

## Merry Christmas 2014 from the Soley Family!

Dearest family and friends,

We had another fun and exciting year and have so much to be grateful for. Thank you being a part of it!



**Nate** – Being a super hero is tough business, but Nate pulls it off swimmingly. One morning, Patrick announced that Dad was the best and coolest Dad **ever**, to which Andrew responded, “You *just* figured that out now?” Thomas, another morning, confided in me that when he grows up, he wants to get married and have children. He said, “I will be *just* like Dad.” How beautiful are the hearts of those who love their Daddy. Nate shoulders the responsibility of supporting our family with integrity and we are so grateful for his hard work. He gives of himself with great love. He heads up William’s Webelos den as scout master and has enjoyed *and* endured both temperate and soggy camping trips with Andrew, William, Charlie, and Thomas. ☺

**Andrew, 13** - Had lots of campouts and fun with the scouts and is also volunteer leader for Nate with William’s den. He participates in two great youth groups and loved his summer camps: Camp Many Point, Extreme Faith Camp, and Camp Veritas. He researched robotics and enjoyed dismantling computers and rebuilding them with oversight from Nate. This was his first year of babysitting - an amazing help for us. He spearheaded, helped to fund, and orchestrate (with financial support from his siblings) the acquisition of a new video game console; it was, of course for Dad’s birthday (wink, wink). He spent the summer making friends with the chipmunks - luring them with peanuts. He passed his Watercraft Operator’s permit and presently is praying for a little fishing boat. He also has his eyes on the ski boat – YIKES! He began his first year with a co-op at Saints Peter and Paul in Loretto; taking some tough classes one day per week. He is working and playing hard with some amazing young men. He just achieved teenager status on the 21<sup>st</sup> – our boy is growing into an amazing young man.



**William, 11** - A natural teacher this one, he is so patient and gentle in his explanations to his younger siblings. Dismantling computers and rebuilding them was a fun project for him as well. His love for and talent in art have been an inspiration and he still loves MineCraft. Along with Andrew, he enjoyed his first year in two great youth groups. While helping Charlie land a huge bass that they both were unable to remove the hook, they looked to me for assistance. William encouraged me saying, “You are the daughter of a GREAT fisherman! You can do this!” He has clearly heard many stories of my late father. He looks forward to crossing over from Webelos to Boy Scouts this spring. He began building elaborate origami creations and has inspired his siblings to do the same. In hindsight, Nate and I wish we had acquired stock in a paper manufacturing company, for as a result of the Soley purchases, they will report banner earnings for 2014. His favorite creations are the magic rose cube and one-piece super boomerang (so far.) He still loves to fish and landed some beautiful bass and crappies.

**Libby, 9** –Gift giving is still her primary love language. She bought gifts for everybody last year, and I think she enjoyed the giving as much if not more than the recipient enjoyed receiving. She had braces put on in January and removed in the fall. Her smile is just beautiful and she has been enjoying taffy ever since. I can expect to have a new hairdo, compliments of ‘Salon de Libby’ by lunch time and then another later if I will allow; up do’s and braids are her signature styles. She started gymnastics under my high-school coach, she is really enjoying it, and I am living vicariously through her! She recently began dancing with a beautiful Christian dance group; she shines when she dances. She has outfitted our entire family with creative braceleates made with her rainbow loom. Presently she is making ornaments for the Christmas tree. She loves to lead treasure hunts around the house, where her siblings race from clue to clue, leading them with great anticipation toward the conceald treasures (typically a bag of microwave popcorn.) She loves to help in the kitchen and has become a reliable assistant chef for me.





**Charlie will be 8 in January** – Played youth basketball last winter and loved it! He spent a great deal of time in front of the microphone rapping on the Karaoke machine; his stage name is CharDog and his inspirations are Toby Mac & Tyler Williams (Truth). Nate bought him some sea monkeys (aka, brine shrimp), that he loved and nurtured. In keeping with last summer’s passion, he was nary to be found outside without a fishing rod in hand; he landed a trophy bass with some help from William. This is his first year as a Cub Scout and he is enjoying his new friends. His current passion is origami, spurred by William’s love for the art. His favorite challenges have been the spinning windows, boomerang, and the super shuriken. Creating and improving Lego models is also a pastime for Charlie. He loves helping

with his younger siblings, and looks up to his older ones with admiration.

**Thomas George (T.G.) will be 6 on Christmas Eve** - At Church last winter, during the sign of peace, he said “Only two people gave me peace, I only got two peaces!” It was so sweet. He enjoyed boy’s gymnastics along with his older brothers. This boy has more spring and bounce than Tigger. He spent the entire summer fishing and swimming. He was the first in the water and the last out. He is an amphibian magnet as well; catching and loving every single frog and toad that crossed his path. He also caught the biggest Northern Leopard Frog I have ever seen; *in my life*. He loves to help prepare vegetables; peeling and chopping and is always asking how he can help; especially in the kitchen. He is such a kind and gentle soul.



**Patrick, will be 4 in January** and says “Story of my life!” and “See? Told ya!” Our children cajoled Nathan and me out of the house after our babysitter fell through on our anniversary; my mom volunteered to watch the children. When we returned home, Patrick patted my hand and said, “I am proud of you Mom.” He calls his siblings the kids, saying, “Mom, where are the kids?” He loves to play with Nate’s air planes to spin the “compeller,” aka propeller. When I was playing with Patrick, tossing him gently onto the bed, his heart was racing from activity and I directed his hand to his heart to feel his heartbeat and he exclaimed, “Yup, God’s in it!” His intoxicating smile has saved him *many* times, as this one is *very* curious!

**Mary Frances - will be 2 on January 2nd** - All Things Pink and Gushy has been shortened to “The Gush”, or simply, “Skinny.” Donning her cape, she is *Captain A-Mary-ca!* She hugs with every morsel of her being and pats our back when we hold her. The little sweetheart can be found orbiting the center island, giggling with delight as with each trip around, finds me there as though it was the *first* time. She is our resident blood pressure cuff; she runs up to us as fast as can and *squeezes* our legs with all her might! She has many words, “No,” “Wake up!” “Apple sauce,” “Juice,” “iPad,” “Mommy,” “Watch!” “Daddy,” “Up,” all of her sibling’s names, and more! She loves to paint - that is a sight! Watching her sing and act out *The Wheels on the bus go round and round* is absolutely heartwarming!” She is adored and *spoiled* by her siblings - all of us really.



**All is well with me.** As home schooling wife and mother, the days, weeks, and months fly by and there goes another year! I thank God daily, for I could not have hand-picked a more joy-filled life. The children are praying for a little brother or sister; oh how the love compounds! I have some fun writing projects under way and I am learning tons. God keeps me patient and humble, most assuredly. As the children continue to grow, the schedule seems to fill up; somehow God makes it all work. He is just like that! ☺

Our family is grateful for family and friends like you. You have made our life a little sweeter and little brighter. God’s blessings to you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Love - The Soley Family – Nate & Kristen, Andrew, William, Libby, Charlie, Thomas-George, Patrick & Mary-Frances

