

been in the same place at the same time. Unlike what we expected, the weather for the entire time was just perfect! Later in the summer, Gail took a trip to Ohio to visit her mom and family. Both trips were really enjoyable.

We had planned to move to Las Vegas, but in the early spring, we realized that being principal of the school there was not work-

ing as well as we had hoped. As a result, I resigned my position and moved



back to Arizona early in the summer. Like many others, I have had difficulty finding a full-time position. As a result, I am doing some part-time teaching at the University of Phoenix and will be doing the same at Grand Canyon University starting after the first of the year. We remain confident that something full-time will present itself soon.

Gail is now in her eleventh year teaching at Christ's Greenfield. She continues teaching first grade there. Like many other private and parochial schools, the

economy has had an impact on the school's enrollment. However, it continues to be one of the excellent schools in this part of Phoenix.

As we do every year with this letter, we reflect on the events through which God has shown his love to us. But there is none greater than the event we celebrate each and every



Christmas—the birth of the Savior of the World. We hope this Christmas season finds you all well and filled with the joy that only the Christ-child can bring. Merry Christmas and a most Blessed New Year!



Christmas 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE SCHMIDTS



3590 East Remington
Gilbert, AZ 85297

CHRISTMAS 2009

Dear Family and Friends,
Merry Christmas from the AZ Schmidts.

Well, the majority of 2009 is now in the books, so we'll take a little time to reflect on what was a pretty full year.

I'll start with the fact that, most of the time, we are one person "light" in the Schmidt house. That's because we are now parents of a collegiate. Beth Ann graduated from Gilbert High School in late May. In an oddity for the desert, it rained not only the day of her graduation, but during it as well. Friends and family sat under umbrel-



Beth Ann, Grandpa and Grandma

las waiting for what seemed like hours till they called the "S" graduates. Eventually, they did, which made the night a celebration! Beth Ann had decided some time ago that she wanted to go Concordia University in Irvine. She received her acceptance letter on her 18th birthday. So, in late August,

we loaded the car, drove to Los Angeles, and returned with one person less in the car.

Her first semester, which will be over by the time you get this, has been a very positive experience for her. She has made new friends and made those first steps of being on her own and has done them well. She told me the other day, "I have A's in all my classes except for the ones I don't." We both shared a good laugh when she got done saying that! She is still on track to be a teacher but is keeping her options open.

Deanna graduated from eighth grade in May. Her class had just six students, so her graduation was a much more intimate experience than was Beth Ann's. The eighth grade class asked me to be the guest speaker for the event, which was quite an honor. When school started in August, she began her freshman year at Gilbert High School. After being in a very small class, the first



Deanna Confirmation

day attending one of the larger high schools in the nation was, as she described it by saying, "I want to be home-schooled." God, however, is good and has blessed her with some good teachers and good friends, so her high school experience is turning out to be very good. She's doing quite well and is matching her sister A for A. Like many others her age, she got pretty absorbed with the Twilight book series. This seemed a good thing until she and a couple of her friends decided that they wanted to go to the midnight premiere of the new movie. Again, that seemed fine until she said it started at midnight and ended a bit after 2:00 AM and that she would need a ride home! We do hope it was a good movie!

After a two year program, she completed the requirements for Confirmation and was confirmed in late August.

My parents celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary, so the family gathered at one of my sister's just outside Seattle to celebrate the event. This was the first time in many years that the whole family—parents, kids, and grandkids, had