

appointments with Jill, he has been spending a lot of time at school. This year a tennis coaching position finally opened up at Morton and Phil interviewed for it and got it, so he coached girls in the fall and will coach boys in the spring. This was his first time coaching girls and he learned a lot (like don't schedule a hard practice on picture day). He has enjoyed his return to tennis and coaching after several years off. It gives him a chance to develop deeper relationships with a number of the students and provides him with good exercise. Because of tennis, and Jill's pregnancy, he has to complete with Venus (the cat) for second biggest belly in the house. He still works with the youth at church with Jill, and he has also been working to develop a mentoring program for his school's district. This has been a big undertaking but has gone well.

In addition to school responsibilities, Phil and Jill have kept busy with vacations and other activities this year. We spent a weekend in Rockford celebrating Phil's birthday and shopping for baby furniture, we took a short trip to Galena to celebrate our anniversary, and we also spent our annual vacation with the Steiners and Michaels in Chicago this year. As all three couples will have kids next summer, we're not totally sure how we'll keep the tradition going, but we hope we can. We also spent a lot of time and money this summer on home improvements, so to any of you who own stock in Home Depot or Menard's, you're welcome. Jill's sister, Susan, helped with a lot of the painting while Jill watched Trevor, our nephew. Sharing the work made it more fun and the job was finished sooner, especially since Susan loves to paint the big surfaces and Phil loves the corners and detail work. It's been nice to sit back and enjoy the results of a summer of hard labor. Please feel free to come by for a visit and check it out, and if you don't come you'll just have to take our word that our living room is bright pink with an orange ceiling and our nursery is camouflage. At any rate, our home is always open. Well, that's a figure of speech. We lock it when we're not there, or when we're asleep, but you knew what we meant.

In closing, even though life is very full, we've tried to make it a point to relax and enjoy ourselves. We hope you can too during this busy season. We look forward to seeing all of you and even if you don't live close, we think of you often. We wish you all a very merry Christmas as you spend time with family and friends during this holiday season.

*Sincerely,*

*Phil & Jill*