

The PickWIC Papers

Westminster Presbyterian Church PCA



Snow Skiing with the Schmid's

By Bre Schmid

What a blessing for our family to be able to travel to Vail, CO, for a week after Christmas! By God's grace, all of the conditions lined up perfectly. My dad was able to transport us to and from Chicago Midway; our flights were on time; a rental car mishap got straightened out; we remained healthy and safe; and we experienced the most snowfall while skiing as we ever have. We all thoroughly enjoyed

our time away relaxing together as a family! Nolan began skiing when he was 3 years old and Madison when she was 6 years old. I grew up skiing, starting when I was about 6 years old, and Nathan started in his twenties. We are all thankful to enjoy the outdoor activities as a family!

Some highlights include: being in the beautiful snow covered mountains overlooking a fancy, mostly pedestrian and storefront Swiss city that was decorated with beautiful Christmas decor; all of us tackling some more difficult terrain, including Madison going down the mogul run (the "small bumps one after another down a "blue" run), Nathan going down a steep and fast "blue" run, and Nolan being my "eyes" when my goggles iced up and it was snowing too hard to be able to take them off! The kids loved the many modes of transportation: being "taxied" by my dad, airplane, underground train at the Denver airport, shuttle buses, rental car(s), chairlifts, and an enclosed Gondola ride which we could take up or down the mountain with our skis! Even the airport's moving walkways and escalators everywhere were repeatedly enjoyed! We are thankful to be home safely with so many incredible experiences to remember. This trip may be nearly impossible to top. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. (See more photos, pg. 5)

What are you looking forward to in 2025?



* Kylie- I'm excited to be turning 12 this year and to be able to start babysitting!



* Ashlyn- I'm looking forward to traveling this summer. Our family plans on a road trip out west. We may stop in California to see the Redwoods before going on to Oregon to spend time with family.

My Mom Alta

By Tracy Maynard

Ask my Mom Alta where she comes from and she will proudly say, “from French royalty and Indian blood.” Her kids would say, “from watching way too many westerns.” Yet to know my Mom is to capture her story of being born a twin within a large family in rural Buffalo, Minnesota. Early years of swimming and fishing in the river, skiing to a country school in the winter, and outrunning her future Marine Corp brothers would highlight, but not exhaust her many stories of adventure.



Alta holding great-grandson Jordan Trace Brown

After graduating from high school in 1953, my Mom packed up and headed west where she worked at a bank in southern California. Five years later she made the journey back home and later travelled with a friend to Illinois where she met my Dad on a blind date. While raising my brother and me, my Mom drove a school bus and later opened a sporting goods store which was in business for 44 years. She finally called it quits and retired at the ripe age of 88. As a devoted mother and grandmother she watched many athletic events, while pondering the “what ifs” had she been given the opportunities her kids and grandkids embraced. Needless to say, she was always our greatest fan, showing up in personalized shirts made at her store.

To know my Mom is to appreciate her love of the Lord, family, and friends, and to listen to her many stories and memories of her life’s journey. She is a blessing to many and undoubtedly, at almost 90, could outrun anyone who would take her on.

Sisters, Sisters!

Sisters Stephanie Bloom and Amber Frank answer questions about each other and their sister Angie Janson

My sisters are built-in best friends! God truly, truly blessed me with them. I cannot begin to express how much they mean to me. Words are just not enough. We have so many memories of laughter and tears. Some of my best memories are becoming an Aunt and getting to share their children with them. I am so blessed every day by the Lord, just because of my sisters. They truly make my world a better place, and I cannot imagine a life without them. -Stephanie

[Read the interviews on pages 7-9](#)



Senior Moments

By Jenny Heaton

Julia Marie Edelman. Born January 11, 2007, at 8:45 a.m. I can't say what she was like as a baby or a child, but I do know what she is like at 18. She has a cheerful smile. She longs for people to know Jesus. In the times that I have talked to her, I have appreciated her honesty and thoughtfulness. I love how she has a heart to live with the Bible as her guide for her thoughts and actions.

Julia is in her Senior year at Cissna Park High School. She keeps herself busy playing basketball, being active in FFA, the yearbook committee, Student Council, Madrigals and the High School play, just to name some of the things. Her most enjoyable and satisfying activity though is playing basketball. One of the highlights of her Senior year has been experiencing how the girls on the basketball team have come together. Before each basketball game, the Fellowship of Christian Athlete sponsor shares a devotional and Julia is so thankful the team has an opportunity to think about God's Word before playing.

God has been at work in Julia this year not only through her activities, but also through suffering as well. The most difficult aspect of her Senior year so far is when Colson, a classmate, died in a motorcycle accident this past fall. God used this tragedy to remind and teach Julia that there is comfort in trusting his good and all-sovereign control over life. This truth about God has helped her to trust God, and also be able to encourage others, that the death of Colson was a part of God's plan. Though there is much that is hard to understand about Colson's death, there is comfort in knowing God and his character in the midst of grief.

Julia plans to attend Liberty University online after she graduates high school. Currently, she works part time at a daycare in Cissna Park and intends to continue that while focusing on her major of Early Childhood Education. Julia's long-term desire would be for God to provide a godly husband and to be able to be a stay at home mom.

Recently, in her time in the Word, Julia has just finished Proverbs. She was especially encouraged by Proverbs 31. As she considers the godly woman described in Proverbs 31, she would desire for God to grow her in maturity toward this end.



Would you take an opportunity to pray for Julia right now? She desires that God would give her opportunities to share about her faith in Jesus with her unbelieving classmates. She asks that you pray for God to give her boldness and grace in helping her point other people to Christ in her words and deeds.

Julia's current favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

My Sister Carol

By Pam Golden

There are 5 of us Chellberg kids. Carol is the oldest and became “Mommy’s little helper” at 13 ½ months of age when Sandi was born. She was 3 years 7 months old when I was born, 5 years 10 months old when Mary was born, and 8 years 8 months old when John was born. Our sister Carol has a very nurturing personality and homemaking gives her joy.

She has been married to Randy Peterson since June 9, 1973, and they have four married children, twenty-one grandchildren (four of whom are married), and one great-grandchild on the way. Carol has many reasons to live, but she knows that to die is GAIN. She believes God will supply all our needs (husband, children, grandchildren, siblings, friends, church family, etc.) because His grace is sufficient.

When Carol first went to the emergency room on November 22, she thought she had a urinary tract infection, but when the staff saw her jaundiced face, things changed quickly with scans and an ultrasound on her gallbladder, liver, pancreas and uterus. She was admitted when they discovered small lesions on her pancreas, a distended gallbladder, highly elevated bilirubin, and what they believed to be a fatty mass in her uterus. Carol responded with “Going with what the Lord lays before, knowing HE IS above, after, beside, and underneath. HE is a good SHEPHERD.” She has peace knowing God is in control as she fights to overcome the stage 1 pancreatic cancer that was first



Carol, with her husband Randy

diagnosed on November 25, 2024 (her 72nd birthday).

When Jim and I arrived at their home in Omaha, Carol was experiencing side effects from the meds she was taking to prepare for the surgery. Her response to the pain and discomfort was, “Worship, not whine” and often followed that by singing a hymn. One favorite was “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”, especially this verse:

My great Physician heals the sick,
 the lost He came to save.
 For me His precious blood he shed,
 for me His life He gave.
 I need no other argument,
 I need no other plea.
 It is enough that Jesus died,
 and that He died for me.



After the surgery, when Carol was out of recovery, Randy and their son Chris and his wife went into the room and found her very talkative, and she asked them to sing hymns with her.

(Cont'd on page 5)

(Cont'd from page 4)

Music has always been important to Carol. Her name means “song of joy” and she played piano for their church and sang duets with her husband. Singing is one of the ways the Lord gave her to express herself.

It is so encouraging for us three sisters to see Carol (the first of us ‘kids’ to come to faith) being “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58) even when facing cancer, two major surgeries in one day, and a potential blood clot in her lung. She gives God the glory whenever a doctor brings good news, so she is testifying her faith to them, and as Carol cooperates with whatever she is

asked to do and graciously asks for the hospital staff to help her and then thanks them for their service, they cannot help but be aware of her “fragrance of the knowledge of Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Please pray with us that the Lord will use Carol’s testimony of God’s faithfulness to impact many for Jesus Christ our Lord. She has been using this verse to close her correspondence: 2 Corinthians 4:17 “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”

Snow Skiing Pictures from Page 1



Love Came Down at Christmas, Daily Readings for Advent, by Sinclair Ferguson

Observations by Dusty Cannon

As a mama, it can be too easy to pray for something and then roll my eyes... run... or even cry when God sends His answer to my prayer. But patience is definitely one thing I continue to pray for as a parent.

Sinclair Ferguson's Advent reading 'Love Came Down at Christmas' does a beautiful job of walking us through I Corinthians 13 and shows us what love is; shows us Who love is.

I believe Day Four is one of the most memorable chapters for me. I was reminded that Love doesn't come down all wrapped nicely in a bow, but is something we utilize and practice daily... minute by minute some days. God ordains the very circumstances I am put into, and He is giving me every opportunity to learn and show patience. His goodness to me surpasses any wrong someone has done to me. And, He enables me to be patient in the love I show because of His love towards me.

As I read this chapter, I was praying with and for a dear friend. It was a blessing to see God working in her life as well as my own as we prayed together.

Something that stood out to me was Ferguson's reference to the beloved hymn by Charles Wesley. The words 'Late in time, behold Him come...' make much more sense to me now. The song lyric doesn't mean that Christ was late coming to earth. The phrase indicates that Jesus came after centuries of preparation! What a beautiful thought!

I truly enjoyed reading this book throughout the Advent season and applying what I had learned in my daily life. How faithful our God is to us that even something as well read as 'the love chapter' can have new meaning to His people.

Submission by Katy Schmid

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

Sisters, Sisters (Continued from page 2)

Stephanie, What's your favorite memory with Amber as a child? Sleeping with her in bed when I was little. She is 8 years older than I am, but she was like another Mom and I was devastated when she married and moved away when I was only 11 yrs old.

What's her hidden talent? Oddly great with history. :) She remembers so many things about the world.

How has she made the most significant impact on you? She has been a pillar of godly strength. She has helped strengthen me and my walk and understanding of the Word. She has always been someone to lean on and go to for prayer and companionship. She also made me an Aunt and I love being an Aunt!

What is her greatest strength? How she stands firm in the Lord.

What quality do you admire about her? I admire her fight. She has no fear in standing up for the Lord, his Word or his people.

Let's talk about Angie now, what's your favorite memory with her as a child? Listening to her music with her. I truly admired her style, how beautiful she was, and I wanted to be just like her.

Does she have a hidden talent? Yes! The love she has for her patients and softness for people of this world. I believe this is why God made her a nurse. She knows when someone needs her and can be so gentle and loving.

How has she made the most significant impact on you? She has blessed me with so much joy, love, and companionship. We have shared so many ups and downs. She has been there to pray together, laugh together, and cry together. Again, she also made me an Aunt and I love being an Aunt, and also a Great Aunt!

What is her greatest strength? Her perseverance. She has had so many difficulties in life and yet she continues to persevere through them all, never giving up on the Lord, herself, or her family.

What quality do you admire about her? The strength she shows waking up every morning, fighting through every day filled with pain, yet still loving the Lord, working hard, and taking care of her family without complaint. Acting normal with every step while her body betrays her, yet she does it with a loving and willing heart.

Do you have a favorite memory with your sisters as adults? Our trip to South Carolina and this picture of us Sisters together at the dock under the sign "Crazy Sister Marina".



*Amber, tell us about your sister, **Angie**:*

Angie has many talents, but one of them is baking. Angie loves to bake when she has free time, which isn't often. Angie has recently taken up sourdough and she is amazing at it! She has made quite a few different kinds which she is wonderful about sharing. Angie also used to bake and decorate the kids' birthday cakes! She always said she wasn't creative, but she really is in her own way. Some of my kids' favorite cakes were made by my sister.

Some of my favorite childhood memories with Angie were at my great-gran's house. She lived out in the country and we didn't really have toys there to play with, so we had to play with each other. She had this really cool tree in the back yard that was really easy to climb and had limbs close to the ground. We would play *Swiss Family Robinson* in that tree. I think a lot of my memories with Angie had to do with playing in trees. We also would play in the mulberry tree in our backyard at home picking berries like we were foraging for food! HA! I remember playing in the leaves at Granny's house as well. She had so many trees, and in the fall we would rake them all and have huge piles to run and jump in.



As adults, Angie and I are super close and have so much fun together. I think one of the best memories is actually with both my sisters when we went to Myrtle Beach around my 40th birthday together. We were gone a week, and laughed and relaxed and just had a wonderful time being together. Anytime I want to do anything, I want my sisters with me.

Angie has always been such a great encourager. She sees the best in everyone, and does whatever she can to lift people up and help them out. Angie has the biggest heart, and she just loves giving. She is always picking up little things for people just because she thought they would enjoy it. When the kids were little, any time they got sick or had something happen, she would bring these little goody baskets. They always knew how much their "IDGY" loved them. That is also her greatest strength, and what I admire most about her, that she has such a giving heart. She will give even when she has nothing left to give, that is why she makes such a wonderful nurse.



*Wonderful! Tell us about **Stephanie** now:*

My mom was injured when Stephanie was just an infant and I, being the oldest, just started helping to take care of her. Memories with Stephanie are more about when she was tiny, and until she was about 2 or 3, she slept with me every night. The night before my wedding, she asked to sleep in my bed one more time. I think it was really hard for her because I moved so far away.

One of Stephanie's hidden talents is also baking. She has made amazing birthday cakes every year for her kids. Really, my sisters should open a bakery!

Stephanie and Angie also have another thing in common, and that is taking in other kids as their own. When someone comes to them in need of a place to stay, they just open their doors. I know of a couple girls Stephanie has taken in and mothered because they didn't have a mom of their own.

I admire Stephanie for working so hard to be a godly influence on her husband; I have seen Stephanie's faith grow a lot since she has been married. Her life is sometimes difficult because Derek isn't a believer, but she loves him with all her heart and prays daily for God to intervene in his life.

My sisters are my very best friends. Any time we sisters are together we have a great time and just enjoy each other's company, whether it is paint parties in Stephanie's garage, or shopping and lunch. We love being together: sometimes it's just sitting and talking about our trials and things we are dealing with as moms, wives, and daughters, praying for each other and encouraging one another.

Typing these things out just reminds me how blessed I am to have such fun, godly, loving sisters, who truly love to be together as much as possible. We raise our kids together; we cheer for one another, spoil each other, and lift each other up in prayer. I always say on my sisters' birthdays that they were the greatest gift God gave to ME!

“Community and compassion are covenant issues. They are marks of the family of God. For God’s covenant family to have a vital presence in the culture, there must be community and compassion in the Christian home and in the church.” *Susan Hunt*

The PickWIC Papers

Women need women to think biblically, live covenantally and to pass the legacy on to the next generation.



The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club (also known as **The Pickwick Papers**) was the first novel by Charles Dickens.

Written for publication as a serial, *The Pickwick Papers* is a sequence of loosely-related adventures set in 19th-century England.

In her famous novel **Little Women**, Louisa May Alcott uses these “papers” as the basis for a Pickwick Club started by the March sisters. Each girl submits a story, a theatrical excerpt, or a recipe for each edition of their very own “Pickwick Papers,” read aloud together in their family attic.

The ladies of WIC have decided to borrow this clever title (slightly altered) as we publish our very own WIC newsletter — you will recognize the similarities.