

## Barrett Update – Summer 2007

(Some recent pictures are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page if you prefer to skip the text!)

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Dear Friends,

Since we need to give you a new email address (see above), I figured it might be time for an update. It's hard to imagine that we've been back in the US now for well over three years – but it is true. Jane and I are alive and well and quite content here where God has placed us. We trust the same is true for you!

### **Family Update:**

Jennifer and her family life in Indianapolis (about 3.5 hours from here) and are doing great. We get to see them several times a year – and we love the chance to be with them and with Joshua (9 yrs) and Nathan (3 yrs). What a delight it is to be on the same continent. We could brag about Jennifer as a dedicated stay-at-home Mom and a remarkable home-schooler, John as a great partner and father, and the boys as clever, cute and wonderful – but we'll spare you!

Peter and Kara live and work 'inside the beltway' in Washington DC. Both thoroughly enjoy their careers in International Development and are pursuing advanced academic degrees as well. As I write Peter is in Pakistan and Kara has been traveling regularly this year to Albania. We wouldn't be surprised to see them live abroad in the years to come. I guess they come by that naturally...

Jeff and Meredith are close by, just across the border into Wisconsin. So we have regular contact with them. In a week or two Jeff will begin his second year of law school (University of Wisconsin at Madison). He has done very well and enjoys both the challenge and the opportunity the legal profession provides to help make a difference in people's lives. Meredith enjoys her work in a small psychiatric hospital near Milwaukee. It will be interesting to see where they end up long-term.

All of the kids are involved in good churches and we are very thankful for each one of their lives.

Jane works with me as part-time church secretary. She enjoys serving behind the scenes and helping with women's ministry. I couldn't ask for a better partner in life & ministry!

### **Ministry update**

We seen a lot of good things happen at Riverside Community Church! The most visible is that now, for the first time in our 35 year history, we have a building of our own. July 15<sup>th</sup> was the first service in the new building and a tremendous celebration. What a story it has been of God's leading and provision. That same Sunday was also the installation of the church's first deacons. Both of these seemingly 'normal' church developments are but outward signs of some positive and deep things that the Lord has been doing in the lives of our people. We don't focus on numbers as a sign of 'success' in ministry – the growth we care most about is in terms of character, faith, obedience, etc. But it is encouraging to also see many new visitors. Attendance is up and there is a very positive spirit. My main focus is on week-to-week ministry of God's word and working with our elders in the spiritual leadership of the flock. I am very thankful for what I see God doing!

God has been wonderfully good and faithful. We praise Him!

Walt and Jane

## Barrett Family Photo Collage – Summer 2007



**The Barretts  
4<sup>th</sup> of July**

Peter and Kara  
The Benjamins  
(Nathan, Joshua,  
John and Jennifer)  
Jane, Jeff, Walt

Meredith and Jeff  
(below)



**Riverside Community Church's New Home!**  
Check out [www.rccstc.org](http://www.rccstc.org)