

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## ~ The 2017 Smith Family ~ NEWSLETTER





Dear Friends and Family,

We hope your year has been filled with joy, laughter, love, and success. This year our family has gone through many wonderful changes. We feel so grateful for the blessings in our lives.

### A New Home

On January 27, 2017, our family succeeded in accomplishing one of our dreams. We finished building our dream home. Our little rustic cottage is situated next to a small lake in the Appalachian foothills. It is the quiet, picturesque scene Don and I always dreamed of. It is also in a neighborhood, full of families with children, which makes the children happy.



### Don & April

Over the summer, Don and I completed one of the items on our Bucket List. We hiked the Georgia portion of the Appalachian Trail. It was an incredible experience. You can see our online scrapbook at [www.thesmithchronicles.us](http://www.thesmithchronicles.us).

On December 11, 2017, Don and I will celebrate our 18th Wedding Anniversary. We have been together for 20 years! Even though it seems like just yesterday, I cannot really remember life before him. He is the very best husband and father in the world!

Don continues to enjoy his job as St. Clair County's Economic Development Director. Over the summer, he started an adult Volleyball League at the Parks and Rec Center.

I got a new job as the Technology Specialist at Cahaba Elementary School. I am humbled by the incredible minds and talent of the administration, teachers, and staff that I work with. My coworkers inspire me to be my best self and they simply make me happy everyday!

### Hannah

Hannah turned 13 in October. She is officially a teenager! There is no doubt in my mind that she could become a world famous defense attorney! This girl is sharp! If she wants something or feels a certain way about an issue, she'll research it, gather evidence for why she's right, identify your possible responses, and prepare evidence for why you're wrong. She loves playing Devils' Advocate too. She'll take the opposite view on a subject even if she agrees with you, just to make you defend your idea.

### Jackson

Jackson will turn 12 in January. I truly believe you will see him on Jeopardy one day! This is Jackson's second year in Scholar's Bowl. His team came in 2nd in regionals this year! I am, of course, amazed by the things he knows, but I am more intrigued by how he figures out things he doesn't know! He will listen for subtle clues in a question, piece those clues together with things he already knows, and is not afraid to make an educated guess, which in many cases, is correct. Maybe I have a future Rocket Scientist on my hands. He can support me in my old age!

### Connor

Connor turned 9 in August. It is so hard to believe my little guy that danced with me in the kitchen to "Simple Man" is in 4th grade now! He has a natural curiosity for how things work and this has turned out to be quite the paradox! He engineers the most incredible inventions and builds fantastic structures, using the things he finds in the dirt and your most valuable keepsakes. The kid has phenomenal survival skills! He can fish, build shelters, and hike miles! If you find yourself stuck in the Zombie apocalypse, Connor's the guy that can get you through it!

