

Silent night, **HOLY NIGHT!**

Merry Christmas 2013

These days we hear "Happy Holidays" a lot but we like to reply "Merry Christmas." We want to keep Christ in Christmas. Jesus, our Savior, was born and earned salvation on the cross and then gave it to us as a free gift.

The highlight of our year was a driving trip to Gatlinburg, TN, for a bridge tournament. It is one of the largest tournaments anywhere. It was great fun, with side trips to the Smoky Mountains and to the Smoky Mountain Opry in nearby Pigeon Forge. On the way there and back we visited relatives and friends in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. We went to the Creation Museum near Cincinnati. Since we have been spending a lot of time playing bridge, we visited the headquarters of the bridge league in Memphis.

Janice passed a bridge milestone this year, accumulating 200 master points—only 100 to go to become a Life Master. Besides several local tournaments and the big trip to Tennessee, we also went to tournaments in Phoenix, Fargo, and St. Cloud. This fall we joined two new bridge groups. One meets the second Tuesday of the month in homes and the other meets every Friday night at the Minneapolis Grand Slam Club.

Carl's high school 50th reunion was this summer. We have met every five years, and so have stayed in touch with those who come to such events. This year it was scheduled in conjunction with Canby Hat Daze, and the class sat together to watch the parade. Carl went back to Canby in October to help his cousin combine corn. He always enjoys a chance to be a boy on the farm again. Carl drove the tractor to haul the corn back from the field and put it in the bin. It's physically tiring, climbing four steps into the tractor cab dozens of times each day. This year the weather was damp and cloudy, and one evening work was halted by a light snow. Some of the corn was too wet to put directly into the bin, and had to be run through a dryer first.

We celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary this year on November 23. As a special treat we went to dinner at Murray's Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis and enjoyed their award-winning Silver Butter Knife steak, carved at our table.



May your hearts be filled with God's pure joy... your gatherings with laughter;
May your home be warmed with His great love at Christmas and long after.

Carl & Janice Hartness

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11