

To all our cherished friends and loved ones,

We have closed yet another year full of God's grace and provision in our lives. 2008 was busy and fulfilling, and quite a blur we cannot believe has already passed!

We welcomed a new family member, Lilah Aubrey Giessel, on July 23rd. She has been a true blessing - a sweet, cuddly lap-baby that fills us with love and happiness (and spit-up) in equal measure, and who is growing into an amazing person before our eyes. She has reddish hair, bright blue eyes, and the sweetest smile - she even has her big sister wrapped around her pinky. Our lives are truly better for her arriving, and she is growing and thriving each day. At 26 inches long already, it won't be much time until she's towering over her big sister! Visit Lilah's little site for updates and her online album at <http://lilah.giessel.org>



Callie is growing and going non stop. She's just beautiful and so bright! At 20 months old she is running around,



learning her body parts and how to dress herself (and everyone else!). She loves reading and climbing things that she's not supposed to, and is a big help to mommy in the kitchen already. She's quite adept at unloading the dishwasher already. Callie is a GREAT big sister, giving Lilah lots of kisses and bringing her pacifiers and blankets when she is upset or fussing. She continues to be as boundlessly energetic and playful as Lilah is cuddly, and it is so fascinating to see the personality differences in our daughters. You can get regular updates and watch her grow at <http://callie.giessel.org>

We are amazingly, endlessly blessed to have such children in our lives, though we report this is the first Christmas since Peter and I married that no children are on the way. Our two daughters are definitely keeping us on our toes!

Peter continues to work hard with devotion to our family and God, and is a wonderful father to the girls. He and Callie have quite a special relationship, she is definitely daddy's girl! Peter still works hard for Reid Middleton and when his arms are not occupied with a baby he continues renovations on our home. Spare time may be short, but he is happy, healthy, and wonderfully adept as both a father and husband. Too tacit to add much to this letter, I am honored to do the gushing for him and am truly blessed to have such a fastidious, caring spouse.

My hands and heart have been happily full this year with the children and care of our home, but I am pleased to announce I have resumed one of my favorite activities as a business venture. I reopened Aurora Fiber Arts as an online shop for my custom fiber and yarn dyeing, as well as custom spinning. Things have been pleasantly busy and I am really enjoying the chance to pursue something I am passionate about on a larger scale. I am still primarily a wife and mother, but stretching my creativity on the side has been wonderful. You can see some of my work and view my store at <http://www.aurorafiberarts.com>

We thank you for your continued love and prayers for our family, and hope you have seen fruitful blessings in your lives as we have in ours.

Our Lord be with you,
Peter, Taryl, Callie, and Lilah Giessel