

Dear Family and Friends,

This is our first attempt at composing a family letter sharing our adventures during the past year. We hope that you enjoy.

This was a busy year filled with travel, fun and time with family and friends. During Christmas break we went to Ocean Lakes in Surfside Beach. This has become an annual tradition for us where we just relax, walk on the beach, enjoy bingo and do the Polar Plunge on New Year's Eve.

January and February found us going to gymnastics competitions. This was Rachel's first year of competitive gymnastics. She competes in the AAU Bronze division and continues to improve. She also continues to do well in school. Rachel has established a reading program for less fortunate children called Rae's Readers. She collects books and gives them to children at the soup kitchen.

March and April were busy as Rachel's art work was displayed as part of the Darlington County Schools Art show. We had a wonderful Children's Choir at church called Jonah's Druthers. Rita and I were responsible for set construction and costumes. It was a wonderful and exhausting experience for all. Rachel started back playing softball and she is getting better every day. We sprung a surprise on Rachel and one of her best friends during spring break. We had told them we were going to Charleston. Instead we wound up in Orlando. We also were able to see our good friends Ron and Judy while we were there. We wrapped up the trip visiting our friends Harold and Evelyn in Crystal River.

May and June were exciting as Rachel's softball team, Nat's Bats, won the 8U championship for the 5th year in a row. Rachel also wrapped up her gymnastics competition by finishing second in the state for her age group. We were so proud given this was her first year competing. Rachel finished the year on the all "A" Honor Roll for the second year in a row. We went back to Ocean Lakes for our annual end of school vacation. We also began a big remodel on the house and found time to go to the capitol and were introduced to both chambers of the General Assembly. This was a great thrill for us all.

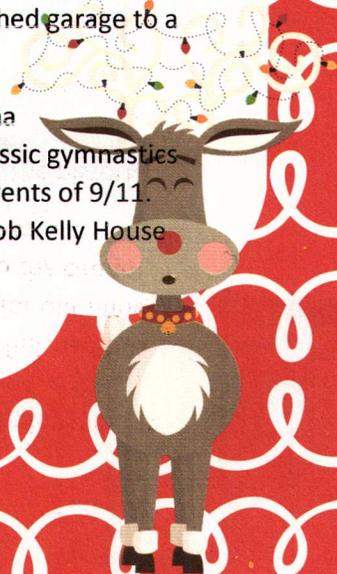
July and August we made our trip to Charleston and visited Boone Hall Plantation, the historic district, Patriot's Point and Fort Sumter. We also paid our respects at the Emmanuel AME Church. This was a moving experience. Rachel got the opportunity to spend a week with her great grandparents in Virginia. School resumed in August with Rachel now in the 3rd grade.

September and October had Rachel perform Acolyte at church for the first time. Gymnastics and fall softball started. We had a wonderful trip to the state fair on Rita's birthday. Two of Rachel's friends joined us and we all had a wonderful day together. We finished phase one of the remodel which added a sunroom, pool deck and new floors in two rooms. Phase two started to convert the attached garage to a sewing and craft room and a "Man Cave" for James in the detached garage.

November and December we went on the Polar Express Ride at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Rachel also finished first in her age group at the Candy Cane Classic gymnastics competition. We are so proud of her. She also completed a project for her class on the events of 9/11. She did a great job! Rita was elected by her guild members to be the President of the Jacob Kelly House Guild for 2016.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

James, Rita and Rachel

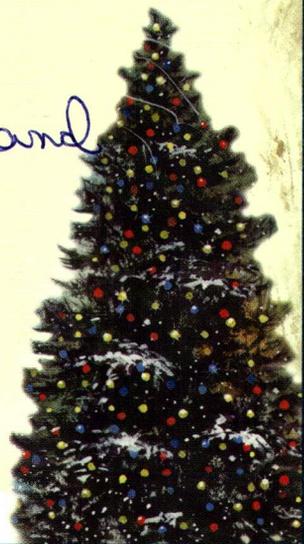




*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
that lights your heart with
love, joy and hope.*

*Thank you for all you and
your family do for our
state.*

*Best Wishes
James, Rita & Rachel*



John Rossini has been a professional architect, illustrator and watercolorist for 30 years. His architectural background and attention to detail have been a strong influence in the subject matter and the composition of his artwork. John affirms, "The subjects of my art are generally ordinary scenes with strong architectural themes that reflect the New England vernacular. My style is realist in order to present the things around me as they truly exist." © John Rossini, licensed through Penny Lane Publishing, Inc. GCD 10119

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Artwork by John Rossini

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Merry Christmas

COLUMBIA SC 290

Holidays



Mr. James G. Nuckles
1005 Hillcrest Rd.
Hartsville, SC 29550



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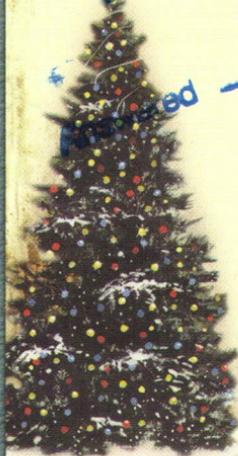


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JAN 05 2016

A. Lee

Governor Haley & family
800 Richard St.
Columbia, S.C. 29201



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