

Merry Christmas!

December 2014

We send our warm expressions of love and support! We appreciate our friendship with each of you! Welcome to our second digital holiday update.

Here are a few 2014 highlights and photos from the Pickerds:

David, Allison, Andrew and Elizabeth (now energetic 2 year olds) celebrated David's graduation from HBS in May. They left Boston and relocated back to the Bay Area and now live in Mountain View. David works for a private equity firm in Palo Alto. They are happy to be back in a warmer climate (park days year round!) and to be reunited with friends they left two years ago. We love Skype to stay in touch with all—especially the adorable twins!

Jeff continues studying for his PhD in Accounting at U of Massachusetts-Amherst. He is working on his dissertation and the end is in sight—hopefully in a year and a half. He teaches undergraduate accounting classes and enjoys being occasionally called Professor Pickerd! This last year, he attended accounting conferences in Dallas, San Antonio and Atlanta.

Matt graduated from BYU in April with both his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. He works full time in Tax for EY in their Salt Lake office and is dedicating his energy to passing the CPA exam. Matt enjoys cooking and making it back to Provo whenever he can.

Mike continues to work at JPMorgan Chase—now in his 32nd year. Marian continues to serve with the young women in our church. She participated in a pioneer youth trek and attended girls' camp for the fifth straight year. Marian hits the mountain hiking early every morning, and Mike tries to be as diligent jogging on the mountain trails and in the neighborhood.

Last March, Mike received a letter from the First Presidency of our church calling him to be the local coordinator for the Phoenix Arizona Temple open house, cultural celebration, and dedication. Since then, he has worked hard preparing for those great events, which were just successfully completed on Sunday November 16. It is impossible in a few words to adequately summarize all of the wonderful experiences we had in connection with this calling. It was marvelous to see thousands of wonderful volunteers, working with over 170,000 visitors and over 4,200 youth 12-18 years old. We will always be especially glad Mike's sister, Julie, and her husband, Chris, made the trip to tour the Phoenix temple. Mike loved taking his sweet Aunt Norma, other family members, friends, coworkers, in addition to Arizona political and other community leaders, through the temple. Therefore, we stayed close to home for most of the year so he could keep up with the things that needed to be done. As you will see below, we did manage to join for David and Matt's graduations and spend the 4th of July in Provo with family and Carrie Underwood. We even managed to go to a Boston Red Sox game with Marvin and Colleen Rainsdon and David and Allison. In Sept, we went to see Jeff in Amherst and the BYU/Connecticut football game.

We are so happy that during this wonderful season we hear from many of you and would welcome the opportunity to see you in Arizona. May this beautiful season bring you peace and joy as you remember Him whose birth we celebrate.

Marian and Mike

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