

December 14, 2004

Season Greetings

Dear family and friends,

It's Christmas season again and it seems like we just celebrated Christmas a few days ago. This year has gone by so quietly that we are in our 38th edition of the Mouning Saga. We trust that you and your family are well and had a year filled with special memories and happy moments.

Last spring was filled with preparation and renovation of our new church building at 77 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT. Our first service was held on Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004 with Mr. Patrick Nolan and Rev. Jerry Streets of Yale University as the main speakers. We are growing and many items have been donated to our place of worship. Some of those were a Communion table, a hand made pottery resurrection Cross that glitters in the light and two nice Organs: one for the sanctuary and another one for our dinning hall.

Soon it was time to plant our garden, we had a variety of vegetables and they yield a great harvest. We replenished our chickens this summer by purchasing 10 Rhode Reds starter pullets that would begin laying in a couple of weeks.

Our annual vacation and our 47th Anniversary were spent in Manchester, New Hampshire. We were 1 hour from Boston, 1 hour from Maine and about 1½ hour from Vermont. We had dinner at various restaurant in different states. We celebrated our anniversary in Kitty, Maine with a lobster dinner. We spent 7 relaxing days in Manchester.

Marvin and DeÉtta as usual are working hard and enjoying their life experience together.

Gregory continues to work at Yale University and enjoys traveling with a variety of performance art groups. In addition to his acting duties, this year he created his first choreographed routine for a local swing dance troupe called the Rhythm Rousers. This routine was well received and premiered at the Great Connecticut Traditional Jazz Festival in Moodus, CT.

Greg continued his 18-year tradition by returning to the 50th Anniversary of the Newport Jazz Festival. He witnessed some great music, played by jazz legends all shared with some very special friends. He feels quite fortunate to have opportunities to do things he enjoys with a passion. And manage to spend time with family, especially his nephews and niece.

Jeffrey and Linda are the proud parents of a second year College student and a third grader. They are experiencing a variety of educational activity with Marcus and Jordan.

Kenneth and Rose-Marie and their family just moved in their new home in January in Granby, CT. Kenneth Jr. and Malachi are adjusting, and love their new home and school. Kenya is in day care where she is learning to speak Spanish.

We returned after a restful trip to our refurbished living and dining room. It was time to celebrate again. Thelma's niece Onya Harris was wed to Christopher Reid on September 4, 2004 in New Haven; it was a lovely wedding. Now it's harvest time for the garden.

Johnnie returned to work part-time at Yale and part-time with Fred at Little Harbor Lab in Guilford ,CT.

Thanksgiving is harvest time and we celebrated by giving thanks to God and dining at our home with all our families. It was fun to have all of our grandchildren spend 2½ days sleeping over. Marcus, our oldest grand hild brought his girlfriend from college and spent time with us during the Thanksgiving season. She is a beautiful lovely young lady her name is Kristin Canto from New Jersey.

Each year we are sadden by the loss of family, friends and loved ones. We pause in memory of Mr. Eric Harris, Deacon Charles Bryant, Mrs. Catherine Filyaw, Rev. Clarence Lassiter, Mr. Benjamin Moore, Miss. Jesse Mouning and Mrs. Elsie Barrett.

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with all the family at Ken & Rose's home in Granby, CT.

“And also that every person should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:13

May God bless you with good health and prosperity in 2005.

Love

The Mouning's