

LVPCA Special Projects

31 South Thirteenth Street • Allentown, PA 18102
610-691-0988 • David@lvpc.org

September 8, 2021

Dear Friend:

Big changes ahead for the Greens! It seems that all of us are wrapping up something and are poised for new adventures.

Daniel, Ginny, Victoria, and Adeline just started their third and final year in England. They celebrated the reopening of international travel by coming back to the U.S. for a visit, getting to spend some good times with both of their families. Victoria finished up her first year of (pre)school and loved every minute of it. In the fall she starts Reception (the first year of required schooling in the U.K.) and can't wait. Adeline just turned one and is walking and running now, and has just started bringing people books to be read. She's talking non-stop, but hasn't yet said any real words.

Peter's basement bathroom is finished! Now it is much easier to accommodate grandparent visits. The family enjoyed the regional RUF Summer Conference which Peter produced in May. RUF had to cancel the national Summer Conference due to COVID, so Peter organized one for the Mid-Atlantic schools. The conference was a smashing success, and the children loved spending a week at Doubling Gap Center. The Battle of Gettysburg re-enactment was another special excursion this summer. Amelia noticed General Lee and had a brief conversation with him. But the highlight of the year was hosting all the Greens but Christopher (still in China) at their house in WV. The new bathroom was a huge blessing, rivaled only by the guests who used it.



Victoria and Adeline



Isaac, Peter, Eli



Lydia and Amelia

Christopher spent a busy spring reopening the U.S. Consulate in Wuhan after fifteen months of suspended operations. The consulate celebrated with a large Independence Day party featuring a "50 years of Ping Pong Diplomacy" theme. Chris is finishing up by helping fill some gaps in the consulate in Guangzhou, before returning to the U.S. in late August to start a much-anticipated year-long sabbatical. He's excited at having some freedom and flexibility again, and is eagerly planning a month-long hike through Vermont on the Long Trail, the United States' oldest hiking trail. As for what he does after that, he glibly quotes Tolkien: "And where the road then takes me, I cannot tell!"



Christopher at the Independence Day Party

Stephen reports: “Much has happened since January. I recovered from COVID and jumped right into another online Korean class from February to March in preparation for my annual test. Although online class is not ideal, I can say with much relief that I retained enough proficiency to max the test again. Safe for another year!

“In April my unit did a month-long training exercise, which is the culmination of over a year’s worth of preparatory training and as such is a big deal. It was a month of grueling days and nights spent alternating between shivering from wet and cold and sweating profusely from the heat and humidity. Fortunately, everyone made it through mostly unscathed and promptly enjoyed a long weekend filled with air conditioning and hot showers.

“Annie and I decided to get engaged, so we thought it would be prudent to meet the families during our precious vacation time. I went to her mother’s home in Wisconsin and we were able to celebrate her 61st birthday while touring parts of the state and Chicago. We then joined the rest of the family in West Virginia for a few days before going on a tour of Bethlehem and Philadelphia. The time was too short, but it was worth the mad dashing around and sleeping on air mattresses to meet all the friends and family.



Stephen and Annie

“Our unit has been scheduled for a deployment to the Middle East, and Annie will be going. I have been ordered to go to a training course in Arizona in October, so I will not be leaving on the deployment right away and instead will leave to join her and the others in December if the deployment is still going on. There is a possibility the deployment will conclude in December, in which case she and I will attempt to have a wedding around Christmastime so that friends and family can attend. Pray that Annie and the rest of my coworkers will be safe during the deployment, and that I might be selected for an internship so we can move to Baltimore!”

Benjamin has been busy: “Urban Impact started up again and went well. I was asked to lead the Bible study portion of one of the classes for the Fall. This comes after leading some Bible studies for the church young adults Bible study, so I feel somewhat prepared. I’ve also learned how to run the livestream at church, along with some other guys, so I expect to be doing that every now and then. The church choir is also starting up again at the end of the summer, so that’s exciting! And I signed up to go through deacon training, so I may end up becoming a deacon!

“One of my favorite experiences this summer was going to French Creek Bible Conference again. I counseled the 9th and 10th grade week, as I’ve done for the past six or so years. I felt like it was one of the most enjoyable weeks, and I definitely felt like it was the most produc-



Benjamin and his French Creek campers

tive. For example, I spent more time reading the Bible that week than ever before, since I had to prepare for the Sunday School message, which I was asked to give. More fun experiences include the six weddings I attended this summer, one of which was all the way near Seattle, and I got roped into teaching one of my roommates how to drive. He just got his license, so I haven't completely failed him!"

Ruth's major project this spring was cleaning out her mother's home with the help of her brothers in preparation for selling it now that her mother is in a skilled nursing unit. The contents of boxes, filing drawers, cabinets, and closets were sorted, remarked over, and distributed. It was physically and emotionally draining, bittersweet and graced with gratitude for the almost twenty years her parents lived next door. She now is motivated to pare down our own home! A special joy was the family reunion in July, getting to be together with those we hadn't seen since pre-pandemic, and meeting our one-year-old granddaughter Adeline for the first time.



Ruth with Lydia, Isaac, Amelia, and Victoria



David with his new (used) pickup truck

How do you engage in home projects without a pickup truck? **David** has been wrestling with this problem for many years. Our children came to the rescue this winter and bought this beauty for my birthday. Ruth was skeptical, but it has already been put to good use on numerous occasions. I am hired by our church to split my time between campus and related activities, and congregational ministry. I enjoy meeting weekly with our pastor, have launched a church website, and

have conducted a survey about outreach. We are in the thick of discussions about a possible overseas assignment in the next few years.

The family was thinking we'd celebrate Christmas with Daniel and Ginny in England this year. But Stephen and Annie might be getting married at Christmastime! Between COVID restrictions and army deployment, who knows what will happen in December? Either way, look for some happy pictures in our Epiphany letter.

Yours,

David Green