

Barfields at Christmas 2014



David at the U.S. Supreme Court



Baby bumps



Bingley and Bear



Christmas 2014

The year's big news: two more grandchildren coming in 2015! Our first grandchild, Ain, is approaching 18 months, a busy boy. Lord willing and the ultrasound is right this time, he will have a little brother in March. Recently we learned that Megan and Brandon are expecting their first child in June.

Our work lives

David's job – David's challenging work as chief engineer of Kansas' Division of Water Resources continued to be intense but rewarding. The office made the transition to Manhattan this summer. So David is making the 90 minute commute about 3x/week (he telecommutes day a week or so). David has found he can be fairly productive on the van the agency is providing. So far the Division has retained key experienced staff and been able to recruit some good, young staff as well.

The interstate battles continue. David was able to attend oral arguments before the US Supreme Court this fall in Kansas case against Nebraska. With the conclusion of the last of 5 arbitration trials, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado have finally started working on negotiating some disputed issues, developing three agreements for 2014-2015 as they work toward longer term solutions.

Cathy continues to teach science classes to Lawrence homeschoolers as well nearby Gardner. The three classes she is teaching keeps her busy. After developing PowerPoints for her Advanced Biology and Biology over the last 2 years, this year she is doing physical science (with Amy's help).

More news

- **Our daughters and their husbands** – Everyone is well. Betsy is gradually cutting back on her work outside the home with her growing family. Amy's piano business is becoming well established and she is doing some part-time work as a "virtual assistant", and she has a growing number of people following her blog. Megan works part time for a local radio station, KOFO Country, writing and reading the news.
- **Vacations** - We got away quite a few times this year, mostly to our timeshare in the Branson area including a time in June with the girls and their spouses. We also enjoyed our annual 4th of July trip to Gene and Sara's cabin on Long Lake in Wisconsin. Finally, we also did a Texas trip with David's work that included San Antonio and Houston/Galveston.
- We continue to **make health a priority** by regular exercise and eating well. David's morning exercise routine has had to change due to his commuting. Fortunately, the office in Manhattan has a shower and he has been running more regularly and was able to take a minute off of his best 5k of last year. We have started a web site on how we stay healthy (healthsimply.org) with favorite recipes, exercise suggestions, and more.

Book (listening) recommendations:

- David - The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics (D. Brown); Tale of Two Cities (Dickens); Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and ...the Space Age (M Brzezinski).
- Cathy - Elephant Whisper (L. Anthony); I am Malala (Yousafzai); and Invention of Wings (S. Kidd).

Wishing you the best in this blessed season.

David and Cathy Barfield and Bingley and Bear