

Hello friends and family!

We hope you've had a good 2008! We feel blessed looking back this year... At the beginning of '08, we bought a house! In March we moved out of the apartment in Burlington to Gibsonville, NC. We're really enjoying our new house, our new neighborhood friends, and location because it's much closer to school, church and stores we frequent! We're settled in and excited to spend our first Christmas here. We thank God for the blessing of this home!

Libby ha comenzado jardin de la infancia! In English that translates to "Libby has started kindergarten!" She's in the Spanish immersion class at Elon Elementary and we are pleased with it so far. Her teacher speaks Spanish all day. Libby knows much more Spanish than we do now, for sure! She's reading some and she's never said she didn't like school, so that's a good sign! She's also been taking swimming lessons and has just joined a Daisy troop.

Grady's in 3rd grade now and still enjoys school. He played 2 more seasons of soccer this year, moving up a division. He loves to play outside with the other neighborhood kids, too. A new thing Grady has joined is Cub Scouts. He's beginning to earn badges and belt loops, and is meeting new friends.

Scott has been staying busy at Elon. Along with that, this past year has been a journey with his mom who had a bone marrow transplant in September. We're so thankful that she's accepted the donor's cells and her faith in God is strong and her hope carries on. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and concerns. Beth's enjoyed being a "stay at home" mom as both of the kids are at school. She's so thankful she's able to be at the house when the kids get home from school. She's volunteering at church and at a retirement community and is really enjoying the time there that she's missed the past 9 years.

We pray you'll have a new year filled with joy through our Savior who was born this Christmas- time! Merry Christmas! Follow us all year at [www.elon.edu/shildebrand](http://www.elon.edu/shildebrand).