

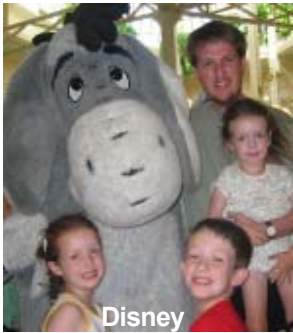
Merry Christmas

Hello! We hope you are enjoying the holiday season! This year started with Madison turning three (3). That same day, my Dad and I spent the night on a battleship at Battleship Cove in Massachusetts with my Cub Scout Pack. It was pretty cold, but fun. I thought we'd get to shoot the guns, but they don't let you. In February, my Mom met my Dad in Phoenix, Arizona, for a few days when he was on his way home from a trip for work. She was so excited to go somewhere warm and sunny in February. They visited Dad's Great Uncle Jim and Great Aunt Ruby. My Grandpa and Grandma Hively came to stay with us while they were gone, and we had fun. We had one problem, I fell at school and broke off the bottoms of my two front teeth (permanent ones). It hurt. Grandpa and Grandma took me to the dentist right away and they are fixed now with something called "crowns." I will have to have a root canal on one or both teeth sometime next year. I'm not sure what that is, I'm just hoping it doesn't hurt. Best of all, I will still be able to play trumpet, like Dad & Mom.



Carter - Battleship

Mom went to New York City in March with her friend Mrs. Donahue and saw her first Broadway shows, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Thoroughly Modern Millie. Taylor and I had our first piano recital in May. We both memorized several songs for it. We did well. I played baseball for the first time this spring. We went to Sunset Beach, NC, for our vacation with our friends from Ohio in July. We had a great time. Taylor and I are really getting good at boogie boarding. Madison learned how to do it the last day we were there. We went to Disney World the week after the beach, just our family. Mom, Taylor and I went on Splash Mountain, we were finally tall enough. We loved it! Madison loved the Dumbo ride and the Pooh ride!



Disney

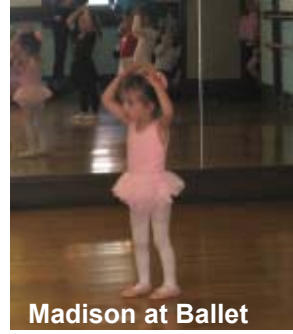
Our Uncle Scott and Aunt Brigitte, Andrew, Sydney and Rebekah came to visit for a week this summer. We had a wonderful time. Then we went to Ohio for a few weeks. Mom took us to Jackson, Ohio, where she grew up. She and Dad went to her 20 year High School class reunion. We met her best friend from High School, Lisa, and her family. We also visited the REAL Bob Evans Farm. We don't have Bob Evans' restaurants here, so it's fun to go there. In August, our friends the Stephan's came out (with our friend Rachel, too). We swam in our pool even though it rained, and then we spent a nice sunny day in New York City. We rode the train there, right into Grand Central. We rode subways all over town. Best of all, I finally got to go to the Statue of Liberty. It was amazing! Dad and Mom bought a little replica statue for me and I keep it in my bedroom window. I also bought a NY Yankees hat! (Shhh...don't say that too loud around here...especially since Mom says she's adopted the Red Sox since we live here...)

I am in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade now, Taylor is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and Madison just started 3 year old preschool this fall. She goes to the same one Taylor went to at a church that is very close to our house. She goes two mornings a week, for 3 hours. Mom spends a lot of time at the store, the dentist, the doctor, and especially our school during those hours. She tries to do as much as she can, but sometimes she says she goes to Starbucks for her favorite Hot Chocolate and relaxes. I am a Bear Cub Scout now, and Taylor is a Brownie Girl Scout. Mom still does website and computer work from home. She had several new clients this year. Dad says he can't believe he's worked at GE for over 15 years now. He recently received a promotion and is now a Market Director. He still travels to really cool places around the world to visit all the people on his teams. A few places he's been are: Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China, San Diego, and Arizona.



Sunset Beach, NC

Taylor and I are still taking piano lessons at the Berkshire Music School. I started playing violin this year at school. Dad is going to teach me to play trumpet. He plays a lot at our church. He plays during the offering, the hymns and with the choir. He will play on Christmas eve outside as people come to our church and he'll play inside. Dad & Mom are also a part of an adult drum corps called Excelsior in New York. Taylor, Madison and I sing in our church children's choir, and our Mom is now the Director. We sing and we also play Kristal bells. Taylor is still taking ballet and tap lessons, and Madison started ballet this year, too. They dance all the time. Taylor was in the Albany Berkshire Ballet's Nutcracker this year. She was a Clown and came out from under a big skirt, and she was also a reindeer and a clown in the finale. Mom cried through the whole thing. I'm not sure why. Taylor's picture was in the paper, too. Grandpa Bob & Grandma Cheryl Hoff came from Ohio to visit us and go to see it. It was so much fun having them here. We took them to Dakota's Sunday brunch, want to go? Taylor and I played soccer this fall. Mom and Dad get really into it and cheer a lot. It was an exciting fall with the Boston Red Sox and the Yankees in the World Series. We live 10 miles from New York state, so I have a hard time picking who to root for. I just wore two t-shirts to school most days, so people wouldn't give me a hard time. We will miss our Aunt Brooke who is moving. She has been in seminary at Boston Univ. and will graduate at the end of this month. She'll move out to Seattle to be with her husband Uncle Aaron Hoff, Daddy's youngest brother, who is stationed there in the Navy. She was our only relative in Massachusetts, so we will miss her and her dog \*Blue\* coming for visits. We hope to go to Seattle to visit them. We will be visiting our families in Ohio after Christmas this year, and staying through New Year's. The Hoff's go bowling once a year on New Year's eve. I am hoping for several strikes! Please visit our family website to see pictures of us. The "Hoff Hotel" is always open if you wish to visit the Berkshires! Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2005!



Madison at Ballet

Love, Carter, and Taylor & Madison (and Todd & Carla, too!) **Family Website:** [www.ihoff.com](http://www.ihoff.com) – **Email:** [info@interfx.com](mailto:info@interfx.com)



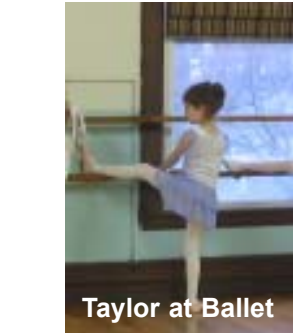
Taylor's Recital



Carter's Recital



Carter Baseball



Taylor at Ballet



Aunt Brooke & Blue

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