

# Gordon Christmas Letter

## Jay, Liz, Andy & Emily 2016

Written by Jay



We hope this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the Christmas season! Christmas is a time in which I think about all our blessings, and friends are one of those blessings.

**Emily gets married!** The biggest news of the year is that Emily got married on September 2 in a very small ceremony. The groom is Daniel Standifer, who is from Birmingham and works in the claims department of Allstate Insurance. The honeymoon consisted of a Western Caribbean Cruise out of Miami. The two live in an apartment complex off of Hwy. 280, very near Emily's work place--Perry's Steak House, where she is a hostess. Perry's is an upscale restaurant that started in Houston. She sees folks like Charles Barkley now and then, and lots of really nice cars she knows Andy would envy. We don't like to spend that much money to eat, but we do enjoy going for lunch on Friday when they feature a 3" thick pork chop for \$15. We have to make multiple meals with that thick of a cut.

The wedding reception was held a couple of months later, on November 11, at Griffin Farms in Helena. It is an outdoor venue, and we celebrated with family and friends with Bar-be-cue in the barn, making smores around the fire pit, and standing under the patio heaters to knock off the cold from one of the first chilly nights of the year.

**Life in Philly** - Andy is still in Philadelphia where he works as an Applications Engineer for SKF. He started his MBA at Villanova, so he claims two national championships this year--Alabama in football and Villanova in basketball. We get to see one another every few months. He travels a good bit to places like Charleston, SC, where they have a plant, and Cincinnati where he visits customers.

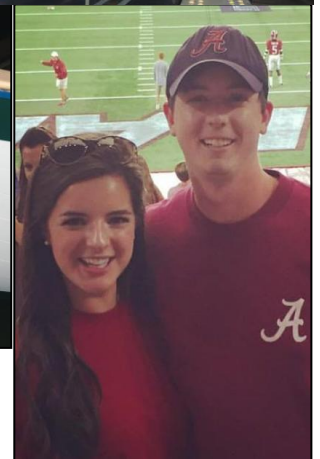
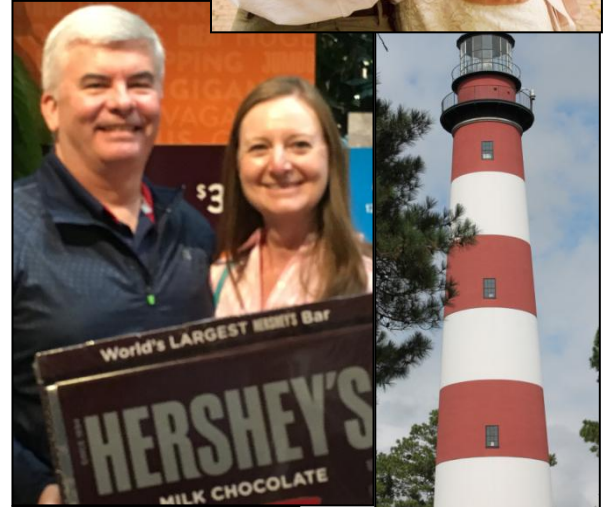
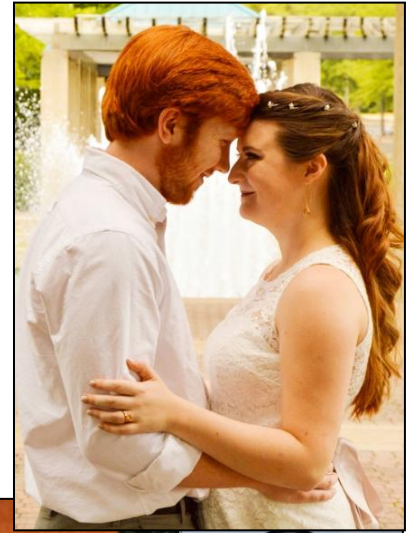
**Bucket List** - As part of a fall visit to see Andy, Liz and I made a stop in Pittsburgh to catch the Pirates last home game. I'm on a quest to see a major league game in every MLB city. Pittsburgh was #23. Since people often ask, the ones left are SEA, SF, DEN, PHX, TOR, MIL, MIN.

**Travels** - On that trip, we also visited a good friend from college, Susannah Ray, who lives near Hershey, PA. Andy and Siena were able to spend Thanksgiving with that family, and we're glad to share that common thread with someone relatively near to Andy. At Andy's house, we enjoyed visiting, eating, shopping and watching football together and also got to visit Andy's church on Sunday--Epic Church in Manayunk. The pastor is a great communicator. Following the visit, Liz and I traveled home down the Atlantic Coast and saw lots of new places.

**Normal Life** - Liz is still working two separate jobs with E3 Partners Ministries. She is an assistant in the Medical Office, which coordinates medical mission trips from across the country. She also still leads church groups on trips, mostly to South America. The work with college nursing and pharmacy programs seems to be growing and the chance to minister and practice overseas is really special to the students. On Thursday nights she volunteers teaching international English as a Second Language. I work at The Church at Brook Hills, in my third year as Adult and Small Groups Minister. The work is really fun, but I also enjoy college football on Saturdays. We often try to use it as an opportunity to connect with new or old friends and cheer on the Crimson Tide.

**Summer Beach Trip** - Another great experience this year was the first annual Gordon Family Beach Trip to Orange Beach. Andy and his girlfriend, Siena, came down from Philly, and Emily and Daniel went with us from Birmingham. We found a really great deal on a large condo and enjoyed the beach, golfing, the zoo, playing games and of course, great food. This year we discovered the board game Catan and enjoy playing.

**Amazon 2015** - After our Christmas letter last year, in December 2015, Liz and I went on a medical mission trip up the Amazon River in Peru. It was amazing to see life on that part of the world and to see that church planting is alive and well in that corner of the world. The river there is amazingly wide and it still has thousands of miles to go before spilling into the Atlantic. There's a really good video posted at [Facebook.com/GordonPlace](https://www.facebook.com/GordonPlace).



Sending Christmas cards & letters is one of our favorite Christmas traditions. You are among friends who have been a big part of our lives, and you mean much to us. Even though we might not get to spend time with you throughout the year, we value your friendship! We'd love to hear from you as well, so please stay in touch as we all face good times and bad, praying for each other along the way.

*May the joy of knowing Christ be yours this Christmas season!*

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

---

123 Landale Drive, Sterrett, AL 35147 · Facebook.com/GordonPlace · Twitter: JayGordon4