



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

December 15, 2010

*He will rescue the needy who cry out,
the lowly who have no helper.
From fraud and violence
he will redeem their life,
their blood is precious in his eyes.*

Psalm 72:12, 14

Dear Friends and Family,

Readers of scripture continue to pray for a redeemer who, in the words of Mary, will scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts, and fill the hungry with good things. If we are Christians, we recognize in Mary's son the redeemer of our hope. Even then, we long for his return. In between the times, the hopes and fears of all the years still meet on Christmas night.

2010 has been an eventful year for the Hobbins-Benecchi family. We are settling in to Oshkosh, where John is pastor at First United Methodist Church. Not without the usual difficulties, Anna and Betta have made the transition well. Paola is now a short drive from the Family Church in Neenah-Menasha where she is pastor. Oshkosh is a bustling community of 60,000 with a university, various cultural attractions, parks, and a magnificent lake.

Anna is in second grade at Read Elementary. She has made new friends and is a neighborhood magnet among those her age and younger. She is taking dance classes – classical and jazz, and will start piano in January. A bundle of joy, how anyone could remain unhappy in her presence defies belief. She loves to read; with great intensity she seeks to understand. Bedtime prayers have become a time in which she is fully engaged. She is headstrong, of course, but her parents have no right to complain about that.

Betta is a junior at North High School. A go-getter, she keeps a full academic and social calendar. She studies hard and sets high goals for herself. She is taking