



## HOLIDAY NEWSLETER

The Desimone Family

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### 2008 Update



We hope you enjoy the family picture. It is always very challenging to get a good picture of everyone. The children run around like rats in a maze every time we get this done. During the photo shoot, Matthew and Ryan kept saying how happy they were "to finally be a Daddy." They see Joe dress up a lot for church and have decided that the way to become a Daddy is to wear a suit with a tie. Ryan was impressed by the dresses that Alissa and I were wearing and called us each a princess. Matthew was busy looking for an escape route. Michael was as proud as he could be to actually be taller than Mommy in the picture. Alissa had the easy job of sitting for the picture and smiling. I think we may have a future model on our hands. As for Joe, I think he was pretty much ready to "spontaneously combust" since getting a photo taken with toddlers is not exactly a "calming" experience. And Mommy was just thrilled to see that everyone eventually posed for the picture and just kept smiling as the camera flashed.

It doesn't seem possible another year has slipped by. During 2008, we have been a very busy family. In January I started my search for a pre-school



program for Matthew and Ryan. I finally found a terrific place for them called, "Creative Moments." Both of them love to go there. Ryan loves it so much that many times when I go to pick him up from school he is holding a tissue to his nose because he is so sad about leaving. If he had his way he would go every day of the week. Michael started kindergarten this year and he is doing very well. On his first day he wasn't very worried about the new adventure and when the bus came he just hopped on the bus and almost forgot to look back. I guess his daycare experience helped him to handle that experience with flying colors. Alissa is the only one at home full time these days. Of course she has a few stumbles and bumps along the way trying to keep up with her three older brothers, but she handles herself very well.

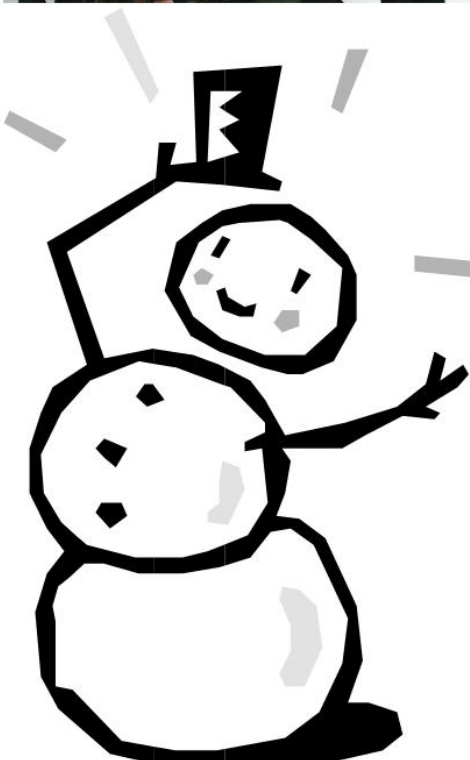
Our biggest adventures this year were two visits to Sesame Place and a 4<sup>th</sup> of July trip to Massachusetts. We had a wonderful time at Sesame Place. The boys' favorite ride there was the roller coaster. And Alissa squealed with delight when she saw Elmo walking around for the first time. The 4<sup>th</sup> of



Michael

#### Special points of interest:

- *Michael will turn 6 in January*
- *Matthew and Ryan turned 4 in October.*
- *Alissa turned 2 in October*



Alissa



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July trip to Massachusetts to see my brother and his family took about ten hours by car to travel there. As you can well imagine any kind of road trip presents a big challenge to a young family like ours, but we made it! We had many fun times there and my brother's summer house in Gloucester has a spectacular view. The children enjoyed boat rides and played on the beach. On a humorous note Matthew did make one discovery about a water hose container that he most likely won't forget the next time he sees one. All of the kids were outside on the lower deck with Joe and I and then all of a sudden we heard Matthew screaming for help. He had decided to explore the inside of the hose container and he was stuck head down in the container with his legs sticking out and flailing wildly about. We immediately rescued him, but if ever a picture was worth a thousand words that was it. Matthew has a tendency to leap before he thinks and sometimes he lands himself in some difficult situations.

We are looking forward to the holidays. Christmas will be an especially exciting time for the kids. But one thing Joe and I always remember at the close of each year is that everything we have is from God and all the challenges we face are used by God to help us become stronger and more like Him. Our blessings are many and our challenges are many, but "If God is for us, then who can be against us" (Romans 8, vs. 31). On those days when the money is tight or the children are misbehaving we remind ourselves of the importance of having a strong faith in God and to

constantly pray for His guidance and for His will to be done. With Joe being unemployed we have really been humbled in knowing that we have to rely on God. "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope" (Jeremiah 29, vs. 11). God loves all of us more than we can possibly imagine. One of the blessings that

Joe and I have received this year is to understand a little more what it means to have faith. I think when any of us face difficulties in life we receive a glimpse of what Mary and Joseph must have felt when faced with the enormous task of bringing the "Messiah" into the world. Imagine having God tell you that he was going to give you a child that would be the Savior of the world. Would you believe it? Would you have enough faith to do everything that was asked of you? I know many of us would seriously wonder if we would. In closing, Joe and I wanted to include a poem that my grandmother, Edith Johnson, wrote in 1964. As many of you know she liked reading and writing her own poetry and kept a collection of them. We thought this poem had special meaning for this time of year and we wanted to pass it along. Joe and I hope and pray that God will richly bless you. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

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



Matthew



Ryan

Happy Holidays!!!

