a great time we had working alongside Rigoberto, sharing the story of Jonah at Vacation Bible School with the children, ministering to the women at the Women's retreat and worshipping together with our new found El Salvadoran brothers and sisters in Christ. We were both so richly blessed by the people and grateful for the experience. It was life changing and we hope to return there some day. It has been a busy year at First Baptist which has kept me (Pam) hopping! I want to thank all of you for making the place I get to come to each day a blessing! You are all very special to me!

Our kids, now officially all adults, (hard to believe) are busy "adulting!" Alex lives in Edwardsville and works in the office at Eclipse Car Wash. Kathryn moved into her own apartment and is working at Midwest Bank in Aledo. Jon is now engaged to Miss Lindsay Parker and we are excited to be making a trip to Huntsville, Alabama January 14th for their wedding! Kevin and I will soon be "empty nesters!" Looking forward to see where God leads us in 2017! Hugs, from the Ricke Family ~ Kevin, Pam, Alex, Kathryn, Jon & Lindsay