

# Merry Christmas!



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Depending on where you live, you can see signs of wonder through the snow. Snowcapped mountains, hills, and valleys. Some of us might be shoveling today. Others who live in more tropical climates may just see LIGHTS! My favorite time of the year is when ALL the lights are out. Reminding us of the glory that shined on the Birth of our Savior.



Our new car!



Bonnie & Sandy after Bonnie's Surgery



Refresh Conference in January

I'm going to give you a recap of 2023 in the Burdick household. The winter of 2023 we started the new year with a purchase of a 2016 Town & Country. We put at rest our Baby Blue one for this nice Red Chariot. My sister, Bonnie, had surgery on her heart valve in the first part of January, and I helped her for a couple of weeks. In February we went to a Refresh Conference with our friends, Daryl and Jeanne Steinbrink and our granddaughter and her boyfriend, Brooke Burdick and Freddie Pena. We learned some valuable tools to make a relationship great. Put JOY into your marriage especially when going through a tough time. Dance more! It was a fun time, and we all were wiser from it.



April MMBC Banquet

Spring brings Hope. In April, we celebrated once again with the Midwest Mission Bible Center's banquet. At the end of the banquet all those that were in the Mission or were a part of the mission and graduated were able to come forward and sing their theme song. After the banquet we scheduled a full trip combining our granddaughter's wedding, Juliet Bowlin, and a road trip to visit missions. First stop was a quick visit with friends in St. Louis, Steve & Gloria Gardner. They provided a delicious meal and great fellowship. Next scheduled stop was a memorial for a great friend of ours from the Mission, Dave Kageman in Jerseyville, IL. The next morning, we headed toward Kentucky and ministered to the Mission in Salyersville.



Visiting Steve & Gloria Gardner



Dave Kageman Memorial

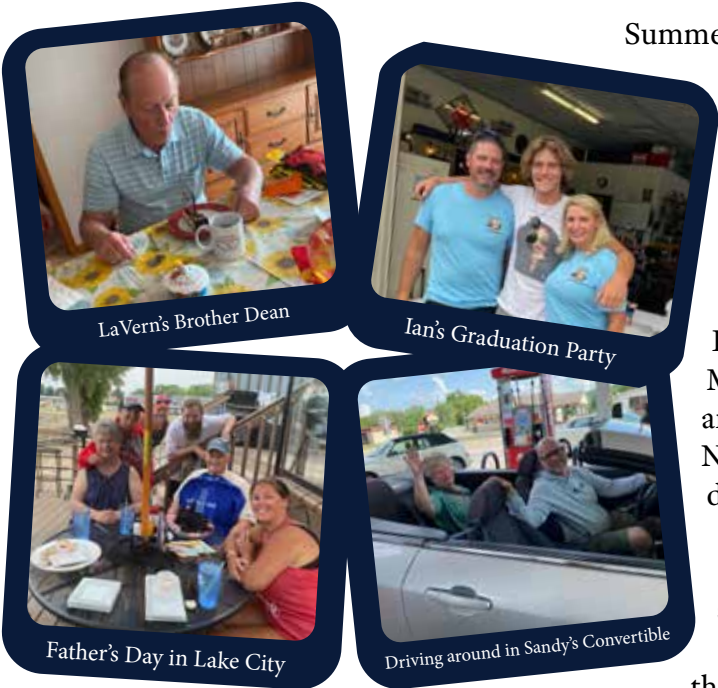


Mission's Banquet

Amy and Chad are the AED's, and it was nice to see them again. They are doing a great job bringing more character to the building and a WHOLE lot of LOVE!



Next stop, but not our final destination, the wedding! It was fun and we were able once again to see lots of family and meet new friends. What a great time of celebration. We got to meet our grandson, Finn O'Neil for the first time. What a sweet little guy he is. Coming home we stopped off at Crossville, Tennessee and I shared my testimony of what it was like to go through the program. We got up early that morning and went onto Brazil, Indiana. We shared there about LaVern's testimony on his event and how God helped him through it all. Terry and Nelda are always such great host and hostesses and make us feel so valued and loved. The last stop before arriving home was at LaVern's cousin's house in Adams, WI, Billy Taylor. It was great catching up with him and seeing his wonderful homestead. In May Ben, Dee and Jazzy took us to the play *The Little Mermaid*. That was such a delight. It was especially cute to see all the little girls that watched the play in mermaid attire. Later we caught up with our daughter, Angel and her husband, Andy at Red Lobster for Easter. What a fun celebration with family.



Summer comes along and we are busy putting flowers in our garden, fixing and repairing items around the house. Our summer was spent mostly with friends and family. Picnics, pool time at our daughters, celebrating a late birthday for LaVern's brother, Dean. Graduation party for our grandson, Ian Hoot. The Hoots took us on a pontoon ride on Father's Day and our son Ben later came to celebrate with us Kelly's Lake House in Lake City, MN. John Talley, the Resident Director of Midwest Mission Bible Center joined us for a weekend, and we spent an amazing time enjoying Quarry Hill Nature Center, the Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN and driving around my (Sandra's) convertible.

In August, I went to my friend's home to help pick up some yummy produce that Debbie and Lou grow every year. This year they taught me how to pick apples off the tree. Of course, I got some and made yummy apple sauce and apple cobblers. The end of August we went to my granddaughter's, Star McPhee's, bridal shower held at Sorellina's at the Mall. Fall was so much fun too! My son, Ben and his wife gifted us with tickets to go to Chanhassen Dinner Theater once again and we took advantage of it to watch "Jersey Boys"! What a great time of entertainment. I sang those songs for a couple of weeks after. Memories of the past came flooding back





to me. We went with Dean & Jan Burdick and spent the night with them and left the next day. We went to Walter's picnic in September. It was a small group, but it was great seeing old faces and some new ones. October was another big month. I started it out going to the Flashpoint Event in Minneapolis, MN. Learned about government and how to get involved. Met new friends and saw some I haven't seen in years.

Star McPhee VonWald got married on October, 13, 2023. It was a fun day. My brother came from California, so I had lots to be thankful for. The bride and groom were smashing and Steve, Star's husband, did all the ushering. He smiled through it all. We were all happy to add him to the family.

Ending this year of the winter season with Thanksgiving Breakfast at Midwest Mission Bible Training Center in Cresco, IA and a new great granddaughter, Eleanor Gifford, on November 17th. What a beauty. That makes 4 great grandchildren and grand they are indeed!

Overall, it has been a very productive year! We hope this Newsletter has filled you in on the life and adventures of the Burdick's. We wish you all the Merriest of Christmas's and a Prosperous Healthy New Year!

Love to you all,

LaVern K. & Sandra L. Burdick



Star at her bridal shower

Debbie & Sandy on swing



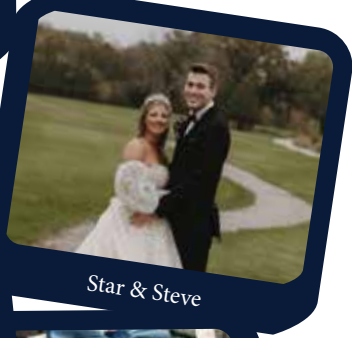
The Chanhassen Dinner Theater



Vicki, Linda, & Sandy at Flashpoint



Siblings: Sandy, Bonnie & Larry



Star & Steve



Baby Eleanor (Ellie)

- Loved ones who received their Homecoming:
- David Kagemann Jr. ....March 20, 2023
  - Cathy Mink ..... May 7, 2023
  - Jackie Burdick – Ben & Dee's dog ..... September 1, 2023
  - Len Mink ..... November 28, 2023