

The Aardsma Weekly

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Writer: Rachel Aardsma



...All The Way From Virginia



My oldest sister Jennifer and her husband Steve came down for David's wedding this past week. They brought Joshua (7), Ethan (5), and Katelyn (3), their three children! We always love spending time with Jennifer and her family.

We did so many things in the eight days they were with us, that one small article won't be half enough to describe it all. But I will do my best.

Since strawberries were in full swing the whole time they were here, Jennifer and Steve spent some time helping us pick strawberries. We were very glad, though, that we still had plenty of time to enjoy other activities! We only spent one whole day in the patch; the rest of the time we usually just picked for an hour or two in the morning.

Corny jokes abound in the strawberry patch. Since Steve has a great sense of humor, as do Matthew and Timmy and Dad, we were laughing all the time. However, jokes about 'berry good harvests', and 'berry good strawberries' do get a little old after a while. (After Steve had been helping us for a few hours one day, he asked us to 'berry (bury) me in the berry patch!')

One of the fun things we got to do with Jennifer while she was here was a mother-daughter shopping spree. Jennifer, Mom, Beka, Katelyn, and I piled into the van one afternoon and set off for stores. After a long, long afternoon of shopping we had hit three thrift-stores and gone to the mall. At the mall Mom bought a beautiful gold locket for me, and a pearl-and-diamond birthstone ring for Beka.

While we girls went shopping, Matthew took all the 'guys' over to a friend's house, where they fished away. Steve baited hooks, Matthew cleaned fish, Timmy, Caleb, Joshua, and Ethan excitedly reeled in little fish after little fish, and Dad sat and laughed at the hilarious bunch! The boys caught lots of bluegill, which we fried and ate. The little boys had a wonderful time, and enjoyed their fishing trip just as much as we enjoyed our shopping trip.

As usual, we took full advantage of Jennifer and Steve's musical talents while they were here, and had several spontaneous music nights. They played many of their original songs for us to enjoy. On Sunday night, Steve said things just didn't feel right without a choir practice (he is the music leader at his church), so most of us gathered around and learned a lovely song to sing together later that night. Dad, Timmy, and Caleb, the only ones not in the choir, loved it!

Another common Jennifer-and-Steve-visit occurrence took place during this visit: we had lots of intellectual discussion. With everyone interested grouped around the dining room table or seated in the living room, we discussed lots of things. The only time intellectual discussion was lacking was during those hours in the strawberry patch. As

Dad put it, "After you've been out here for an hour or two, you begin to crave intellectual stimuli."

Yes, we enjoyed, as always, having Jennifer and Steve down for a visit. We enjoyed the conversation, and the berry picking, and the swimming, and yes, even those terrible corny jokes. They love coming just as much as we like having them, even though they have to come 'all the way from Virginia'.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Psalm 23:1-6: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.



Bits and Pieces

Matthew's dog Buddy has undergone some troubles and tribulations this week. First of all, he's hardly been here. Matthew brought him to a boarding kennel over the Friday and Saturday of the wedding and preparations. That was trying enough for our little Sheltie, but on top of that, once he came home, he soon went back again, this time to the Vet Clinic to be neutered.

When Buddy came home, the first thing he did was tear his stitches up. They were hurting him, and he was not happy. Matthew had to bring him back in for a patch-up job. At the moment, Buddy is still recovering, and not very happy that he has to spend most of his time in his crate.



A Word About The Weather



We had a tornado threat this week, but to balance that out, we are desperate for rain. We've begun watering the garden again. Most of days we have are hot, sticky, sunny, and humid. Great conditions for picking strawberries, etc, as you can imagine!



A Word Of Wisdom



It doesn't matter how long you turn a post-hole digger around. If the blades aren't facing the right direction, you won't get anywhere.