

## Celebrate! By Mari Beth

On June 17 we celebrated 20 years of marriage. Gma and Gpa blessed us by keeping the kids and we enjoyed a staycation at our house. We watched movies, ate all the bad stuff, slept in and went on a bike ride with a nice picnic lunch at Ann Morrison Park.



## Monty Turned 40, the big loser By Monty

The year started out with a reminder that time waits for no man... my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the entire year I tried to reverse the aging process and I think I am succeeding. 40 years of bad habits in eating and exercise, I took a new strategy: eat less, move more. I rode 20 miles on my bike commute nearly every day and changed eating habits in several stages. Close to 50 pounds down and counting...

## What's New By Abby

I have enjoyed writing on my blogs. I have 3 now... my every day blog, a craft blog and a nail blog. I love to write, and have written a few short stories. I have been crocheting more than I usually do this year. I like to cook... although I think my mom wouldn't mind if I did a little more. We've all been loving the snow... well maybe not loving because it's so cold. But the view of the mountains out our front window is nice. All of us love camping, including Dasher, our dog. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of camping when we start going again.



[www.followinggodeveryday.blogspot.com](http://www.followinggodeveryday.blogspot.com)

[www.simplenaildesigns.blogspot.com](http://www.simplenaildesigns.blogspot.com)

[www.abbycrafts.blogspot.com](http://www.abbycrafts.blogspot.com)

## The Latest By Mattie Grace

I am 7 years old. I have lost 5 teeth. I have an email address and I like to check it a lot. I am learning to crochet. I like to go to Gpa and Gma's house and sleep over. Every year we go camping and take family pictures. We went swimming at the beach on Red Fish Lake. We eat breakfast outside and play a lot of games. I am learning to snow ski.



## Amelia

Amelia is a sweet little girl when she wants to be and has been growing and learning. Her most recent big adventure is learning to ski. Her Dad took her to the bunny hill on January 2, 2010 and she learned to stand up, turn, stop, and fall down!

## Holiday Happenings By Mari Beth

We spent Thanksgiving at the hospital with Monty's mom who had double knee replacement surgery. His sisters, Monica and Malisa (Paul, Caleb & Hannah) came and helped out and had some fun too! His sister, Melodie, arrived on Dec. 5 and stayed a week. What a blessing to have them here to help out so much. Fern is doing remarkably well and we praise God for her renewed life and strength!

## Redfish Lake by Kendall

In April, we went camping at Redfish Lake. While we were there my dad and I decided to go on a hike to Alpine Lake, an eleven mile hike there and back. We did not know how long it would take us to go that far so we did



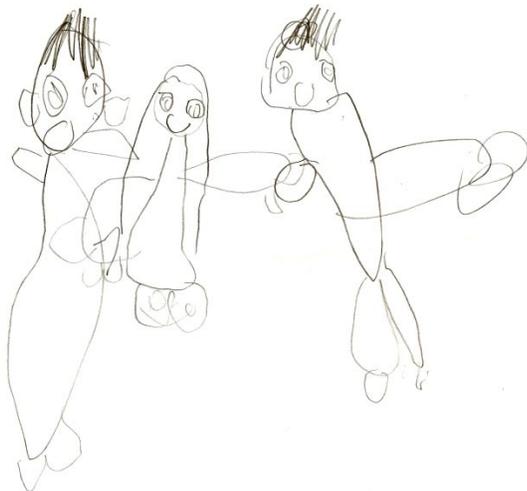
not pack much food. We were about half-way in and there was snow everywhere. The trail was covered in snow so we could not see it. But, there was some red spray paint from a surveyor that

showed the way. After a while the paint faded away and we followed footprints. We lost the footprints and soon had no idea where we were. We decided to turn around and try to go back. On our way down I found the lake and found out that we had over looked it and walked right past the ice and snow covered lake! We went camping at Redfish again with some of our friends in September. We went up to Alpine lake again with them, but this time we did not get lost.



**In Our Prayers!** By Mari Beth

My brother in law, Craig Hopson, was diagnosed with colon cancer in October and is receiving treatment. He, Melinda, and family would appreciate your prayers. My sister, Melanie, has been using her nursing skills and helping out, which is a huge blessing to us all. We serve a mighty God and we praise Him for how He is working so powerfully in many lives.



Grandpa, Grandma and Amelia Holding Hands, by Amelia

**Extended Family News**

Mari Beth's nephew, Morgan, just returned from a year of deployment in Iraq. We are so proud of him! MB's niece, Macy, graduated from high school and is attending David Lipscomb Univ. as well as

Monty's nephew, Mason, who is attending Christopher Newport University. Monty's other nephew, Cooper, graduated from CNU and is now working for the government. His sister, Malisa, received a Masters Degree in Social Work. We are thrilled with their accomplishments!



Family Portrait by Mattie Grace Moreland

**Out of the Blue** By Monty

I was reading the paper one Saturday morning in August and saw a blurb about an Alabama bank closing... the largest bank up to that point that had failed. It was Colonial Bank, where I worked from 2000-2007. Memories started flooding in and I had to verify the date... the bank closed exactly two years to the day from my last day there. This is another reminder of how God takes care of us.

Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD. Jonah 2:8

**Keep In Touch!!!!**

We are richly blessed by all of our family and friends and we thank God for all the wonderful memories that we share with you!



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MariBeth's Blog:  
[www.filledwiththejoyofthelord.blogspot.com](http://www.filledwiththejoyofthelord.blogspot.com)

Coming soon: [www.imageidahoc.com](http://www.imageidahoc.com)