



Growth has been the operative word for our family this year! Beth and I became grandparents in May when Chad and Samantha brought a son into the world. Eason takes his name from my grandmother's (Granny) maiden name. We've had several opportunities to spend time with them, and Eason was the center of attention at our recent family Thanksgiving gathering in Georgia.

Our family grew again in August when Tyler married Samantha (yep - we now have *two* Samanthas: collect 'em all!). They are remodeling a small house in Peoria they bought from Sam's parents, and we enjoy seeing them several times a month.

Our livestock has seen growth, too, as several new litters of kittens were added (with a few subtractions here and there, which is par for course on a farm). The week before Thanksgiving, Ed delivered a new heifer calf that we've named Ruth. Her older sister Ellen will be making the round trip from our farm to the locker and back into our freezer in a few months - a good thing as we're nearly out of beef!

We were also blessed with an abnormally abundant apple crop, which Beth labored over for weeks, turning them into pies, applesauce, apple butter and juice. She

planted a smaller-than-usual garden in the Spring that produced well. Ed planted sweet corn, which grew to over 11' tall!

Beth continues to minister at our local Pregnancy Resource Center, and Ed made slow but steady progress on the house and farm buildings, completing the decking on our wrap-around porch as well as having gutters installed and a concrete floor poured in the "new" machine shed.

In years past, it's not been uncommon to have snow on the ground as I write out our annual update. This year we have a heavy rain instead, but just a week ago we had about 6-8" of snow on the ground and laying heavy in the trees. We woke up the next morning to see a heavy hoar frost on every surface that turned the world into a beautiful reminder of the purpose for Christ's birth, death and resurrection as expressed in Isaiah 1:18: "*Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*"

Lord bless and keep you in 2016!

With our love, *Ed & Beth*

Please update your address book!



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Christmas is a family affair



Four Generations



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