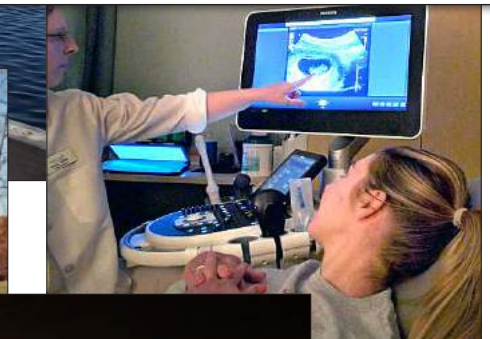


**Merry Christmas 2016,**

In contrast to a tumultuous 2015, the quiet beginning to 2016 was a nice change. It was as if fresh winter snow hushed the roily happenings around us. We were thankful for the lack of crises and for the Lord granting us peace to start anew.

Katelyn and Drew gave us the biggest family news ... they are having a baby in 2017 (*due March 9th*). We all gathered together in Toledo with the Oostra family in October for the gender "reveal" -- *it's a girl!* We are super excited for both of them ... *and to be grandparents*. They currently live in Wayzata, MN, southwest of Minneapolis, and are busy in their careers. Katelyn could not be at a better practice than the Wayzata Children's Clinic and is a great pediatrician, while Drew finishes the final year of his oncology fellowship. He sees patients at several Minneapolis area hospitals and was invited to present his lung cancer research in Vienna, Austria this month. Katelyn tagged along as to make the most of the overseas trip before "Baby Oostra" arrives. We anticipate a lot changing (*or a lot "of" changing*) next year. 😊



Taylor continues to grow professionally and it is easy to see why he excels in his role as Clermont County Planner - he is knowledgeable. He has an apartment in East Walnut Hills (Cincinnati) and thrives on all that urban living has to offer. We enjoy him being a 45 minute drive away which makes it easy to get together. This past summer he invited a group of his friends over for a pool party / bonfire / camp out ... reminiscent of high school and college. Speaking of camping, Taylor has really taken to hiking and backpacking. For a vacation over Thanksgiving, he traveled to Hawaii with a couple friends and backpacked along the Na Pali Coast on Kauai. Strenuous hiking, but what beauty.



We enjoyed a few trips to the boat in the winter and spring (*never enough*) and traveled to visit Katelyn and Drew for a busy weekend in September. The highlight was watching our Indians beat the Twins, readying Cleveland for the World Series.



**"It is not only love that builds a strong foundation, but the decency of merciful lies."**

This statement was intriguing and reminded us of our human limitations. Someday we will see God face to face and understand His love builds our strong foundation and gives us the eternal assurance of Heaven. No lie!!! Thank you Jesus.

Brenda and Rich