

Cahill Family Newsletter 2024

Hello friends!

It's that time of year again. You know, the time of year when you get all of the wonderfully perfect family pictures with short and sweet summaries of how the year went and also the Cahill's Epoch. I'll try to be brief.

In January, Benj started a new position at work along with continuing his IT work. His boss is over two departments and needed an assistant in his Facilities work. Benj gladly accepted the challenge with the view passed down from his Mom that the goal at his job is to help his boss be successful. The first few months were a bit challenging but he has risen to the occasion and is always trying to maximize his efficiency in both roles.

February brought an unexpected surprise. Benj's sister-in-law bred her dog and we got to visit puppies! After that visit we had to re-visit our "can we have a pet" conversation. (I love and grew up with animals; he did not.) He surprised me the next day by saying we should do it. We got a puppy!

Of course the week before she came I ended up getting a really bad case of mastitis. It made the first few days with the puppy a little extra challenging as I still wasn't feeling 100% better. March brought full days of puppy training, child training, homeschool, etc.



In April, our little firecracker Haven turned 3. Her linguistic skills are still amazing us, and she has personality in spades! She can be such a bundle of fun and enthusiasm! She loves to help and is especially good at folding towels.

May saw me making a really hard decision. I decided that I needed to give up the puppy. She was taking more and more time away from my other responsibilities, and I was noticing that my family was starting to feel the effects of that. While I did love entering that world again, I realized it just wasn't the right season of life. (It's much easier to raise and train a puppy in your teen years. Turns out you have a lot more free time and a good many less responsibilities. =)



On a brighter note, we also enjoyed a lovely anniversary getaway over a long weekend. We had our first broken bone as well. Serenity was playing on a 5 gallon bucket and it decided to sweep her off her feet. She must have caught herself with her right arm, and it ended up fracturing both bones in her arm.

Benj and I always joked that if any of our kids were going to break a bone, it would be her. Looks like we figured correctly... She took it like a champ though and only shed tears right when it happened. We were able to get a cast on it just in time for our trip to Colorado. While in Colorado, we enjoyed the beautiful weather and lovely scenery while hiking in the mountains.



June saw us celebrate our baby Felicity's 1st birthday. Her name is very fitting as she brings much joy to everyone in our family. We often enlist her help to wake up her sisters. They can't seem to be grumpy when they see her little face light up to see them. She is determined to do everything the big girls do and is devastated when she can't.

A couple weeks later came Cherish's 6th birthday. She is really growing and maturing these days. She is still an amazing help to Mom and Dad in many ways. She often takes initiative to do things she knows need to be done without being asked.

I was grateful that this pregnancy has been more mild in symptoms than any of the others. It enabled me to still be able to help out with our church's VBS. I will say that the exhaustion hit a lot harder this time around. There have been many

opportunities for me to practice self-control and patience. I'm certainly not perfect in those areas. Perhaps that's why the practice keeps coming. :)



In July we enjoyed a summer Cahill gathering. We said hello to a stomach bug, but I said goodbye to morning sickness.

In August, my Mom treated my sisters and I to a Mani-Pedi / lunch outing as a birthday gift. That was a special day of memories and time spent together. Just before school started up again, our little Serenity turned 5! She has really taken off with reading this year and is rapidly catching up with

Cherish in that subject. In fact, they are both doing so well that we recently had them join in our family Bible time where we all now go around and take turns reading a verse.

School started back up with both girls in a more demanding grade level. I found myself struggling with the adjustment of more demands on my time while already feeling like I was barely getting everything done. We have found our stride, though, and will continue to adjust as we have the new baby join us in January. Daddy has been a huge blessing in occasionally helping us with school in the evening when I have had an especially busy day.

In September, we found out baby #5 was a girl! I was not disappointed, but I was slightly shocked. What are the odds?! Anyway, she will slide right into our gaggle of girls.

October brought in Benj's allergies. I have been learning little bits about herbs and decided to make him an allergy tincture. I added another herb into the mix as a tea. He told me they were much more manageable this time around, so we will certainly be keeping those things on hand for next year! I hope to continue learning more about how to help my family in this way in the coming years. Benj also had a major work deadline that had him burning the candle at both ends the first couple weeks in October. Poor



guy had to miss out on the fun of Family Camp, but he made his deadline!

We went straight from Family Camp to a family vacation at Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas. The prep work that I put into making meals for Family Camp and this camping trip was no small thing. Benj also ended up with a pretty nasty cold at the beginning of our vacation but was thankfully feeling better by the end. We joined Benjamin's brother Brian and his family at the park. Our girls had a great time and made some fun memories with the cousins!

We all had a great time but Benj and I agreed that if we did that again we probably shouldn't do it the week after Family Camp. It was a bit hectic.

After that, I had two weeks to plan and prep for our annual trip to the Virginia F.E.W. Conference in the beginning of November. The trip went smoothly and we enjoyed the fellowship as always. On our way back home, we stopped and stayed with some sweet friends. That is when the trip got interesting. Haven came down with a stomach bug while we were at our friends' house.

Traveling with a sick child is rough. We made it to our Airbnb that night and just as we put all the girls down for bed, Felicity got sick. It was a long night—but the next day we made it home. I was so happy to be back home and so ready to be done with trips for the year! Thankfully no one else in the house caught the bug!

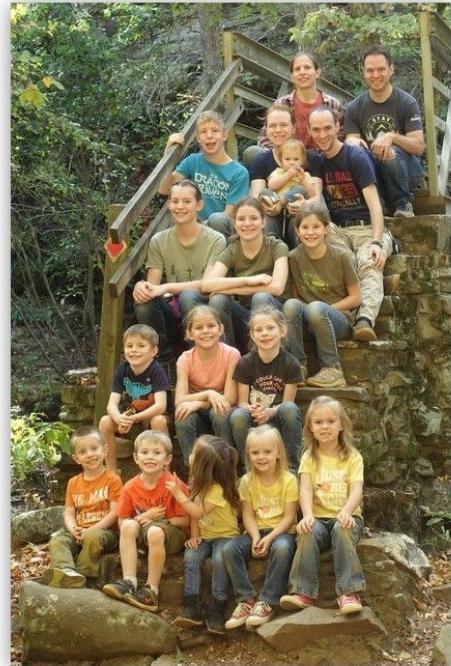


A couple of weeks later, we headed to the Cahill house for a Thanksgiving family reunion. As always, it was loud and we stayed up way too late talking with all the adults after the kids went to bed, but we loved every minute. We also got some fun family pictures taken for us after Benj finished the big group photo.

Between our FEW trip and Thanksgiving, my Mom had to go to the hospital. To make a long story short, we found out she has two types of cancer. We would so appreciate your prayers that my parents would have wisdom to navigate this road in the upcoming year. We would also appreciate prayers for what our roles should look like through all this as well.

And when it rains, it pours. As soon as we got back from Thanksgiving, I got a horrible pain in my neck and upper back that only went away when I laid down. We went to the chiropractor and apparently I sprained or strained something. Benj was a lifesaver and stayed home from work a couple days in a row to let me fully rest and regain some mobility. That was not fun!

December has (thankfully) been uneventful. I have been loving the arrival of days that are perfect for a warm bowl of soup for lunch or dinner and a cup of hot tea before bed.



I guess I have been doing a bit of “nesting” as well. (at least that’s what Benj told me... :)) I re-arranged the girls room, ordered some basic postpartum supplies, and bought a few new sleeper gowns for baby girl.

I was also super grateful to snag two herbal courses at an unbeatable price a couple weeks ago. They are on herbal first aid and herbal colds and flu’s. I look forward to putting those into practice in the coming year. I am sure a report on how that goes will be coming in next years epoch! To close out the year, we will be going to my family’s house to visit with my brother who will be in from out of town. It will be our Hicks family reunion!

And I think that about sums it up. I am not entirely sure I am capable of being brief, so if you made it this far, congratulations!

I look forward to writing another garrulous tale next year. Until then, we hope you have a blessed new year!

Love,

The Cahills

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2024 Memorable Quotes

(Haven put something big in her cheek)

Haven: I'm a cheekmunk!

(Haven is holding a stick above her head)

Haven: I got my underbrella!

Serenity, looking at our Yamaha piano while learning to read: Yay! May! Hay!

Cherish: I can't find my ball. I already looked for it.

Marina: Just keep looking.

Cherish: Ugh, fine I'll go look on the ceiling...

(Cherish's tummy just growled)

Cherish: You're welcome tummy. He probably just ate some of my apple.

P.S.

Since we took our time getting this letter out, we had another little person join the family!

Introducing: Verity Lynn Cahill | A reflection of Truth

She was born on January 11th at 3:10am weighing 9 lbs after a short and intense labor. She came 2 weeks and 2 days before her due date, surprising us all. I am very grateful!

She was so early we didn't even have a name picked out yet...it took us two days. Her sisters are already in love!

