



December 2005

## bullets

I thoroughly enjoy email friendship with my daughter Quinn. Since we both lead very busy lives, the best we can do sometimes is write in “bullets”—random and succinct verbiage that transmits the gist. Sometimes we shorten phrases to acronyms, such as FTR, BTW, and TBNITWFPPFY, that might leave future generations scratching their heads—were our emails worth keeping, that is.

Last year I wrote about my desire to find new ways to simplify my life. So in the interest of simplification, I’ll send a few bullets to give you the gist of our lives to date.

- Major deaccumulation around here. No simple project. Began with hauling my collection of earthly treasures from the attic (for once gravity was my friend) and deciding: keep, pass to next generation, eBay consignment, garage sale, thrift store, trash. The keep pile was the smallest. Amazing what people want/will buy on eBay! The June garage sale taught us much about people, and we delighted in releasing our stuff to new homes, new purposes. Paul’s high chair, for example, came with me from Michigan 11 years ago, too soon to part with it. But a neighbor shopper gave it a fresh coat of paint and a new life, and I think: *perfect*. Bottom line: Less is best.

- Ben always comes to Oregon in December. We say, “Come in July—you’ll want to stay!” He came in July for a mini family reunion at the coast and it rained the entire time. Oh well, we found fun indoors—especially the luau

the “kids” put on to celebrate my 60th birthday—and luxuriated in the gorgeous Pacific sunsets.

- Mauri gave me his okay to plan a surprise party for his 59th birthday. We worked together on the prep and the cooking but the surprise came when we greeted his mystery guests at the door. My face locked in a grin the whole evening as I watched him reconnect with people from his past. At my request the guests brought homemade cards that will definitely land in the “keep” pile!

- The ’94 Jeep Wrangler I drive just turned over 80,000 miles. You’ve heard about the little old lady who drives her car only to church? That would be me!

- Mauri came to Newberg Friends Church in 1980 as a quarter-time minister of music. Twenty-five years later he still leads the team that plans and prepares for worship services each Sunday morning but has gradually moved up to 3/4 time. The elders release him each January (this will be his fourth year) to help with worship leadership at four week-long retreats at the coast. Gives him a breather from the incessancy of his work and a chance to refocus.

- I can stop gloating now. I’ve just recovered from my first cold in four years. I had begun to think I was so old I had already met all the viruses that exist. Being old should have some advantages other than senior discounts, don’t you think?

- After all these years, we finally broke down and painted the cookin’ room. Sage green. Looks real nice. Come see it and sit for a spell and enjoy Mauri’s home-roasted coffee served in an eBay-purchased diner-china cup.

- We’re in our second season of Newberg Family Sunday Potluck Dinners. Since 16 of us who admit we’re related reside in Newberg, it seemed a shame to *not* get together once in a while. Food assignments balance the meal and each person brings a one-minute show and tell. These range from gadgets to documents to babies to accomplishments. Who will ever forget the day Kenneth removed his belt, letting his pants fall to the floor to illustrate his weight loss? Imagine our relief to realize he wore bright-colored swim trunks in preparation!

- Steve preached one Sunday morning and asked the question: What inhibits us from giving our lives fully to God? I’ve been thinking about this a lot since that morning. It’s easy to view our life as the time we spend here on earth, forgetting that this is just a pinprick on the timeline of eternity. When I use that perspective to measure my days, I can more easily listen for God’s direction and decide what matters.

- If the Lord tarries and the creek don’t rise, the unexpected is about to happen: Everyone will be here for Christmas! I’ve lined up a professional photographer to snap some pictures of all of us together. With our widespread family and our “no expectations” agreement, this might never happen again. We plan to make the most of it, even if it lasts only one day.

- This page is full. Maybe in 2006 I’ll work on deaccumulating words. DHYB.

- Sherry  
for the two of us Macys

# family bullets...

## **Ben Carlson**

- 11th year at Johnson Controls, the auto division
- Recent promotion and raise, whisked away by freeze
- Enjoys spending weekends on friend's boat
- Wise

## **Quinn Anderson**

- Committed full-time mom to three remarkable children (they really are), volunteering at school, taxiing to sports practices, arranging playdates, overseeing homework, distributing kudos, and the like
- Sings in 200-voice church choir and participates in Bible study
- Took a Midwest road trip in June with her sidekick, Cassidy—and me
- Loves to plan events and vacation trips (it's genetic)
- Does the books and coordinates travel for Dusty

## **Dusty Anderson**

- Successful seller of software to construction industry, travels quite a bit
- Keeps active and watches his diet, especially to control diabetes but also to train for a marathon in '06
- Together with Quinn leads small group in their home
- A Duke fan, took Bailey to North Carolina to attend a game, meet players (a B-day gift from Q)

## **Bailey Anderson**

- Nine-year-old 3rd grader
- Sings in church choir "Next Generation" and excels in Bible Blast
- Anything sports
- Reading the Left Behind for kids series
- Especially likeable

## **Marissa Anderson**

- Nearly 7-year-old first grader
- Outgoing, makes friends easily
- Swims like a fish
- Can read anything
- Loves to help
- Also a Bible Blast winner

## **Cassidy Anderson**

- Turned two in August; a surprise guest at her party—Dinger, the Colorado Rockies mascot
- Went parasailing in Mexico last month (so did her siblings, parents, uncle, Anderson grandparents)
- Okay, one short story: Quinn was printing out some sport team symbols from the Internet for Bailey's school project. Cass wanted her to print some symbols for her too. "What symbols do you want?" asked her mama. "Um, um...*CRASHING* cymbals!"
- Loves the water, takes lo-o-ong showers
- Joins the other Andersons in *loving* Colorado

## **Taylor Carlson**

- Stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX
- Training to repair medical equipment
- Injured knee in PT, will require surgery to repair, postponed until after Christmas "exodus"
- Singer

## **Rachel Macy**

- Passionate fourth grade teacher in Philadelphia charter school
- With John, taught summer science camp, built robots
- Adventurous
- With John, loves to grocery shop and cook

## **John Williams**

- Continues studies at Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts
- Specializes in paint and wood cutting
- Steady, perseveres toward goals
- Bicycle commuter
- Waits tables to augment family income

## **Pete Macy**

- Works as assistant account services manager for West Coast territory for Columbia Sportswear
- Car aimed west whenever surfing at the coast a possibility
- Plays basketball on church league
- Turned 3-0 this year

## **Linsey Macy**

- Double careered
- Works as marketing and training leader for Trane Oregon
- Earned real estate license and is selling and listing like crazy
- Funloving / contagious laugh

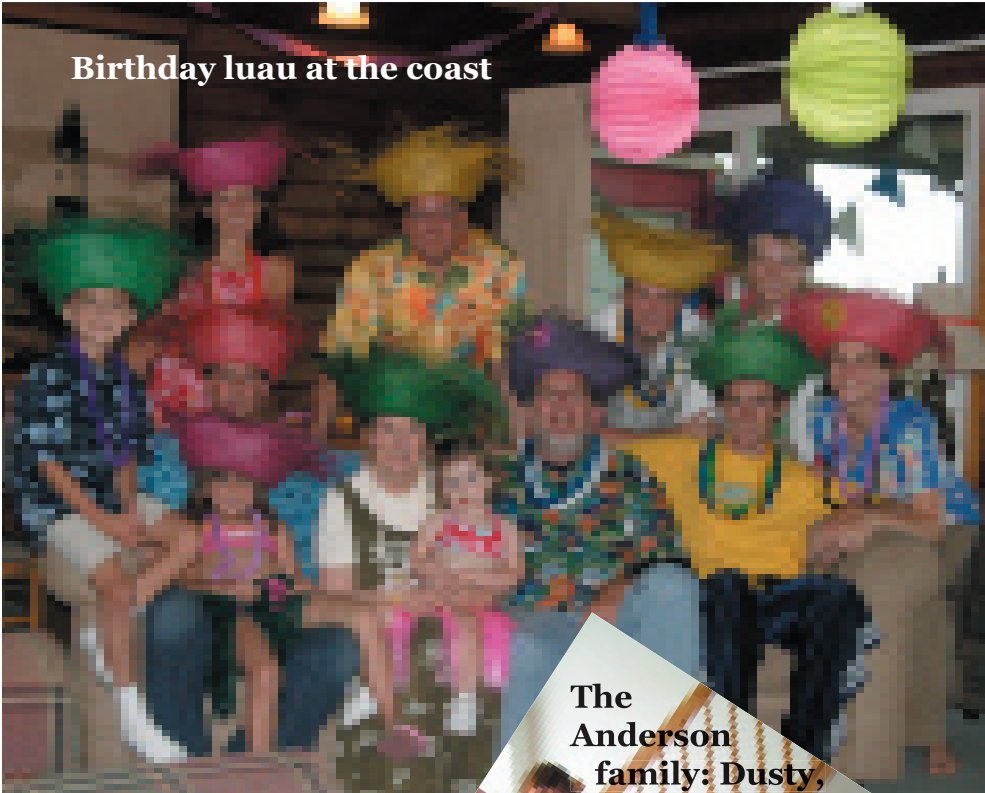
## **John Macy**

- Works as promo development operations planner for Nike's global promo services
- Just returned from setting up Niketown for the Honolulu marathon, also *ran* the marathon in 4 hours 55 minutes while Erin cheered him on
- Often commutes to work on cool Yamaha Virago (a motorcycle)
- People person

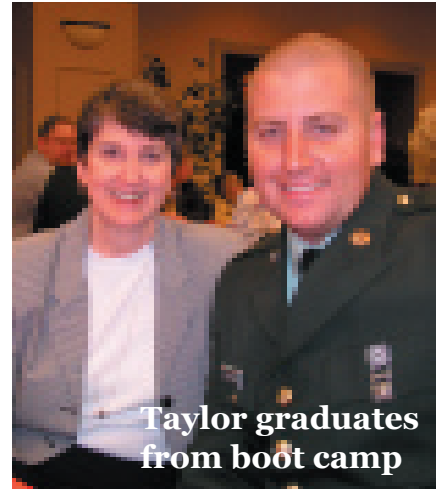
## **Erin Macy**

- Took position at George Fox University as undergraduate transfer admissions counselor
- Athletic, easy to be with
- Co-authoring book based on master's degree research
- Successful backyard gardener (with John)

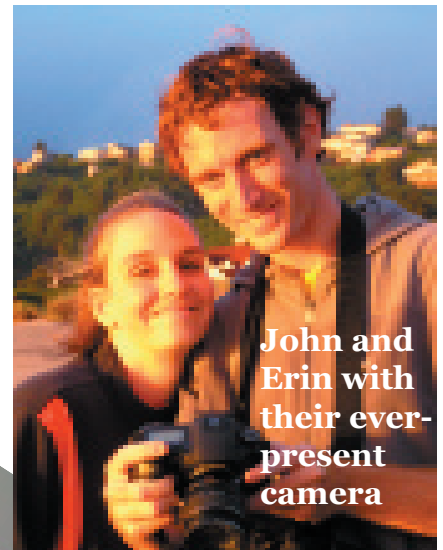
# and if words aren't enough



**Birthday luau at the coast**



**Taylor graduates from boot camp**



**John and Erin with their ever-present camera**



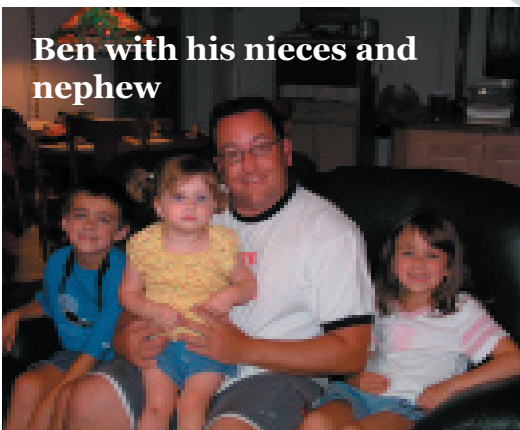
**Mauri and Sherry enjoy sunset**



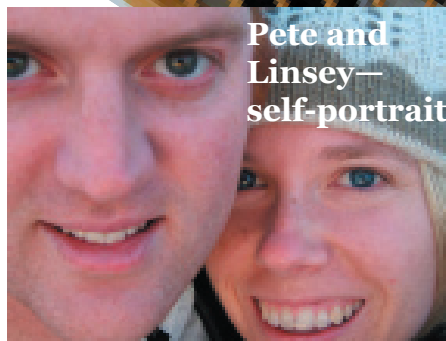
**The Anderson family: Dusty, Quinn, Bailey, Marissa, and Cassidy**



**Rachel and John in downtown Phillie**



**Ben with his nieces and nephew**



**Pete and Linsey—self-portrait**

**the data**

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