

2017 DESIMONE NEWSLETTER



"A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence" (written by Jim Watkins). This quote appeals to me because it effectively illustrates how every person has power and influence in life. How we use that power is guided by the choices we make every day. Our power can be limited to just one small act of kindness to help someone else or our power could be larger if our attitude



and beliefs fuel our desire to achieve larger acts of kindness. I constantly marvel at the amount of freedom God has given all of us to "choose." I find myself vacillating back and forth in

my choices depending on the level of gratitude I choose to have.



Merry Christmas
2017

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Choosing gratitude means that I can look at life's challenges as an opportunity to grow, rather than looking at it as bad luck and giving up. Does that mean I never get discouraged? Of course not! I pray for strength and courage that will give me the grace to "choose gratitude" and to

"choose kindness." As each year passes, I realize that life has more meaning if we embrace this approach to life.

The Desimone family has had yet again another busy year! This past fall was the fastest and busiest fall I have ever experienced. As a result, I have had to pace myself in terms of my usual list of things to accomplish as the end of the year draws closer. Ryan made the Junior Varsity soccer team this year and he did a fantastic job.



Matthew auditioned and was given the honor of participating in the East/West Jazz Band Ensemble playing his trombone. Michael had an incredible start to

his year by being a part of the Marching Band. His band won first place in the Pennsylvania Marching Band competition. His Marching Band also



won 5th place in the National Marching Band competition! Alissa continues to enjoy playing the flute in band and singing in choir. Her exuberant and fun personality continues to be a huge blessing to everyone who has the pleasure of getting to know her. Joe is very excited to be starting a new business

venture with his business partner, Robert Rittich, CEO. Joe is the Chief Financial Officer at this new company which is called Counter Measures Security. This company will provide advanced cyber security for small and medium sized companies. The website for Counter Measures Security is www.countermeasuresnow.com. Joe is currently working a temporary job in auditing at KPMG as an Internal Controls Consultant.



In the fall, I chose to leave my job working as an Emotional Support Paraeducator in the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District. I am now working at Mason Clinical Group as



a Behavioral Specialist/Mobile Therapist. This new career path is allowing me to work on earning my Behavioral Specialist License



and Licensed Professional Counselor credential. I am very excited about this new opportunity and I love the people I work with!

This year our usual visit to Vermont was met with some changes. For those of you who did not know, my father was diagnosed with

pancreatic cancer shortly after Easter this year. As you can well imagine, we were all very shocked and saddened by this. The diagnosis was found unexpectedly when performing some other tests in regard to his health, so this was good since it was detected on the earlier side. My father endured chemo treatments over the summer and he is currently going through chemo and radiation treatments



which should last 5 weeks. It has been a very hard road for him and for my mother, but they are handling it with a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a resolve to face this diagnosis with courage and perseverance.



As a result, I decided to take the family to Vermont for a visit, but this time we stayed in



tents at Prouty Beach in Newport, Vermont for four days. We had the pleasure of enjoying an amazing view of Lake Memphremagog and the weather cooperated so that we could enjoy some fun times there in the great outdoors. Before our arrival, I was told that it rained almost every day since the beginning of summer. Luckily,

Joe and the boys are all trained Boy Scouts so Alissa and I had it made in terms of not worrying about how to handle putting up and taking down the tents and all of the other details that go along with camping! My father was feeling pretty good during the week we visited and we were able to have some very enjoyable visits after our "activity-filled" days that included canoeing on the lake,



playing tennis at our camping ground, and going to the Pump House Indoor Water Park in Jay, Vermont. We have gone there for several years in a row, but Joe was with us this time and the kids loved



having Daddy at this attraction. After spending four days in Newport it was time to

pack up the tents and head to Gloucester, Massachusetts to visit with my brother Doug, Betty, Meghan, and Katey. This is the first year we arrived with tents and they were "wet tents." Joe and the boys took all of the tents out of the overhead carrier on the car and had to "air dry" them. I'm

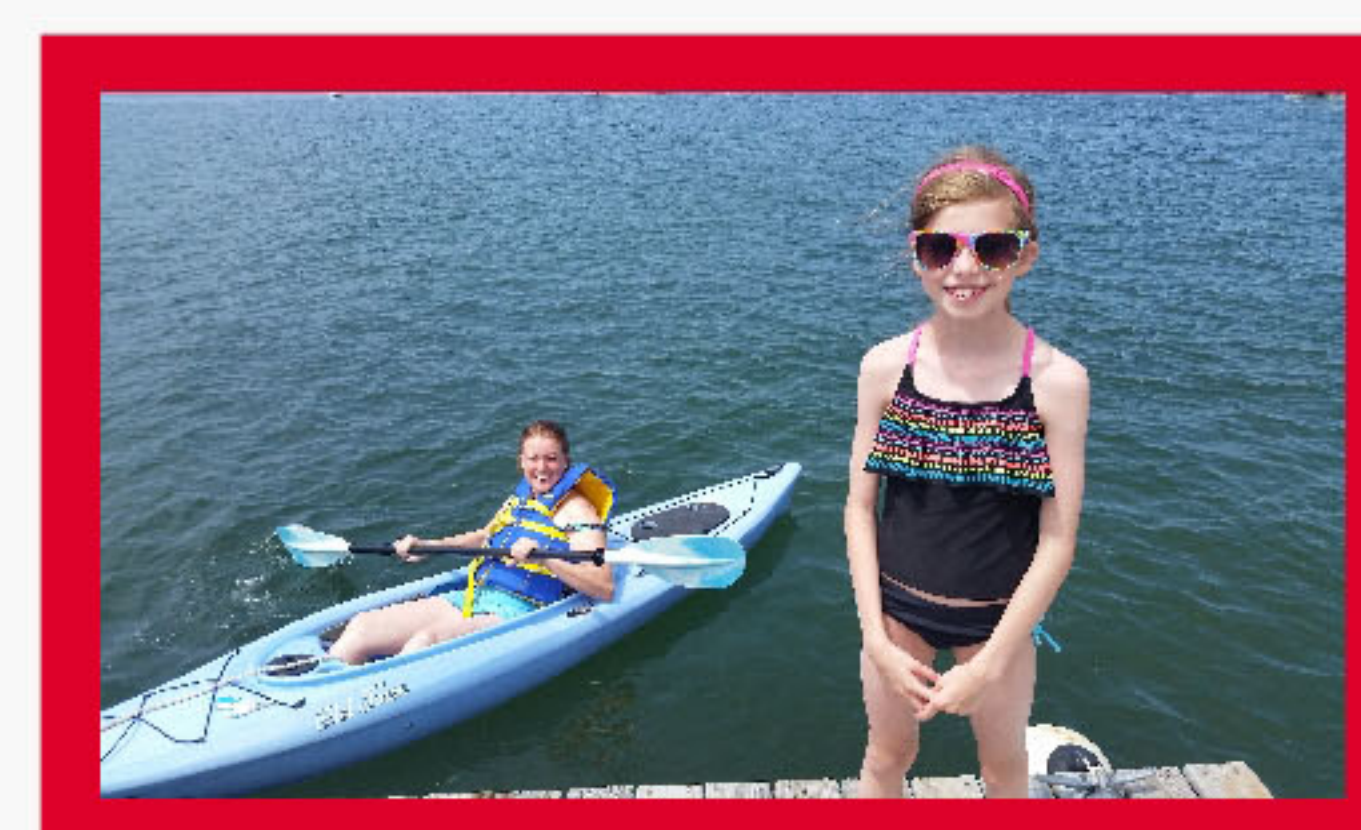
sure we looked like "quite the sight" landing in the posh town of Gloucester, Massachusetts! It's never a dull adventure with our family! Once again, the weather cooperated so that the kids could enjoy boat rides with Uncle Doug and for the first time ever we were visiting during the weekend where we celebrated a "Christmas in July Event" on Wingersheek



Beach. Santa arrived by boat and a feast and gift exchange served as entertainment as we relaxed on the beach. What a great time it was!



2017 was met with many challenges and many blessings. We also gained two more



teenagers in the household (Matt and Ryan)! Yikes! I will be greeting each day in 2018 with a new commitment to make the choice of "gratitude" and "kindness" in everything that I do. 2017 was a hard year for our family because of my father's pancreatic cancer diagnosis, but

I'm grateful that our family perseveres through good times and bad times. Our faith will carry us through. Our blessings are many and our love sustains us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Love,

Jodi, Joe, Michael, Matthew, Ryan, and Alissa Desimone



Merry Christmas