



“...and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”  
Luke 2:18

Merry Christmas! And we pray during this Christmas season you are amazed at what God did some 2000 years ago!

It seems like just yesterday that we wrote to wish you a Merry 2008 Christmas. It has been a very full but fast year for the Cavin’s in Colorado! We’ll try to give you a “30,000 foot view” of our year!

### Family

2009 was a very eventful year for our family. We announced in our letter last year that Drew and Jenny were expecting our second grandchild. Not long after that, Julie and Brett announced they were expecting as well! So grandbabies have been the focus of the year. Jenny delivered a beautiful little girl, Lucy Morris, on August 3. We were able to go to Tennessee at the end of August (Susan for a week, Alan for a long weekend) to see Sam and his new sister. Then Susan went to Lewisville Sept 15 for Julie to deliver a beautiful little girl, Lauren Adele. Susan spent 2 weeks there



Lucy



Lauren

helping them adjust to life with an infant. Alan visited for a long weekend at the end of the month. We saw Brett, Julie, and Lauren again at Thanksgiving and we’ll get to see them all at Christmas in Oklahoma.

In other news, Susan had a long postponed shoulder surgery in October. It was a long ordeal working with workman’s comp to get it done, then working around grandbabies had to be considered – don’t try to keep a grandma away from new grandbabies! The surgery went well and she is now in physical therapy getting full range of motion back.

### Work

Alan spent a full year at Progressive Insurance as an IT Business Analyst (i.e no layoffs!). That is a big deal in this difficult economy where companies are laying off people right and left. Susan spent spring as a “guest teacher” in the local school district, doing “cognitive training” at LearningRX, and helping a friend with some home schooling. With two grandbaby trips and surgery, she didn’t work much in the fall. She’s hoping to get back into some of that soon.

### Travel

As always, we enjoy traveling and 2009 was no different. We went to Steamboat Springs in February with friends Bob and Jeannie and Alan got to ski a day. We enjoyed the Winter Festival while there, including the only high school band on skis and fireworks on the local ski jumping hill.



The famous Steamboat barn



Visiting Stones River Battlefield

In March we flew to Nashville to see Drew and Jen and Sam. We were able to fly to Oklahoma City Memorial Day to see mom and dad. In July our friends from Irving came for a long weekend and we spent a day in the mountains – and saw a lot of wildlife – mountain goats, moose, and elk. In August we went to Buena Vista to visit one of Susan’s old Girl Scout friends who has a cabin there. We went to Tennessee in August and to Texas in September (as noted above).

A November weekend in Pagosa Springs was relaxing – until we headed home on Sunday night and a deer stepped in front of our car. Although the damage to the right front of our Forester was pretty severe, the car was drivable and we drove it home with no other problems. But the body damage was so great, and the car so old, that the insurance company totaled it. We spent most of November looking

for another car –and finally settled on a 2005 Subaru Outback. It is a really nice car and we look forward to traveling in it Christmas.



Forester - deer damage



New (to us) Subaru Outback

### Camping

Of course, traveling includes camping and we did a bit of that this year – enjoying our Trailmanor travel trailer that we bought last year. We started the season in April with a trip to a local state park

(Cheyenne Mountain) followed by a couple of trips to Mountaindale RV Campground – one with friends from church in May and one with our local Trailmanor owners group in June. Also in June was Golden Gate Canyon State Park and a hunt for wild iris'. July was Mueller State Park – one of our favorites – this time with friends from church AND the TM owners! Grand Lake in August doubled as a trip to see the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater (Pirates of Penzance) and a camping trip. Our high light of the year (camping–wise) was a 5 day trip to the Taylor River, between Gunnison and Crested Butte. We visited the



A wild iris

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and took a pleasant boat trip on a reservoir just upstream from the national park. A trip to the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque capped off the year (we camped in our friends' driveway since they already had a full house!!). Hot air balloons are always a favorite!



Curecanti Needle



We look forward to a relatively uneventful 2010, but hope to continue to camp, visit the kids (and grand kids), and enjoy the beautiful state where we live.



Sam



Lucy



Lauren

Merry Christmas  
Alan and Susan

(PS – an extended letter with more pictures can be found on our web site [www.alancavin.com](http://www.alancavin.com))

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G'pa and Sam



Sam mowing



Lucy



Susan and Jenny and Lucy



Drew and Sam



Brett, Julie, and Lauren



Lauren



Great Grandma Cavin and Lauren



Jeannie and Susan near Grand Lake



Susan above Morrow Point Resv.