



AUGUST HAILSTONES
BRING NOVEMBER
ROOFERS



ANNA ABROAD
STUDYING IN
FLORENCE, ITALY



ELISE ENERGIZES
INSPIRING STUDENTS
WITH ARTIST IGNITE

WATTMAN WANDERINGS



We're Still Here...

This has been an eventful year for the Wattman family. Through it all, God has shown Himself to be faithful, keeping us safe and (relatively) healthy, growing in our relationships with Him and with each other. In spite of some fairly typical ups and downs as part of life, we are very thankful and count ourselves blessed. **As such we celebrate this Christmas, when our God entered time and space, to become our Savior.** The following encapsulation of our year is but a glimpse of all God has provided and seen us through.

We visited the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., paying particular attention to the Minnesota marker

An Emptying Nest

Judy and Rick are beginning to experience family in a new way. Our girls are grown-ups. We are in awe of their independent capabilities, and of who they are becoming. Yet our lives are still deeply entwined with theirs, and we hope they will always be so. **In 2013:**

Judy fledged from trainee to volunteer bird keeper this year at the Richardson Nature Center. (That's a red-tailed hawk on her hand!) She cares for the raptors (cleaning, feeding, weighing, etc.) and educates visitors. **Elise** is pursuing her second Master's Degree, in Music Therapy. Since she's still in Texas, we drove down to visit her there in March, and had many adventures. We detoured to see and swim under Oklahoma's "tallest waterfall" (77 feet) on our way back to MN.

A late April snowfall reminded us that Minnesota weather is always unpredictable, which keeps us on our toes, but it sure was pretty. And it led to a delayed planting of the garden. At least there was an "Indian summer" for the later-than-usual harvest.

Summer was most eventful (emphasis on the "full"). We traveled to Manassas, VA, in May, for the wedding of our niece. We rendezvoused there with **Elise** and her boyfriend **Matt**, and had more family adventures exploring the historical sites. **Anna's** summer was just getting started, however, as she "set sail" to Uganda for a mission trip. In her words, "*Uganda stole my heart!*" On her return, it seemed she barely had time to wash her clothes and say "Hi" to her boyfriend **Alex** before it was time to pack for a semester studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Back down in TX, **Elise** created a summer course for budding musicians who want to learn about the music business. She called it Artist Ignite, and she offered classes, gigs, and guest artists.

Some of the events the summer were difficult. Judy was rear-ended by a "distracted driver" less than a mile from home. We found a low mileage used Prius to replace the totaled car, so now we're a two-hybrid family. **Rick** continues to work lots of hours in his second job at the Apple Store, which he actually enjoys. It also supplements the income from his full time ministry at **FaithSearch** International. **Judy** is teaching in the nursing program at Normandale Community College, with all the administrative and political struggles that go with it... And *don't get her started* about what next year will be like with their new curriculum!

That thing about the weather was no joke. We also had a HUGE hailstorm in August. *Scary* huge! Pokey hailstones the size of clementines came down *and* sideways—all at once, like a dump truck of them was being emptied in the sky. The plants and gardens were not happy. At least we now have a new roof as a result.

2013 in a Flash



2013 in a Flash: (top to bottom) Judy and the Red-Tailed Hawk [1/19/13]; Turner Falls in OK [3/16/13]; spring beauty in Bloomington [4/23/13]; family portrait at the wedding in VA [5/26/13]; Judy with the new Prius [6/22/13].