

Dear Mike,

December 19, 1991

Christmas 1991 is nearly here and we are enjoying all the wonderful things this season offers---get-togethers with family and friends, shopping for special gifts and hearing from those we can't visit. "Santa" Mike has once again transformed our home into a real Christmas setting with a blaze of lights in every room.

1991 was a very memorable year---Gib's first year of retirement, our first trip to Florida, the opening of our new church, and a three month horror called remodeling.

Since Gib retired we have settled into a new routine---mass at St. Martha's, breakfast at Meijers with the other retirees, then errands and rentals. This has been another busy rental year. Six units were completely redone---new paint, vinyl, carpet and even new cupboards in one unit. Gib did a lot of work but we hired painters when we had several units to do in just a few days. We just had new furnaces, central air and additional insulation installed in our four student units in East Lansing. Seems there is always something to do.

We finally got away in March for a "retirement" trip to Florida and Gulf Shores. We enjoyed EPCOT and tropical Florida---the Everglades and Keys. We even went to Miami---by accident. A large truck spring laying in the middle of the Florida TP lodged under the car and ruined the radiator. We were hauled into South Miami where we spent the night while the radiator was replaced. Service was great and we were on our way by Noon the next day, only to have a large rock hit the side of our car about an hour later as we passed a road crew cutting brush. That was a little too much, considering the car was brand new! We decided to take refuge at Everglade City for a couple days and toured Marco Island. Then we headed north to Gulf Shores where we stayed several days at the State Park Resort on the beach. It was so quiet there compared with Florida crowds and traffic and we really enjoyed it. We returned home in time for Mike's 24th birthday and the first Mass in our new St. Martha church on Palm Sunday. We really appreciate our beautiful church after spending over two years in Okemos HS auditorium and we're only 5 minutes away.

After shopping for new and used homes we decided to stay put because of great neighbors and a wonderful location just about 5 minutes to everything. We signed the contract before we went south and found a large hole in the ground when we returned---couldn't change our minds then. Our remodeling project began right after Easter and we were finally able to settle by the middle of July. We added a 16x16 master bedroom and converted the old one into a walk-in closet and full bath. We also added 4 feet to the family room and Mike's bedroom and replaced doors and windows elsewhere. Every room was involved except one bath. It was hard to find places for all the displaced furniture and a real challenge to keep it safe from the messy dry-waller. We discovered that disasters are common when remodeling---like the storm that blew the plastic off the open roof and dumped rain into the family room which soaked through the floor into the rec room below. Somehow we survived and are enjoying the new space.

We were too busy to spend much time at the cottage last summer but we did have a mini vacation. Our kids gave us tickets for a cruise on beautiful Lake Charlevoix with lunch at ONE WATER STREET in Boyne City. It was a delightful day! Both the Model A's developed ailments that required lots of parts and loving care. Gib got them back together just in time for winter storage. The Gypsy Moth spray program worked much better this year and the caterpillars were greatly reduced---to thousands.

1991 was also a very busy year for the rest of the family. Dave has been working almost non-stop since March with just a few days off. Robin does a great job keeping things under control at home in spite of working full time. Dave did find time to build a gas fireplace in his family room and a new deck for the Hot Tub. Heather is 6½ and in first grade. She loves school and reading. Megan is nearly 18 mo with dimples and a little more blond hair. She enjoys books and is increasing her vocabulary daily. We enjoy them so much. Babysitting is a pleasure.



Steve has found another interest besides Underwriting, studying and Scouts. Her name is Angela and she also works for Citizen's Insurance. As usual Steve is preparing to take another CPCU exam in January, and hopes to complete all the courses in 1992. In November he had the new type surgery for a hernia. He spent just a few hours in the hospital and had very little pain. He was back to work within a week. It was amazing!

Brian is a Product Designer in Engineering at TRW and commutes to the Grand Rapids campus of Western Michigan for classes twice a week. He is so busy we don't see him often. He put his Ski Boat to good use last summer, getting us out on the lake early in the morning when the lake was still calm enough to ski. He took lessons this summer and entered competition at Houghton Lake. I'm sure he'll be the first skier on the lake when the ice melts next spring.

Mike still lives at home and is starting his fourth year apprenticeship as an Electrician. The company he works for still has work but construction is down because of the recession and many are getting layed off. Mike would like to buy a duplex and live there but things are too uncertain. I hope the economy improves soon. Lansing GM plants will lose about 500 jobs due to GM's cost cutting plans. We'll all feel the crunch. But Mike and Brian are doing their bit to help the airlines---they are flying to Miami for a week to visit a friend who won't be home for Christmas. They leave early Christmas day. They plan to travel through the Keys in Scott's boat, snorkle and ski. Sounds like a good time.

This will be the first year we won't have the boys with us at the cottage after Christmas. It'll be different---definitely quieter. We have lots of friends there though.

My new tradition of the after Christmas letter has some advantages. We have received so many of your cards, letters and pictures and are enjoying them very much. I have good intentions every year of getting mine out early and wonderful excuses why I don't. But even though our greetings are late we wish all of you a beautiful Christmas season and health, happiness and peace in 1992.

The Elias'

Gib and Mary Lou





DECEMBER 1994

*Dear Mike,*

Christmas 1994 is almost here---what a beautiful time of the year! Twinkling lights are everywhere and the ground is covered with snow. On Dec 7 we got 8" of snow, first of the season.

We're always busy with family, friends and rentals--ours and the boys'. There's always something to do but we manage to find time for long weekends at the cottage and a couple of nice trips. In March we visited historic Charleston, SC and St. Augustine, FL., traveled down the east coast to Key West, then back up the Gulf coast and over to Orlando (EPCOT). On the way home we stopped at Huntsville, AL to see Mike Voisin and arrived home just before Easter. In July we went to Colorado and enjoyed the gorgeous scenery and the warm weather. We chairlifted at Vail, jeeped at Ouray, rafted at Durango and visited Telluride, Royal Gorge, Gunnison Canyon and Rocky Mountain Park. It was the last trip with our '92 Olds Wagon which we replaced with a '95 Olds 88 LS in October. I really miss it!

Dave & Robin moved before Easter to a new house a block away. It's much larger and has a 3-car garage. They added a large screened porch and deck, with Dave doing most of the work. He has been working 7 days a week nearly all year and Robin works full time with lots of overtime during tax season. They did take a vacation and got up to the lake a couple of times. Heather is 9½ and is in 4th grade. Her teacher used to babysit with our boys. Megan is 4½ and is in pre-school. Both girls take gymnastics and swimming. Heather started piano lessons and also plays soft-ball and soccer. They're a very busy family.

Steve bought his third duplex and moved in before Thanksgiving. It's a larger 2-story with 3 bdrms., 2½ baths, fireplace and 2-car garage located at the west end of Woodleaf Ct. just a block from his other duplex. He'll really be busy now with five rentals. He got up to the cottage a few times last summer and enjoyed biking on the trails and boating.

Brian has a new position at TRW--Quality Engineer. It's an interesting and demanding job. He's still taking courses at Western after work. Last summer he joined a ski club at a private lake near Charlotte but strained his back in June and didn't ski much after that. He loves skiing and was very disappointed. He was in another wedding last summer, along with Mike and the rest of the Houghton Lake group. Doug and Jennifer Williams were married on August 6. He's leaving for Florida on Christmas day, going to Key West then back to Orlando to visit Scott and go to Disney World.

Mike is a Journeyman Electrician and has worked on many projects this year. Wages are good but he doesn't like the uncertainty of this type of work. He's still taking classes and considering other jobs. His girlfriend, Kriste, graduates from CMU this weekend and is job hunting too. He is enjoying a new kitten, Missi, his first pet. He won't be going to Florida but is planning a ski trip to Searchmont, Ontario in January with friends.

My brother, Jack Voisin, died on July 5, less than a year after he was diagnosed with lung cancer and only 2½ years after the death of his wife, Ruth, in Jan 1992. We miss them both! My cousin, Sister Ermina, died Dec. 10 at Marywood in Grand Rapids.

On a happier note, my sister & brother-in-law, Karen & Mike Golden, celebrated their 30th anniversary in September with a surprise party given by their children. Our friends, George and Edna Long and Joe and Ruth Bill also celebrated their 50th anniversaries this year. In August the Class of '49 from Mt. Pleasant H.S. met at the Embers for our 45th reunion. It was lots of fun and since none of us has changed in 45 years, we hardly needed our name tags-HA! We also enjoyed seeing friends from CMU days, Norma & Jack Scheall, who spent some time at Houghton Lake. We hope more of you will visit us either at the cottage or here.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy 1995!

Gib & Mary Lou Elias

*Gib & Mary Lou*



December 1995

Dear Mike,

Christmas 1995 is nearly here and I'm not ready! I have a better excuse this year though - surgery on my right hand. With Robin's help, I'm able to do this letter, but unless there is a miracle, you won't receive it before Christmas.

1995 has been a very eventful year - two of our bachelors became engaged. Brian and Amy Busch were engaged on a beautiful day in June on their boat in the middle of Houghton Lake. They will be married at Our Lady of the Lake at H.L. on June 15, 1996. Steve finally met the girl he has been waiting for, Laura Kelly. They were engaged in November and will probably be married in 1996 but haven't set a date. As a bonus, we will also have our first grandson, Drake, Laura's 3 1/2 year old son. We're looking forward to the weddings and delighted to have Amy, Laura and Drake join our family.

Dave, in his 20th year with G.M., is still programming robots, working 7 days a week with a few days off now and then. Robin's accounting firm is moving to Okemos soon, so she will be within a mile from home. She is also taking accounting classes at LCC. Heather is 10 1/2 and a 5th grader. She takes piano and plays Soccer and Softball. Megan is 5 1/2 and in kindergarten. They both love school and have great teachers who are friends of mine. They're a very busy family!

Steve has been on the move again. In June he moved from one side of his duplex to the other so he could re-do that unit also. In October he moved to a house at 4464 Hickorywood in Cornell woods, the new subdivision behind us. We can see the front of his house from our driveway. Laura relocated from Northville and is Personal Lines Manager at Lyman-Sheets Insurance Agency in Lansing. She is also taking classes at LCC.

Brian finished his engineering degree at Western Michigan and is a Quality Engineer at TRW. Amy finished her MBA at Central Michigan and works in Computer Programming at Dow Corning. They're both happy to be finished studying for a while. Brian sold his Master Craft ski boat last Spring and bought a 27 ft. BAJA with cabin. He and Amy have enjoyed boating along the West Michigan shoreline from Saugatuck to Mackinac Island and Houghton and Higgins lakes. They are taking the boat to Key West over Christmas vacation. Mike is flying down and their friends Scott and Paul will be joining them. Sounds like a wonderful time.

Mike started a new job as an Electrician at TRW (where Brian works) a couple of months ago. Most of his experience has been with new construction but now he is learning to repair machines and keep them running. He works the 3pm - 11pm shift 6 days a week so his social life is on hold. He hopes to get on mid-nights eventually. He'd like to be able to use his new Polaris snowmobile this winter since there is actually some snow up north.

We had a great vacation last year at the end of April and 1st week of May - wonderful weather, no crowds and cheaper rates. We stayed at Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Savannah and Daytona Beach then joined Dave, Robin and the girls in Orlando for another fun week. We did Disney, Sea World, Kennedy Space Center, Biscayne Park near Florida City, Palm Beach and back to Daytona for a couple of days before they flew home. We visited the Simmers and Mike Voisin on our way home. In May we attended the wedding of my niece, Julie Voisin, and Lance Greenlee at Sault Ste. Marie (you know - the city that got over 6 ft. of snow in one storm in Dec.). We took other short trips to our favorite places up north and spent long weekends at H.L. Gib had his 1931 Model A Coupe painted last summer - looks great! Now we'll have to be careful driving on the trails.

Gib spent most of the summer putting vinyl siding on Steve's newest duplex, a very large place with 2-car garages on both sides. He and Steve also renovated both units inside. He loves to be busy and with all the rental units in the family he always has something to do. In November he became my "right hand man" when I had surgery on 3 fingers (including a joint replacement) and wrist of my right hand. I learned to do a lot with my left hand but couldn't write, type, drive or eat gracefully. I would have been lost without his help. I can finally use my hand and hope to get full range of motion soon.

We're enjoying all your letters, cards and pictures - great to hear from all of you! Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful 1996.

The Elias'

Love,  
Gib & Mary Lou



*Dear Mike,*

CHRISTMAS 1996

This is our 36th Christmas in "this old house" on Arbor Drive--so many years and so many memories! Our wonderful neighbors have made this a great place to live. Our family has grown and we're looking forward to having everyone here Christmas Eve.

1996 was the year of the weddings. Brian & Amy were married on June 15, 1996 at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Houghton Lake--a beautiful wedding on a beautiful day! Their wedding party included family, friends they grew up with and the Houghton Lake group. They rode to the reception at the Holiday Inn in the 1930 & 1931 Model A's with strings of cans trailing behind. On the way, they stopped at the lake and the entire wedding party took a cruise on Brian & Amy's boat--"where it all began." They honeymooned at the Grand Canyon and Colorado Rockies and are living in their duplex in Dewitt Twp. Amy is a computer programmer at Michigan National Bank and Brian is a Quality Engineer at TRW. They spent many weekends boating on Lake Michigan, including trips to Chicago and Mackinaw Island with friends.

On October 19, 1996 Steve & Laura were married at St. Martha's Parish in Okemos--it was another beautiful wedding. The day was bright with Fall colors and a lovely reception followed at the University Club. It was great to see so many family and friends who traveled far to be there--we all waited a long time for that day! We enjoyed meeting the rest of Laura's family from Iowa and the Detroit area. While Steve & Laura honeymooned in Aruba, Gib and I looked after Drake at their home in Cornell Woods. Steve is a Commercial Underwriter at Citizens Insurance and a busy landlord with six units. Laura is in sales at Lyman & Sheets Agency, doing what she enjoys most. Drake is 4 1/2 years old, a big boy who loves pre-school, sports, biking and people.

Dave, Robin & Girls get busier every year. Dave is still working seven days a week programming robots for the new car models to be built in Lansing. Robin is still waiting for her accounting office to move to Okemos. She is taking classes at LCC in her "spare time." Both Dave & Robin are involved with all of the Girl's games, lessons, and activities. Heather is growing up quickly. She's 11 1/2 and a sixth grader at Kinawa Middle School. She enjoys soft ball, soccer, takes piano and plays Clarinet in the band. She also finds time to excel in school and win spelling contests. Megan is 6 1/2 years old and a first grader at Hiawatha. This fall she played soccer on Sunday afternoons with the Elias' there cheering her on. Both girls were in Brian & Amy's wedding--Heather was a bridesmaid and Megan as a flower girl. They loved it! Heather did readings at both weddings.

Mike changed employers last May. He now works for Delta Electric at their numerous jobs on MSU Campus. The pay and hours are better and it's much closer. He has become a "frequent flyer" this past year, taking a skiing trip to Salt Lake City in February, a fishing trip to West Palm Beach in September, and a mountain biking trip to Moab, Utah in October with friends. He also found time to be in his brother's weddings. Mike's hoping to use his snowmobile more this winter since he won't have to work weekends.

Gib & I are busy working and playing. There's never a dull moment with six rentals, but we always find time for family, friends and long weekends at the cottage. On April 23rd the entire family gathered for dinner and a wonderful performance of PHANTOM OF THE OPERA at Wharton Center on campus. Thanks to Steve we had front row seats! The next day we left for Florida, stopping at Hilton Head and Daytona Beach before meeting Dave, Robin & Girls at Tampa. We spent two days at Busch Gardens and the rest of the week at a beach-front motel at Bradenton Beach. The weather was warm and we had a great time with the young Elias'. In early August we went to Mackinaw Island and Sault Ste Marie with them while they were up north for a week. It's fun to go with the "Let's Go--Let's Do" family! The weather was beautiful last summer and we spent lots of time boating and "touring" in the Model As. We enjoyed visits with relatives and friends, including Muriel Elias from Texas. We finally got together with Tom & Donna Goulding, friends we met forty-three years ago at Fairchild AFB in Spokane. Fortunately, we were able to do so before they moved from Michigan back to their home overlooking the ocean at Saco, Maine. We agreed that we need more than one day to reminisce and catch-up!

This year it was Gib's turn to have surgery. He had his right knee replaced in September and is continuing therapy and exercising. We thought this would slow him down, but he has managed to find ways to do just about everything.

It's time to wrap up the annual Elias newsletter and go to press. We want to wish all of you the peace and joy of Christmas and health and happiness in 1997!!

*Love,*  
Gib and Mary Lou



*Dear Mike,*

## CHRISTMAS 1997

Another busy Christmas season is here and with it comes thoughts of family and friends we won't be able to see. So we'd like to share with you news from our family. This has been a good and eventful year for the Elias'.

Dave, Robin and the girls are busy as always. Dave still works most weekends programming robots – a job he truly enjoys. Robin's accounting office finally moved in November, not to Okemos but to a complex just south of I-96 and Cedar. Their rental units take lots of time too. Heather (12) is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and is still playing softball and soccer, clarinet and piano. She's over five feet and growing fast. She has also begun babysitting for her cousins. Megan (7) is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, plays soccer and loves art and swimming. We had a great time when they all joined us for a week at a Bradenton Beach waterfront motel.

1997 was another great year for Steve and Laura. In June Drake became an "official" Elias when his adoption was finalized the day after his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. We celebrated with a family picnic at Lake Lansing Park. Then on September 6<sup>th</sup> Adam Michael was born – 9lbs 5oz and 21 inches long! At three months he's a very happy baby – laughing, cooing and growing! Drake is in Kindergarten at Cornell where our boys went to school. He's doing well and really likes school. In October they spent several days in Virginia and Washington D.C. and traveled to Iowa for Thanksgiving at Laura's Grandmother's farm. Drake and Adam are both good travelers. As if this isn't enough to stay busy, they have six rental units – that means seven lawns to mow.

Brian and Amy have new jobs and a new home. Brian is a quality engineer at Donnelly Corp. in Holland and Amy is a computer programmer at Amway Corp. in Ada. They bought a home and moved to Grand Haven in November. They live in Forest Park subdivision next to Hoffma Park, about three miles from Lake Michigan. They're looking forward to using their new 32 ft. Baja boat more often. Last summer they spent most weekends boating along the Lake Michigan shore from South Haven to Mackinac Island with friends. They still have their duplex near Dewitt to keep them busy.

Mike has also been on the move with a new job and new home in Okemos. In February he was hired as an electrician at the GM plant in Lansing. With low seniority he works from 3 p.m. until 11:30 p.m., eliminating his social life. In May he bought a duplex in Okemos, closer to family and friends. During the summer he enjoyed working there and at the duplex in Holt. He worked most weekends last summer but took a couple trips in the fall. In October he flew to Utah to see his friend, Ginger, and they drove to Las Vegas for the weekend. In December he, Brian and friends spent a few days with Scott at West Palm Beach deep sea fishing and attending the Detroit Lions/Miami Dolphin football game. He is getting a telescope for Christmas and looking forward to some serious "star-gazing".

Gib & I are staying well and keeping busy. We are enjoying our kids and grandkids -- always something going on. It's great having a baby in the family again! We enjoyed long weekends at the cottage and a few trips in northern Michigan. Gib had to replace the transmission in the 1930 Ford after trying all summer to find someone to do it. Meanwhile we put miles on the 1931! We redid the office and got a new computer that just sat here until December because I was too busy to learn to use it. It's a lot of fun but when all those weird things appear on my screen, I'm glad that HELP is just a phone call away. Gib enjoys the Internet, but isn't much help with word-processing. He helps the boys with their rental units whenever he can. He likes to keep busy and that's not too hard with 23 units to work on. Winter came early this year with a 6" wet snowfall on Oct.26<sup>th</sup> that caused a lot of damage to maple trees, including five of ours. Snow comes and goes so we may not have a white Christmas after all.

We're looking forward to Christmas Eve and having our family together once again. We wish all of you peace and joy this Christmas season and health and happiness in 1998.

*Gib & Mary Lou*  
Gib and Mary Lou



*Dear Mike,*

## CHRISTMAS 1998

*It's nearly Christmas and we are enjoying your wonderful cards, letters and pictures. Hearing from all of you is one of the joys of the Christmas season. I hope to finish this 1998 chapter of the Elias family history in time for Christmas. We are looking forward to Christmas Eve, having our family here for dinner, exchanging gifts and attending mid-night mass. Maybe by then there will be a blanket of snow to make the Christmas lights more beautiful.*

*We've had a good year for which we are very thankful. We are fine and keeping busy. Gib spends lots of time "fixing" things at home and at the duplexes. I have learned to use the computer to do the "books" so next year will be easier. We traveled to Florida in late April and met Dave, Robin & Girls in Orlando where we stayed a few days, going to Magic Kingdom, MGM and visiting Amy's parents. Then we went to Ormond Beach where Brian & Amy joined all of us for a few days. It was a fun time that ended all too soon. We had a great summer and spent long weekends at the cottage. The Kids decided to paint the cottage and everyone worked until it was done. It took a few weekends but it looks great. In September we drove to Colorado where we visited Rocky Mt. Park, Vail, Ouray, Silverton, etc. We also went to Arches Natl. Park and Canyon Lands near Moab, Utah. The weather was nearly perfect and the scenery gorgeous, especially from the top of Imogene Pass between Ouray and Telluride. Ouray is the most beautiful town in Colorado.*

*Dave & Robin exchanged their duplex in Lansing for a 4-Plex in Okemos. They have been busy improving the property and redoing units as leases expire. They completely renovated their other duplex and are looking for a property in Okemos for another exchange. Heather (13) is in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, a good student and growing tall. Megan is a petite 8-yr. old in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Both girls are taking piano lessons, playing soccer, and baseball. They are a very busy family.*

*Both Steve & Laura have new jobs and a home-office. Steve is an Underwriter for General Casualty Insurance and Laura is an Acct. Exec. for Kapnick Insurance. Both are happy to be working "at home". Drake (6) is in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. He enjoys biking, roller blading, baseball, soccer, and skiing--if we ever get snow. In Nov. he and Grandma Sharon flew to Alaska to visit relatives stationed there. Adam is a happy 15mo. old who loves to play ball and climb stairs. He is learning to talk and insists on feeding himself. We are really enjoying all our grandchildren and are lucky they are so close.*

*Brian & Amy spent a terrific spring, summer, and fall on their boat. They took a couple of long trips to Cedar Point on Lake Erie and to Manitou Islands in Lake Michigan. We enjoyed a trip to Beaver Island, Harbor Springs and Charlevoix on their boat. They love living in Grand Haven and enjoy many drives along the lakeshore. Brian has a new position at Herman Miller in Zeeland, assuring high quality office furniture. Amy is still working at Amway, as a computer programmer. They have a 13ft. fresh Christmas tree (and a new ladder) that we're anxious to see. They are going to Mackinac Island with friends after Christmas.*

*Mike is waiting for snow. With very little snow and lots of over-time last year, he only put 120 miles on his snowmobile. He's hoping this will be a better year. In June he vacationed with friends in Palm Beach, went deep-sea fishing, and caught the Big One that got away. Due to the GM strike in Flint, he was off work for awhile and had a nice summer up North on weekends. He is taking courses again and having fun with his new Dell computer. Friends from Florida and Utah will be visiting their families at H.L. so he will be spending time at the cottage after Christmas.*

*The weather was unusually beautiful during 1998, much warmer and sunnier than normal. Boaters and Golfers were in their glory but skiers and snowmobilers are crying, "Where's the Snow!" In September the Voisin Reunion was held at Central Park in Okemos, and later, the Elias' gathered for a birthday/ reunion in Mt. Pleasant. It was great to see so many of our nieces & nephews and their children. Sadly, Gib's sister Betty died in May after a long bout with cancer. We miss her.*

*Our very best wishes to all of you for a wonderful Christmas season and a healthy, happy 1999.*

*Gib & Mary Lou*  
Gib and Mary Lou



## *Dear Mike and Linda,* **Christmas 1999**

Christmas will soon be here and we're enjoying all the special things that come with this beautiful season. After a very mild fall, we are getting the first snows of winter just in time for Christmas.

It has been a busy year with lots of work and play. Gib helped the kids with their numerous rental projects including a complete re-do of a 3 bedroom unit. He fixes and paints and I do cleaning, leasing and books. It was a warm summer and we enjoyed long weekends at the cottage. All the kids came up when they could and boating, tubing, skiing and campfires were favorite activities. They all love tubing—even Adam. Gib enjoyed tinkering with his old cars and we put many miles on the 1930 Model A during the summer.

Dave and Robin are busy with their jobs, rentals and the girls' activities. Heather (14) is a freshman at Okemos HS, studies a lot and gets "A's". She is 5'5" and growing. Megan (9) is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Hiawatha, is in Scouts, and takes piano. Both girls play Soccer (indoors) and Robin is coaching Megan's team. We drove to Florida in late April and joined them for a Carnival cruise to the Bahamas. We visited an island where Dave snorkeled while we enjoyed the beach. It was a great trip and so much fun to be with them.

Steve and Laura have adjusted to working at home while raising two energetic sons. Drake (7) is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Cornell and enjoys math, Cub Scouts and sports. Adam (2) is growing up quickly, talks a lot and is very independent. He loves playing ball, driving his Jeep and bouncing like Tigger. They live a block away and love to come over and play with the old toys in the basement.

Brian and Amy enjoy living in Grand Haven and spend as much time as possible on their boat cruising the Lake Michigan shoreline. In June we went with them from Grand Haven up to Pentwater where we stayed at a marina. We had dinner at the historic Nickerson Inn and enjoyed the shops, historic homes, and great ice cream at the Country Store. It was great spending a weekend on their boat. After Thanksgiving we went with Mike and Heather to help them cut and decorate a beautiful 12' tall Christmas tree. They'll spend a few days with us at Christmas time.

Mike is an electrician at GM and is still taking classes. He had weekends off this summer and enjoyed time at the cottage and boating with Brian and Amy. He flew to Palm Beach for fishing tournaments in May and June and for a concert in Dec. In Sep. he ran the Eight-Mile Race on Mackinaw Island and stayed at a friend's summer home on West Bluff. There was hardly any snow last winter so he barely used his snowmobile. He's hoping for more snow this year.

In 1999 I enjoyed two 50-year class reunions. I spent the last two years of HS at Mt.Pleasant High and graduated from there in 1949. That reunion was held at the Embers in Mt.Pleasant on August 28<sup>th</sup>. In October the '49ers from Sacred Heart Academy, which I attended for 10 years, gathered at the Holiday Inn in Mt.Pleasant. It was great to see so many classmates after 50 years. We had a wonderful time and plan to get together again soon!

We're looking forward to Christmas Eve with all our family. On New Year's eve most of us will be going to a gala Millennium party at St.Martha's. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season and health and happiness in 2000.

*Gib & Mary Lou*  
Gib and Mary Lou Elias



## CHRISTMAS 2000



*Dear Mike and Linda,*

Greetings from the frozen North! On December 11-12, a blizzard dumped nearly 15" of snow in our area and the winds whipped it into tall drifts. Schools were closed for two days and the kids were delighted! Snow continues to fall nearly every day, assuring a white Christmas. We're enjoying your cards, letters and pictures very much! Hearing from all of you is one of the nicest parts of Christmas.

The first year of the new millennium has been a busy one for all of us. We traveled this year! In March I was fortunate to join Laura's Mom and Grandmother, Sharon and Ida, on a 7-day cruise on the Veendam to Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Half Moon Cay-Bahamas. With great company and beautiful weather, it was a fun cruise. In April we drove to Ormond Beach, FL and stayed at an ocean-side hotel enjoying the warm weather and walking the beach. We arrived home May 5<sup>th</sup> just in time for Drake's First Communion. In June we spent a weekend with Brian and Amy on their boat in Leland, one of our favorite places. In early August we took a 12-day land & cruise vacation to Alaska. We cruised the Inland Passage to Skagway, then traveled to Fairbanks, Denali Park and Anchorage. While in Juneau we took a wonderful flight-seeing trip over the Mendenhall Glacier, complements of our kids. We were fortunate to see Mt. McKinley clearly for two days as we drove from Denali Park to Anchorage-a spectacular sight! It was an unforgettable trip. Otherwise, it has been work as usual, interrupted by summer weekend trips to the cottage to enjoy friends, the boat and old cars. On Sep 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> we attended two family reunions. Bob & Julie Gamm and family hosted the Elias reunion at their lovely home in Midland. The next day, Mike and Karen Golden and family hosted the Voisin reunion at Kiwanis Park in Holt. Both were very enjoyable, with great food, activities and lots of very nice relatives.

Dave and Robin are busy working and running the girls around. Heather (15) is a 5'7" sophomore, and an "A" student. She must drive 50 hrs. with a parent in order to get her driver's license when she turns 16 in July. Most fun was her date for the Homecoming dance. Megan (10) is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and enjoys piano, violin, and dance lessons. Both girls play on outdoor & indoor soccer teams. Robin coached Megan's team this year. The family had a great time on their vacation in Chicago in July.

Steve and Laura enjoy working at home, and are busy with Scouts, St. Martha CCW, etc. Drake (8) is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, enjoys sports, scouts, and chess club. He and Adam (3) have fun together riding bikes and playing ball. Laura and the boys love to ride horses at Grandma Sharon's ranch near Howell.

Brian and Amy didn't get to use their boat as much as usual due to low water levels at Grand Haven and the Lake Michigan shoreline. They took a weeklong boat tour through the North Channel in Lake Huron, a beautiful, wilderness area. Their great news is that Baby Elias is due at the end of March. They're choosing from a long list of Boy-Girl names. We're all very happy to have a new baby joining the family.

Mike has had a busy year with work, classes and fun. In May, he, Brian and friends went on a 7-day fishing trip to IslaMorada in the Keys. He also learned to scuba-dive with deep-water training to 100'. During Thanksgiving week he went diving at IslaMorada and visited friends in FL. He joined a running club and has entered races here and throughout the state. He's hoping to snowmobile in all this snow.

Have a very Merry Christmas and we pray that all of you will be blessed with good health and happiness as you pursue your busy lives in 2001.

*Love and best wishes,*

*Yvonne & Mary Lou*



## Christmas 2001

Christmas is here and we're enjoying all the things that go with the season. If we're lucky we'll have some snow to make everything more beautiful.

2001 was a great year - our fifth grandchild, Jonathan James, was born on March 12<sup>th</sup> to Amy & Brian. We now have 3 grandsons and 2 grand daughters. Families and friends gathered at Houghton Lake on Memorial weekend for his baptism. Brian & Amy take him everywhere and he is a good traveler. At 3 mo. he began training to be their 2<sup>nd</sup> Mate, including a boat trip to the North Channel in Lake Huron and numerous excursions along the Lake Michigan shoreline. At 9 mo. he's tall, slim and cute as can be. It's fun to see all the new things he has learned each time we see him.

2001 has been a busy year for Mike. In April he bought a house in Okemos (Briarwood) which he really enjoys. Also in April he started dating Meg, whom he met through the running club. Meg is a full time teacher in the biology department at LCC. They enjoy running, biking, and camping and took trips to Frankfort, Leelanau and Pigeon River. They spent Thanksgiving with Meg's family at Croton-on-Hudson, NY and a day in the City including Ground Zero-a very sad place. Mike is still at GM, is taking classes, and is busy taking care of his rental units. Cancun is their destination Dec 18-22 during Christmas break.

Steve and Laura moved from Cornell Woods to Briarwood on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. It's a large ranch with finished basement and wooded lot not far from Mike and Dave. They're busy decorating and getting settled. Drake (9) is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Hiawatha. He broke his leg last spring, and still earned the Bear rank in scouts, attended summer camp, and played U10 soccer. Adam (4) is in pre-school and enjoys creating art and riding his bike. Friends, Debbie & Cal, taught him to swim like a fish in their pool. The boys enjoy basketball and riding horses. In June the family took a "survivor" style vacation to a villa on Andros Island in the Bahamas. Laura's bid won the trip at a school auction. With few stores and no McDonalds they had to take food and supplies. They had a beautiful beach and great weather. Laura and Steve keep busy with their jobs, St. Martha's CCW, Cub Scouts and rentals.

Dave, Robin and the girls flew to Aruba last summer. They enjoyed an all-inclusive vacation with lots of sun and fun. Heather (16) is a junior and honor society member at OHS. She got her drivers license in July and works at L&L Food Store in Okemos. Megan (11) is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Kinawa MS. She is still taking violin and piano lessons, and plays soccer and basketball. Dave and Robin keep busy with jobs, rentals, school activities, and volunteer work.

Gib & I are still hanging in there. No trips this year—we were too busy with duplexes and family activities. We escaped to the cottage as often as possible. We had a couple "adventures" in the 1931 Model A—stranded in the woods twice, but "rescued" both times. We really enjoyed family and friends who visited at the cottage. In Aug. I went boating on Lake Michigan with Mike and Brian from Frankfort to South Manitou Island where they went diving to three shipwrecks near shore. Later we went ashore and walked to the Lighthouse. It was a beautiful day and the lake was calm. We attended the first Bengal family reunion on Sep 8<sup>th</sup> in Westphalia, MI. Charles Bengal was Gib's grandfather. Our cousins, Bernard Bengal from Aurora, CO and Vernon & Dorothy Bengal and daughter Valerie from Davis, CA. were there. It was well attended. On Sep 9<sup>th</sup> we went to the Voisin reunion at St. Johns Park. It was so nice to see everyone. On Sep 11<sup>th</sup> Bernard Bengal was stranded when the airport closed due to the attack on the World Trade Center. He spent a few days with us until the airport reopened Sep 14<sup>th</sup> and he was able to fly home. We really enjoyed his visit in spite of the tragic events that delayed his departure.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and a healthy, happy 2002.

*Gib & Mary Lou*





## Christmas 2002

Days are flying like snow- flakes and Christmas will soon be here. In addition to all the Christmas activities we'll be leaving for Punta Cana in Dominican Republic on Dec 21st with Dave, Robin, Heather, Megan and Mike. Hope I have time to pack.

There's never a dull moment with our rentals. When Gib isn't working on ours, there's always something to do at our sons' units. I'm leasing our E. Lansing units now for fall 2003 and have been fortunate to get great students. In Feb I flunked exercise class. Doing lunges caused nearly 10 mo. of sciatic nerve problems. After four injections the pain is gone and I can sit, stand, walk and work again. It's wonderful!

We went to Disney in Feb with Dave's and Steve's families, and friends Cal & Debbie. I wasn't very mobile and discovered the advantages of being a wheel-chair guest—first in line and no sore feet. We had a great time! Then in June the entire family spent a week at the Beach House on beautiful Crystal Lake at Beulah. We boated, water-skied, tubed, swam and climbed Sleeping Bear Dunes, rafted down the Platte River, had bon-fires on the beach at Point Betsie Lighthouse and shopped at Traverse City. We celebrated our 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Megan's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday that week. It was so much fun with everyone there. We still enjoy the cottage at Houghton Lake but only get there on weekends.

Dave and Robin have a busy life with their jobs, rental units and the girls' activities. Heather will graduate with honors in June and will become an MSU Spartan in the fall. She is excited about staying on campus—five miles away. She still works at L&L grocery and is also a dietary aide at a retirement home. Her friend, Ryan, provides fun and balance in her life. Megan is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and remains dedicated to year around soccer, with games and tournaments all over the state. She is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of piano and treats us to occasional impromptu "recitals." Jazz and Hip-Hop dancing round out her artistic talents.

Steve and Laura are enjoying their new home and the boys are doing well at their new school. Drake (10) is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and his favorite subject is football. He has earned the highest Cub Scout award, the Arrow of Light, and will join a Scout troop next spring. Adam (5) started Kindergarten to rave reviews from his teacher. He enjoys art, swimming, computer games and scheming ways to earn money. Both Steve & Laura work at home and are active in church and community projects. Steve is busy with Cub Scouts, the K of C and updating their rentals.

Brian & Amy got their share of exercise this year chasing after Jonathan, who was a year old in March. He loves to run, jump, dance and climb and has been talking up a storm the last few months. He is really excited about Christmas this year, especially the beautiful lights. Clocks fascinate him so when he comes we set all six chiming clocks at different times so he can listen all day long. Brian and Amy enjoy living in Grand Haven where they were able to use their new 38' boat throughout the summer. Jonathan seems right at home on the boat. They are looking forward to spring and a full season of boating.

Mike and Meg are Runners and this year they trained for and ran several races including the Bay-Shore Marathon at Traverse City and Dou/triathlons. In April, Mike & Don flew to Moab UT and enjoyed mountain biking and Arches National Park. Meg bought her first house and moved from her apt. last summer. Her family came from New York for a visit in Aug. and we celebrated her birthday. Both Mike and Meg enjoy gardening and have created beautiful patio areas at their homes. They even found time for camping trips. We're looking forward to Mike & Meg's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas party for family and friends on Saturday night and Robin's annual cookie exchange on Sunday.

Especially at Christmas time, our thoughts turn to relatives and friends and we want to wish all of you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY 2003.

*Love,  
Gib & Mary Lou*





## Merry Christmas From the Elias' 2004

Christmas is a wonderful time of year when friends and family exchange cards and letters with news and best wishes. I always look forward to hearing from all of you and hope you get my letter BEFORE Christmas this year.

With Mike & Meg's help on the inside and Gib's on the outside, our house has a very Christmasy look. We're looking forward to all the Christmas parties—the Knight's party, Robin's annual Cookie exchange, Meg & Mike's annual Christmas party, and Steve & Laura's New Year's Eve party. On Christmas Eve everyone will be here for dinner and gifts, and later "midnight" mass at St. Martha's.

The biggest event of 2004 was Mike & Meg's wedding on Aug 7 at St. Martha Church in Okemos. Meg's family arrived from New York a few days before the wedding and both families got together for a barbecue at Mike & Meg's. Aug 7<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful day. Meg was a beautiful bride and I've never seen Mike so happy. Brian drove Mike & Meg to the reception in Gib's 1930 Model A. Wheatfield B&B, an elegant home with patio near woods and stream, was a perfect place for the indoor/outdoor party. Mike & Meg honeymooned at Canmore Chalet near Banff and a ranch near Jasper in the Canadian Rockies. They hiked up mountains and enjoyed the fabulous scenery.

In 2004 we went to five weddings starting with Mike & Meg's on Aug 7; our grand-niece Angela Wilson & Andy Reihl's wedding on Aug 28 at Sacred Heart in Mt. Pleasant; Cortney Chidester & Bill Rapson's on Sep 18 at Houghton Lake (Cortney grew up across from our cottage); our grand-niece Kristin Simmer & Shawn McCormick's wedding on Oct 16 at St. Andrew Cathedral in Grand Rapids; and a former tenant, Tammie & Dean Joyce on Nov 11 in Lansing. All were beautiful weddings and we enjoyed them so much.

Dave & Robin are busier than ever re-doing their home inside and out this year with the help of a decorator. It's looking great with more changes to come. Heather (19) is a sophomore at MSU on a criminal justice curriculum. She has an interesting job at Meridian Police Dept as a Cadet. Megan (14) is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Okemos HS and enjoys school and friends. She plays soccer and has made the volleyball team also. Sadly, they had to put down their cocker, Carly, a few months ago. Now they have a darling 3-mo. old blonde cocker named Kali to fill the void.

Steve & Laura finished another landscaping project in their front and side yards this year. It really looks great. Both are very busy with their jobs and volunteer work. Drake (12) is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Kinawa. He played on the football team and now is playing basketball. He is a good student and really loves sports. Adam (7) is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Hiawatha and is doing well. He is a Cub Scout, is in wrestling and wants to play basketball. He loves games and is good at pool like his Dad & Mom.

Brian & Amy & Jonathan (3 1/2) spent as much time as possible on their boat last summer. We drove to Whitelake and spent the day cruising North to Little Sable lighthouse. Later we returned to Grand Haven and took a sunset flight in a Cessna along the lakeshore to Holland, then to Muskegon and back to Grand Haven. It was great watching the sunset over Lake Michigan. Now Jonathan loves "air planes" as well as boats. Amy and Jonathan flew to Orlando a few weeks ago. Amy attended a conference at Disney and Jonathan stayed with his grandparents at Clermont a few miles away. He got to go to Disney had a great time. He is growing up tall and slim.

Besides the wedding, Mike & Meg have had other projects. In Feb Meg was awarded one of twenty "cars" to decorate for "Art Wheels", Lansing's sculpture display. "Renew" was the name and Michigan was the theme for Meg's car. They cut thousands of tiny pieces of colored plastic and Meg created a beautiful mosaic of Michigan designs covering the car. The cars were displayed downtown from June to September. Meg's will now be on display at Impression Five museum. In May Mike bought the duplex next to his in Holt and he & Gib worked 6 mo. completely renovating the inside of both units. A new roof, driveways and patios completed the project. In their spare time they gardened and installed a paver brick patio and planter in front of their house.

In June our family vacationed for a week at Glen Lake Resort on the shore of beautiful "Big Glen" lake, just south of Glen Arbor. We spent most of the time on the beach and in the water, boating, tubing and Kayaking. We cruised Lake Michigan on Brian's boat and climbed Sleeping Bear dunes. We really liked that area and hope to go back in June.

Gib and I are keeping busy and enjoying all the family activities. We have had a good year. We wish all of you a beautiful Christmas season and a healthy, happy 2005.

*Love,  
Mary Lou & Gib*



Christmas 2005

Dear Mike & Linda

Christmas is that time of year when we enjoy parties and gatherings and hearing from all of you. Our Christmas season began with a wonderful party at Mike & Meg's on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> followed by Robin's fabulous cookie exchange on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Mike & Meg plan to have a special party for their nieces & nephews before Christmas. Our family will gather here on Christmas Eve for dinner and later we'll go to "mid-night" mass at St. Martha's. On New Year's eve, Steve & Laura will have their annual party for family and friends.

2005 was a very happy year for Brian & Amy. On July 16<sup>th</sup> Lauren Nicole, a beautiful, healthy baby girl was born. Jonathan, (turning 5 on 3/12/06) adores her and is busy teaching her "stuff." They're both at Pam's daycare where Jonathan really enjoys pre-school classes. Earlier in the year Brian & Amy were busy re-doing several rooms in their home including Jonathan's bedroom. In Aug they bought a new boat and spent many weekends on Lake Michigan. In September we joined them on the boat at Holland and toured Lake Macatawa because Lake Michigan was too rough. Lauren fits right in with their boating family. They'll keep the boat at Frankfort starting in May '06. They traveled to Wawa in Canada this fall with the children and enjoyed hiking, climbing and beautiful scenery.

In late May, we had wonderful news from Mike & Meg—they're expecting a baby early in March '06. They're busy decorating the baby's room, painting a unique mural on one wall. It'll be great to have two grandbabies within a year. We're wondering if it will be Emma or Aaron. Mike & Meg did a lot of traveling in '05. Over spring break they flew to Costa Rica with a group from LCC's Tropical Biology course. They saw sloth, monkeys, poison-dart frogs, cloud forests, and took waterfall hikes and a canopy walk through rain forests. Memorial weekend they went to Georgian Bay in Canada where they did a canopy walk (rope bridge spans and a zip line) in the deciduous forests of the north. Some of Meg's family from N.Y. came to visit in July and they toured northwest Michigan, Mackinaw Island and Houghton Lake. They did one more trip to Wawa as well with friends in August. On Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Mike & Meg will drive to N.Y. to spend some time with Meg's family before classes start. Meg is very involved at the Creation Station, does crafts and gardening. Mike didn't lose his job when the GM plant closed. He helped dismantle the equipment at the old plant and is working at the new GM LDT facility getting ready for production in 2006.

For the past 11 mo. Dave has been working with an early involvement team that has been guiding the progress of the new Lansing Delta Twp. Plant (LDT). He is assigned to the paint shop team, a position similar to the one he had at the old plant. We went to the LDT Paint open house on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> with Dave & Robin and he gave us a personal tour. He is looking forward to helping this plant hit the ground running! Production is scheduled for Aug 18, 2006. Besides her job, Robin is enjoying scrap booking, crocheting, and making unique picture frames. Heather (20) is in her Jr. year at MSU (major in criminal justice) and hopes to work for the FBI someday. She has worked for 18 mo. as a Meridian Police Cadet. She lives with friends in a nice apt. North of E.L. Megan (15) is a Soph. at OHS and has kept Dave & Robin busy traveling all over the state for soccer games and tournaments. Now she is on the JV Volleyball team and traveling again. She can't wait to get a driver's license when she turns 16 in June. Kali, their new cocker, is a year old and an energetic member of the family.

Steve is very involved with the K of C's and is Adam's Cub Scout den leader. He works for General Casualty at home and is busy with rentals. Laura quit her job last spring and enjoys being home with the boys. She works 2 days a wk. at Hiawatha school, teaches CCD and volunteers for CCW projects at St. Martha, gardens and cans. Drake (13) is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, growing tall and maturing. He water-skis, kneeboards, and plays baseball, basketball and football. He also helps Steve with K of C projects. Adam (8) is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He enjoys writing stories, tubing, swimming and soccer. They all love their new kitten, Smokey.

Last June our family spent another wonderful week at Glen Lake Resort. Drake, Megan & Heather learned to ski and Adam was a daredevil tuber. Mike & Meg camped nearby at D.H.Day Park and enjoyed kayaking on Lake Michigan and Glen Lake. It's such a beautiful area that we'd like to go back again. We still enjoy our cottage on weekends during the summer, especially when family or friends are there. Gib is fine and keeps busy with "projects", maintenance on our rentals and helps the boys when he can. I have been going strong since my hip replacement last Jan. It's great to be able to walk and work without pain.

We wish you the best Christmas ever, and a wonderful New Year.

Gib & Mary Lou  
Gib & Mary Lou



## CHRISTMAS 2006

*Dear Mike & Linda,*

Greetings to all our relatives and friends near and far. You are in our thoughts throughout the year, but especially during this beautiful season of Christmas. Here are the events that kept the Elias' busy during the past year.

Mike & Meg were delighted when Emma Margaret was born on March 14<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful little girl with lots of dark hair and blue eyes. She weighed 8lbs10oz and was 22" long. Now at 9 mo. her hair is light and she is learning to walk and talk. Emma enjoys music, cats, walks with grandma, and accompanying her Dad on 8mi. Runs. She's a "happy camper" too. She tented with Mike & Meg at DH Day Park in June and at Tahquamenon Falls in the UP in Aug. Mike is home with her mornings and works from 2-10 p.m. at the new GM Delta plant. His 2<sup>nd</sup> job is taking care of 6 rental units. Meg went back to teaching full time at LCC in Aug. When she's not "playing" with Emma, she's busy with the Creation Station, gardening, cooking and other projects.

Dave works in the paint shop at the GM Delta plant where production of the new Buick Enclave, GMC Acadia and Saturn Outlook began this fall. Robin works for an accounting firm and helps Dave with their rentals. They've been busy trying to find good tenants in a bad rental market slump. Heather (21) will graduate from MSU in May 2007. She has worked for 2½ years as a Meridian Police Cadet and is looking forward to a "real" job after graduation. Megan (16) is a Jr. at OHS. The 2006 Okemos BB team went to the state finals but lost by 1 point. Megan has many friends on the team, including Jonathan Jones, OHS's star player. Jonathan is now playing for Oakland U. I enjoyed going to the games with Dave, Robin & Megan during the season and we all went to see Oakland VS Spartans at Breslin a few weeks ago.

Steve and Laura bought a 19' FourWinns boat in Sept. The boys are really excited and are looking forward to skiing, tubing, and fishing in the spring. Drake is a good skier and is learning to drive the boat. Adam loves to swim and tube. Drake (14) is a freshman at OHS and played football this fall. Adam (9) is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, is a Cub Scout and plays soccer on a TNT travel team. He also enjoys piano lessons. Steve and Laura have been busy with rentals and are very involved with volunteer work. Laura takes care of Emma 2 afternoons a week and works at Hiawatha School 3 days per week.

Brian, Amy, Jonathan (5½) and Lauren (1½) had a great boating season this year. They kept their boat at a marina at Frankfort from May-Sep and spent long weekends there. They also took a week's cruise to the North Channel in Lake Huron. It's a beautiful, remote area...one of their favorite places. We visited them at Frankfort and enjoyed a cruise to Sleeping Bear Dunes and Pointe Betsie Lighthouse. Jonathan loves kindergarten and has lots of new friends. Amy has Fridays off now and works at Jonathan's school, Peach Plains in Grand Haven. Lauren is a very active little girl, with wavy blond hair, sparkling blue eyes, a cute smile and a "Miss America" wave. Jonathan is a wonderful big brother. We're enjoying more frequent visits now that they don't go to Frankfort.

Our family had another great vacation at Glen Lake resort --June 17-24<sup>th</sup>. It was our 3<sup>rd</sup> time there. Mike & Meg camped at D.H.DayPark nearby and the rest of us were at the lodge. Mike & Meg brought their kayaks and we took our boat for skiing & tubing. Drake & Megan are great skiers and Adam is a champ on the tube. Jonathan & Lauren had fun on the beach and in the lake. Emma had fun on her first camping trip but wasn't too sure about the water yet. We rode bikes, walked, had fires on the beach, watched sunsets on Lake Michigan and had a wonderful time. I hope we can all go again next June.

We really enjoyed the Voisin reunion Sep 10th at Steve Voisin's beautiful home on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan just South of Grand Haven. More than 50 descendants of Ernest & Emma Voisin attended and many more weren't able to come. It was great to see everyone, especially the grand nieces and nephews. Next year Steve & Laura will be hosting and it will be in Okemos.

Gib & I are doing fine. I enjoy exercise class at the mall 3 days per week, and Gib meets his "coffee" group every morning. There is always something going on with our family or friends so we are busy. We enjoy the cottage during the nice weather and we're already looking forward to spring.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2007.

*Love,  
Mary Lou & Gib*





## CHRISTMAS 2007



At Christmas time our thoughts turn to family and friends, especially those we don't see as often as we'd like. 2007 has been a great year and we're thankful for God's blessings including two new grandchildren.

Steve and Laura had a beautiful baby girl, Kate Marie, born Sun. Sep 23 at 9:36 AM, 8lbs8oz with lots of dark hair & blue eyes. Kate is a good baby, cooing, giggling and getting big. We get to see her often. Drake (15) is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at OHS, involved in baseball, football & wrestling and has a part-time job. He went deer hunting and got his first Buck. Adam (10) is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He is in soccer, baseball & basketball. He also plays violin and is a good student. Steve, Laura, the boys and I spent many hours on Jordan Lake during the summer, water-skiing, knee boarding, swimming and enjoying their new boat.

Mike & Meg also decided to add to their family. What a surprise when Michael Oliver was born nearly two weeks early on Sun Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:01 AM, weighing 8lbs1oz with brown hair & blue eyes. He's a cutie! Mike & Meg are delighted with their new son. Michael is our ninth grandchild—five girls and four boys. Meg is taking a few months leave from LCC. She'll be a busy Mom. Emma is 21 months, a blue eyed blond, cute as can be. She talks a lot, loves cats, dolls, books, music, and playing outside. Earlier this year Mike, Meg & Emma vacationed in San Francisco & Yosemite areas and drove to New York for her nephew's wedding in July. Mike works afternoons at GM Delta plant and takes care of their six rentals.

Dave & Robin are always busy. Dave has been working 7 days a week most of the year at GM Delta plant. The autos built there are selling well. After 22 years, Robin is working for a new accounting firm after her boss retired and sold his business. They have been improving their 6 rental units, doing most of the work themselves. Megan (17) is a senior at OHS and a great volleyball player. She was on the TopGun national volleyball travel team and the varsity team at OHS. They had a great season and I enjoyed seeing her games. Megan still works at Old Chicago restaurant. She's visiting campuses, trying to decide on a college. Heather (22) graduated from MSU in May and is still working at Meridian Police Dept. while job hunting and enjoying a break from the books!

Brian & Amy, Jonathan (6½), and Lauren (2½) are another busy family. During boating season they go north to Frankfort for weekends on their boat. They spent a week on the boat, crossing Lake Michigan to Green Bay and Door Peninsula in WI. After exploring that area, they headed to the historic ghost town of Fayette, MI on Big Bay de Noc, and finally back to Frankfort. In August we enjoyed a weekend on their boat at Arcadia and Frankfort. Jonathan enjoys school and is a good student in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. He loves making things out of scraps from Grandpa's workshop. Lauren has long blonde wavy hair and a cute smile. She is doing well at Pam's daycare. She loves drawing, coloring, books and playing with Jonathan.

Our family spent a week at Glen Lake Lodge June 24-30, enjoying bonfires on Lake Michigan beach, days of boating, water skiing, paddle boats & kayaks, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Bar Lake, and great dinners. We hope to go again in 2008. The best part is having the whole family together. Mike & Meg did a great job hosting the Voisin reunion on Sunday Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Lansing Park. It was a beautiful day and the food was delicious. We had a good crowd—lots of out-of-towners, as well as locals. Laura couldn't go—Kate Marie was born that morning. Steve came later with pictures of their new baby girl.

I keep busy with duplex work, exercise class, going to grandkid's games, and taking long walks with Emma. I'm sure I'll get to baby sit with Kate & Michael too. Gib keeps the duplexes in good repair and always has projects. This year it's doll houses. He is also "chief dishwasher" for St. Martha dinners, etc. It has been a good and busy year. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season, good health and happiness in 2008.

The Elias'

*Gib & Mary Lou*





Dear Mike and Linda,

**Christmas 2008** is full of memories of special people and times in our lives. When I hear "Jingle Bells" I remember many years ago when uncle Denny took us kids for a moonlit ride down a country road in a one horse open sleigh. He was a special person who left me with a wonderful memory. All of you have given us memories too.

Our families are all busy working, raising kids, and volunteering. There's always something going on, lots of sports, concerts and babysitting for 3 cute little grandkids. We enjoy it all.

Dave works at GM and Robin works for an accounting firm. Heather is still with Meridian Police Department and job hunting. Megan is a freshman and getting adjusted to dorm life at CMU in Mt. Pleasant. Dave & Robin keep busy remodeling and improving their rental units and home as well as find time for fun. They went on spring break with Megan, her friends and their parents to Cancun, Mexico.

Steve still works at home underwriting for G.C. Insurance. Laura is busy with the boy's sports, volunteering, and hosting a bible study group. Kate (15 mo.) is a happy little girl who loves books, music, playing outside and watching big brothers' games. Phones, TV controls and purses aren't safe when she is around. Drake (16), a Junior at Okemos High School, played football and wrestles now. Adam (II), in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, plays soccer and basketball and is back in Scouting. They all enjoy boating, tubing, skiing and knee-boarding all summer. I enjoyed boating with them many times.

Brian, Amy, Jonathan (7, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Lauren (3) spent most summer weekends at their boat at Frankfort. With gas so expensive, they spent more time on the beach and in the Dingy. They enjoyed a boat trip to Charlevoix for a few days. We spent a weekend in August with them at Frankfort, visiting Pointe Betsie & Platte River beach. Jonathan is a Cub Scout and working on badges. Lauren is an energetic little blonde who enjoys scooters & bikes and is always trying to keep up with "big brother". They all enjoy the outdoors and love the boat.

Mike and Meg are really busy with two kids. Emma is nearly 3 and Michael was a year old on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Meg is back teaching Biology at Lansing Community College after taking a leave when Michael was born. The kids are doing very well. Emma loves crafts, music, her kitchen, Dora, playing outside, geocaching and her brother. Michael is always smiling and running around having fun. They have done a lot of work on their house, and finished a large family room, bath & laundry downstairs. It's Emma's favorite place to play.

Our family and friends spent a week at Glen Lake in late June. Everyone enjoyed skiing, tubing, etc. with Steve's boat. We celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Glen Arbor with all the family and friends. There were many birthday parties that week too. It's my favorite week of the year. We especially enjoy when the kids come up to the cottage on weekends. Steve's family spent a week with us.

There has also been a lot of sadness in 2008. Amy's father, Harry Busch, died of brain cancer May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meg's sister, Pam, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the spring and died Nov 19<sup>th</sup> in New York. Two very precious people are greatly missed and always remembered.

We wish all of you the peace and joy of this Christmas season and a healthy, happy 2009.

The Elias'

Love -  
Mary Lou & Gib



## Christmas Greetings 2009

*Dear Mike & Linda,*

As 2009 comes to a close, daylight is shorter, temperatures are dropping and snow is falling. It's Christmas time in Michigan. We're anticipating warm holiday gatherings with family and friends and looking forward to your cards and letters. Gib and I decided it was time to semi-retire so in September we hired a management company to manage our 4 units in East Lansing. It's going well and we have much less work to do. We still manage the 2 units in Holt and I do the books. We stay busy--there's always something going on with our families and friends. Gib's coffee group meets every morning at Meijer and I exercise twice weekly at the Mall. On Fridays, St. Martha Maids clean the church then get together for coffee at Panera's. Our family had another great vacation at Glen Lake-June 20-27<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect for the beach and boating and we had a wonderful week. We also spent many weekends at the cottage with the kids and grandkids. They love boating, riding in the 1930 model A, and S'mores. Many of you heard I had abdominal surgery this fall and spent a week in the hospital and 3 weeks in rehab in Okemos. I'm doing very well now, trying to gain weight and strength. My thanks and appreciation goes to my wonderful family and friends for all of their help. Your prayers and kindness helped me through a difficult time. 2009 has not been the best of years, mostly because of a very bad economy that has affected everyone in some way. So far our kids haven't lost jobs but their employers are cutting back wherever they can. It's scary but we're hoping for better times soon.

Dave still has a job, but with a new employer--General Motors Co--after 35 years with GM Corp. Robin has been with a larger accounting firm for a few years now. Heather has two part time jobs--cadet at Meridian Police Dept. and working at the mall during the holidays. She remembers the lofty employment claims while at MSU. She's an honor grad and great worker but there are no jobs in Michigan. Megan is now a sophomore at MSU. She enjoys being back "home" with an apartment in E. Lansing surrounded by friends and a job at Old Chicago.

Steve and Laura began 2009 with a champagne toast at their annual New Year's Eve party and another to celebrate Steve's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in March. They're looking forward to Drake's graduation and trying not to be too anxious about the new phase of his life and the resulting depletion of their wallet. Adam is 12 and has a new passion--golf! He still manages to squeeze in soccer, basketball, baseball and most importantly, his social life. Kate celebrated her second birthday in September and enjoys life to the fullest and brings smiles wherever she goes. She enjoys doing everything her brothers do plus all the girly stuff she can possibly do.

Brian and Amy in Grand haven were busy again this year. In May Jonathan (8) celebrated his First Communion at St. Pat's church. He is enjoying the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and doing quite well - he can always be found reading a book. Lauren is 4 and in pre-school this year. She has learned to write her name, draw, and count. She does a good job keeping up with her older brother - including playing Star Wars. Most summer weekends were spent in Frankfort on the boat and they were able to take a long boat trip to the North Channel into Canada - their favorite cruising grounds. They spent another fun weekend at Manitou Island hiking, swimming, and snorkeling around the shipwrecks. They are now enjoying a Disney cruise with all of Amy's family.

Mike and Meg had an active year with two toddlers--Emma will be (4) in March and Michael was (2) December 9<sup>th</sup>. They traveled east to see the Clarks a few times and went to Otis, Maine in July. Meg's brother bought his uncle Ed's cabin on Beech Hill Pond and the whole clan enjoyed a week of kayaking, jet-skiing and relaxing. Emma enjoys school, which includes ballet class every week. She proudly showed off her outfit to her New York family during the Thanksgiving holiday, and plans to ask Santa for blue ballet slippers for Christmas. Michael is talking up a storm, and is obsessed with trucks and dinosaurs. His favorite game is hide-and-seek with flashlights, and he counts "One, three, seven, sixteen, he-I-come!"

We wish you the Joy and Peace of this Christmas season and good health and happiness in the New Year. We pray that 2010 will be a better year for everyone.

*Love,*  
Gib & Marylou



## Greetings at Christmas 2010

Dear Mike & Linda,

With falling snow and our neighborhood aglow we are enjoying this Christmas season, especially the gatherings with family and friends and all of your cards, letters and photos. I'd like to share some highlights about what the Elias families have been up to in 2010.

Dave, Robin and the girls were busy but enjoyed summer activities at the U-Club. Heather is now working for the Flushing Police Dept. but is looking for a full time job locally. She and Eric enjoyed a vacation at Disney in April. She loves her "HOT" Chevy SS Impala. Megan, a junior at MSU, is finishing an internship with the American Cancer Society and still works at Old Chicago. She's a frequent flyer to Florida to see her boyfriend David in the Coast Guard. They have tickets to the MSU-Alabama bowl game. Dave couldn't resist a 2011 Chevy Camaro RS which he is customizing. Robin is NOT anxiously awaiting tax season #25. In her spare time she enjoys exercising, entertaining and scrap-booking with friends.

Steve and Laura were extra busy in June, with Drake's H.S. graduation and party, Steve's annual business trip to Mackinaw Island and the Elias vacation at Glen Lake. Drake is taking basics and classes in Heating/Cooling at Lansing Community College and also works at his Grandma Sharon's business. Adam (13yrs.8thgrade) is a good student and is obsessed with golf. He played all summer and was "top golfer" in his fall league. Currently he is playing basketball. Kate (3yrs.) is in pre-school, loves her teachers and can print her name. She is very much into dancing, singing, fashion and Tinker Bell. Steve and Laura keep their duplexes and family running smoothly, volunteer frequently and try to enjoy the quiet of life whenever possible. They really enjoy boating and try to get to the cottage at Houghton Lake as often as possible.

Brian, Amy and the kids spent spring break sightseeing and hiking at a couple national parks in Kentucky and Tennessee. Summer weekends were spent at their boat in Frankfort and many other northern ports of call. Jonathan (9yrs.4<sup>th</sup> grade) is having fun playing basketball at the YMCA, doing track and field events and learning the violin. He usually has a book in hand which has translated into success in school. As a Cub Scout, he is working on his Webelo badge and loves adventure. Lauren (5 yrs.) blossomed in many ways this summer. She enjoys kindergarten and her new friends. She learned to ride a 2-wheel bike and turned into a "fish" one summer weekend. She loves designing clothes and can be found most days in one of her "creations". Brian and Amy were blessed with a year of good health and good employment - both are now in "international" positions taking them to China and Japan respectively on business travel - interesting experiences to be sure.

Mike and Meg keep chasing kids and trying to have their own fun as time permits. Emma (4yrs.) had her first dance recital in April, "A Spoonful of Sugar" from Mary Poppins. It was delightful and the video was a hit when shown at our Glen Lake vacation in June. Emma enjoys school and exploring all sorts of crafts with Meg. Michael (3yrs.) is a "Motor Head" with a constant humming from his lips and "smoke flying" from his shoes as he zips about. In July they flew to Maine for a great week with Meg's family at the Clark "compound" on Beechill Pond. Meg's Environmental Biology course at LCC is evolving and she is applying for sabbatical in 2011 to concentrate on more interactive web learning. Mike keeps busy with his rentals and is hanging on at GM with several changes in shift and facility as he has the lowest seniority at Delta Township Plan

Having our E. Lansing units managed gives us more time for other things. Gib still does lawn work and some repairs plus the Holt units. Every morning he meets friends at Meijer for coffee and enjoys cooking, baking and reading. I'm feeling great after surgery in April, and back to books, housework and exercise. I spend lots of time with the grandkids, enjoying every moment. They are growing up too quickly. We're already looking forward to our family vacation at Glen Lake in June. It's the greatest! In Aug we spent a weekend with Brian & Amy at their boat but Lake Michigan was so rough we went to the beaches at Elberta and Pointe Betsie instead of cruising. It's a beautiful area. I'm finally on the Internet, e-mail and Facebook, enjoying all your pictures and news. I may surprise you with a comment someday. We wish all of you the joy and peace of this Christmas season and good health and happiness in 2011.

Love  
Gib & Mary Lou