

Hello Friends,

I (**Mary Holtz Hathorn**) had an entertaining and active year with several short trips and visitors. Living with my daughter, son-in-law and their three kids (14, 11 and 8) keeps me young! I have become an OCIA (Order of Catholic Initiation of Adults) mentor and enjoy and am blessed by the experience. Wishing you all a glorious year!

Linda Lewis Mayer and Richard travel to visit sons and grandkids. She still directs a church choir occasionally and plays for a few Masses a year. They participate in the Chesterton Club, the Boeing retiree club and chair an annual luncheon and tea dance. Linda sends “blessings to all my Woodsie classmates.”

Susan “Sue” Eichmuller Hamilton ’90MAPT and Wayne hosted a January gathering in Naples for SMWC. They had a good turnout— about 35. **Kathleen “Kathy” Dunne Alexis** and **Bonita “Bonnie” Liosi Stevens** attended so the Class of ‘66 was well represented. They cruised the fjords of Norway in July and made a family Caribbean cruise over New Year’s holiday. They are still Marriage Prep Coordinators and Sue facilitates adult faith formation programs.

Nora Hilger McGowan will be attending her nephew’s May wedding in France and granddaughter’s university graduation. She moved in August back to Chicago suburbs to be closer to family. After 20 years in Tucson it was “a thoroughly investigated and well-planned move,” a happy decision.

Maureen Cassin Vadman reports that husband Dave had heart and pneumonia health issues but is on the mend. A trip to Cabo San Lucas was restorative. They enjoy their daughters and their families, especially their grandkids. She works with a women’s group to further education for women and he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. Swimming and hiking keep them active.

Marilyn Gaudreau Hackett has a busy retirement, including working out with a personal trainer, yoga classes, a balance class, Bible Study, delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering for the food pantry at her Church and enjoying Broadway shows that come to town. (“Friends, please keep moving!! WE ARE NOT OLD!”) All her kids live out of state, so she does

travel frequently. Three grandkids will graduate this year...two from high school and one from college. Life is good.

Kathleen “Kathy” Flynn Schmidt regrets that she cannot attend Reunion this year but wishes us all a delightful and memorable time. She very fondly remembers her college years as “lovely, dark and deep.”

Margaret Curley Burk is still happy and healthy with hubby Don in Oak Park, Illinois where she produces a monthly storytelling show. She had a fun year virtually traveling with son Nate & family through blogs, Instagram and video calls as they travel the world for a year. Margaret is grateful for Pope Leo’s leadership in calling Catholic Bishops and laity to follow social justice teachings and she will be happy to see many of you in May.

It’s been a busy year for **Sheila McBride Beaupre**: cruised to Bermuda, went to Denver for a family wedding and a visit with **Mary Holtz Hathorn**, traveled with church choir to Italy and stopped at various cathedrals to entertain. The highlight of the trip was singing for Mass on the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica. When at home she enjoys Choir, Bible Study, quilting and making dresses for Dress a Girl. “God has truly blessed me.”

This year was full of ups and downs for **Margaret “Peggy” Dooley Nitka**. Her oldest grandson was married in December, and oldest granddaughter is in her Plebe year at West Point. Her youngest daughter is safe after surgery for breast cancer and reconstruction. She and Dennis are counting their blessings! She writes, “May you all feel love and support surrounding you and your families. Love and cheers, Peggy”

Charlene Panozzo anes says her “news is pretty tame, all things considered. Travel, family gatherings, and the usual routine of daily living. I am grateful for it all! All the best to my fellow alums-God bless you!”

Geraldine “Gerri” Gornick sends us greetings from Powell, Ohio. She and her family are managing an extensive house remodel, despite the occasional lack of sinks and the drywall dust everywhere. She has a 17-year-old grandson and is quite proud of his accomplishments!

When I read the email from **Annette McMullen**, I learned that her daughter **Katherine “Katie” Meyer Cramer ’9** was also a Woods graduate. Here

are Annette's words: "My memories of our time at The Woods are strong – lovely, dark and deep. All my best to our classmates."

Diana Schmitt Barry remains on her cancer journey. After trying all known Western medicine protocols for this challenge, with the last one causing a stroke, she is "concentrating exclusively on meditation and prayer and working with an exceptional psycho-spiritual mentor who's helping her to connect more with Spirit and go into trust. She reports feeling good, making quilts, doing volunteer work and enjoying life."

Caring for husband Bill's illness with Hepatitis B has challenged **Carol Burger Schuler**. She writes, "I found that suffering creates a bigger capacity to love and be loved by **Jesus, Others, and Yourself!** Suffering creates **JOY!!**"

Mary Jo Augustine is still loving her home in Arkansas. Her son lives next door and daughter is nearby. Despite a total hip replacement six months ago, she has a full recovery and no restrictions and so continues her kayaking and swimming. She reports five grandchildren, one dog and three cats. She looks forward to our Woods reunion this year.

Bonita "Bonnie" Liosi Stevens and Mike spent a few weeks over Christmas last year with son, Erik and his family in Scottsdale, Arizona. January found them celebrating SMWC at the annual gathering at **Susan "Sue" Eichmuller Hamiltons' '90MAPT** and Wayne home with **Kathleen "Kathy" Dunne Alexis**. Bonnie is looking forward to a visit from her daughter's family over Easter and to our 60th Reunion in May. She feels grateful for health and blessings.

Gail Holland Chastain enjoys seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They always have a reunion in Pensacola Florida July 4th week. Her youngest grandchild plays varsity soccer for Auburn Alabama High school. She has also been long-distance dating her high school sweetheart for almost seven years. They have been on two American Heritage cruises which she highly recommends. "As someone said 'aging' isn't for sissies!"

We all wish you a blessed, healthy and productive 2026!!

