

Merry Christmas 2017,

*"So long as the memory of certain beloved friends and family lives in my heart, I shall say that life is good."* – Helen Keller

On January 10th, Mom Howard entered heaven just a few

days before we celebrated with a baby shower anticipating the arrival of "Baby Girl Oostra."

*A precious one from us is gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home,  
Which never can be filled.*



March 4th, Katelyn and Drew delivered a healthy Annalyn

Kay Oostra in Wayzata, Minnesota. We immediately drove up from Cincinnati to meet our granddaughter and spent a week helping them acclimate to life with a baby. Drew's parents, Barb and Randy, did the same a week later. It is so true, there are few things as wonderful as being grandparents.

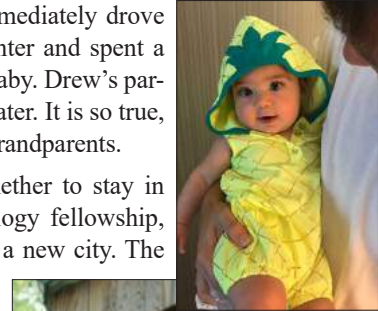
Katelyn and Drew's next decision was whether to stay in Minnesota after Drew's Hematology/Oncology fellowship, or to move and to BOTH start new jobs in a new city. The

decision wasn't easy since Katelyn loved being a pediatrician at Wayzata Children's Clinic and Drew had a couple attractive offers in Minneapolis. In the end they opted to move closer to family and are now both working for Promedica in Toledo, Ohio. They stretched out their summer giving them time to settle into a very comfortable house in Perrysburg, Ohio. It was a good decision, especially for Katelyn, as she was able to work a three day week schedule with Oregon Pediatrics just east of Toledo.

Taylor continues to enjoy his work as the Clermont County Planner and spending time with friends. We

love having him close to us and he enjoys being part of urban Cincinnati while living in East Walnut Hills. Taylor makes the most of his vacations taking hiking and camping trips on weekends and he stretched out a wedding he was in by hiking with a friend on Vancouver Island, British Columbia and western Washington state.

*"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other; wings."* – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Rich and I enjoyed updating our kitchen and laundry room, but the replacing of furnaces and roof, *not so much*. 😊 Our trips sailing have been limited, but Rich traveled to Florida a few times to do some "out-of-the-water" bottom work on Encore. Both of us have helped out babysitting in Perrysburg and we have definitely enjoyed our family being closer. Thanksgiving was at our house this year and it was nice to have Rich's brother Ron and his family with us. We were all thankful to be together.

At Christmas we are reminded of the greatest gift ever, guaranteed eternal life through Jesus Christ. Carpe Diem!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Brenda and Rich