

# Volpone Express

DECEMBER 2002

## Canada

Hello. I'm going to tell you about our trip to Canada in August. When we went to Canada, we drove. So it took us about 8 hours to get there which was pretty fun looking at all the gigantic mountains. When we got there we stayed in a blue hotel called Falls Manor Inn. (They had a delicious restaurant!) Niagara Falls is beautiful! We got to get on a double Decker bus, which was fun. We walked around Niagara Falls just about every day. And when we did, we parked in the parking lot for the Sky Lon Tower, and I must say, when the elevators went up, they looked like giant pills. Anyway, when we parked there, we had to walk down this really steep hill. It wasn't bad walking down, but, when



you were tired and thirsty, it was *horrible* walking up. We went to this really neat exotic bird show. That was awesome. We also went to the Butterfly Conservatory, and I had a butterfly on my head for about 15 or 20 minutes. Mom also had one on her for about that long too. One night, we went back to New York to visit our buddies from VBS. And one day we went on the Maid of the Mist, which is a boat that goes really close to the falls. (Dylan fell asleep on it!) On one of the first days that we were there we went in tunnels under the falls and got soaked! ('Course we got soaked on the Maid of the Mist too!) They actually gave you raincoats but none of us kids wore the hoods. We had lots of fun, and we're planning to go back again in a coming year! -Kaitie



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# Hunting



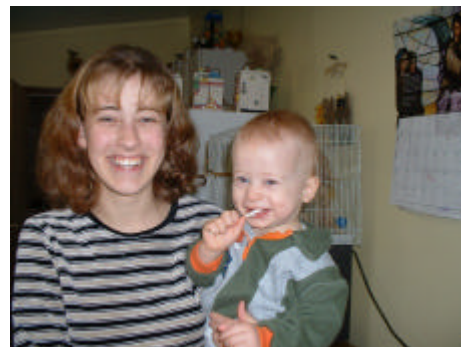
This year my Dad and I (Greg) decided to go hunting. This is not a simple process such as getting a gun then just going out in the woods. We have been trying to do this for a while but never had time. This year we decided to do it. We went and took a three-day class at a middle school. On the third day we had to take a test. In order to pass, we had to get 48 out of 60 correct. I got 59 and Dad got them all. The next problem was a gun. My grandpa had a 20 gauge shotgun, and one day we were out gun shopping

and my grandma asked him about giving it to me. Then he said, "Yeah, he can have it." Well my grandma called my Mom and she called us and we got it later. We got our blaze orange clothing and some ammunition. A few weeks later we went hunting for the first time, then the next week we went again. Both those times we saw nothing, but it was soooooo fun. Today (12/16/02) squirrel season starts up and we know where a lot of them are, so it's just a matter of time now.... 😊

-Greg

# Dylan Conor Volpone

Dylan has been a lot of fun this year. He turned one on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's hard to imagine how small he was this time last year, when he was only two months old. He started crawling and standing pretty early (he was standing by June or July, I think), but he wasn't really walking until Labor Day. He's really good at it now, and even tries his hand at jumping sometimes, not quite getting off the ground, but it's still really cute. He likes playing, like all little boys do. His favorite toys are his small, orange basketball and his party horn (one of those noisemakers kids get at a birthday party), which he blows with gusto. He is extremely friendly, and really loves to play with his family (he likes the dog too, when she's not trying to lick his face!). Dylan is talking, too! It's so much fun. He doesn't say a lot by himself, but he repeats almost everything you say. He calls all of us 'Da!' and hollers it to us if we walk past him without saying hi. He also says words like 'juice' and 'ball'. He even says, "Duuuuccceee" (but it's more like "Buce"), as in Duce Staley of the Eagles! He is a very good baby, and we're so glad he's part of our family!!



- Tara

# The Building is Finished!!

(and other family matters)



Two “B words” dominated our family life in 2002 - *BABY* and *BUILDING*! Last year, Cornerstone Baptist Church, where I am youth pastor, embarked on an ambitious project to add 6,000 square feet to our current 1,800 square foot structure. Since the church family donated almost all the labor, it was quite an adventure! Several families donated a week of vacation to get the project started right. During the thirteen month project, we worked almost every Saturday putting in usually 9 or more hours, plus many evenings throughout the year. Each person in our family (well, maybe not Dylan!) chipped-in in some way or another. Although it was quite an exciting time, we were glad to see it conclude with the building dedication on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

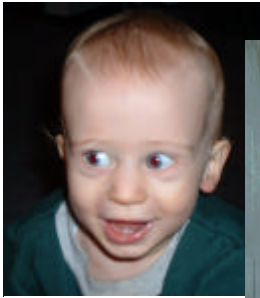
Our lives continue to be busy - probably too busy actually. Bev and I just celebrated our 17<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Wow! It’s hard to believe we’ve been together that long! I love her very much, and I think she figures I’m ok too. She still homeschools our three oldest children. I admire Bev’s ability to do that so well. Dylan’s added a whole new dimension to the task (Tara has already given you the details about him)! But he’s just a wonderful child, and we all love him dearly.

Tara is quite the lovely young lady, both in physical beauty and, more importantly, in her heart. She plays the piano beautifully and has become one of the regular pianists at the church. Greg is busy as ever. He enjoys chess, computers, football, basketball, soccer, and of course fishing and HUNTING. He was born to be in the woods! He’s a great older brother to Dylan, and it’s fun to do “guy stuff” with Greg, like fixing things and working on the house. Kaitie is a delight. She has a sweet heart, loves the Lord, plays the piano and is learning Irish Dancing. She’s an avid reader and is currently devouring the “Mandie” series. She’s reading through the whole Bible and is in 2 Kings.

I’m still working the same jobs - fulltime network administrator at LUTHERCARE and part-time youth pastor at Cornerstone Baptist. Our youth group is doing pretty well overall. Youth ministry is usually an up-and-down, win-some-and-lose-some battle, but I trust we’re winning more than losing. It’s been great to see the spiritual growth in many of the kids in the group. Again, I’ve enjoyed having our two eldest children in our youth group this year.

Most of all, we hope *you* know Jesus as *your* personal Savior. The Bible says that each of us has sinned, but God loved us so much that He sent His Son to pay the penalty that our sin deserves. If you will confess your need to Him, He will forgive your sin and give you eternal life. If you have questions about how to do that, let one of us know and we’d love to tell you more! We love you all! Please keep in touch! - - - Brian for everyone





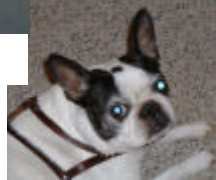
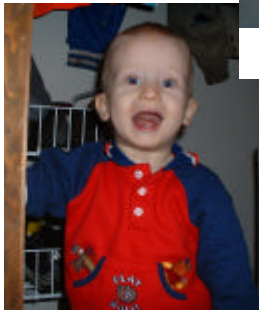
*Dylan*



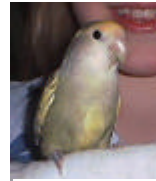
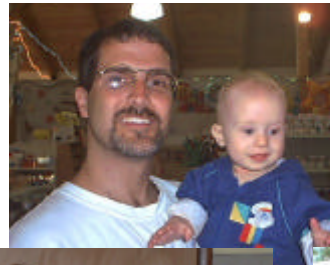
*Tara*



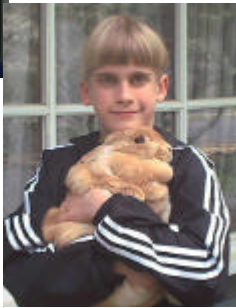
*Brian baptizing Kaitie*



*Salem*



*Lacey*

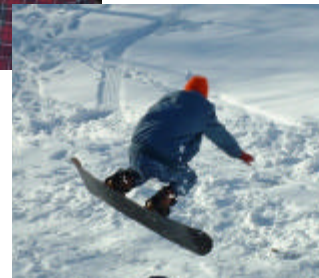


*Mocha*



*Dusty*

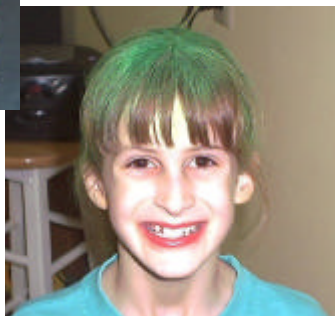
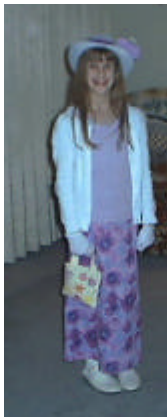
*Greg with Ginger Ale*



*Greg Snow Boarding*



*Kaitie in her spring musical*



*Bev and Dylan*



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