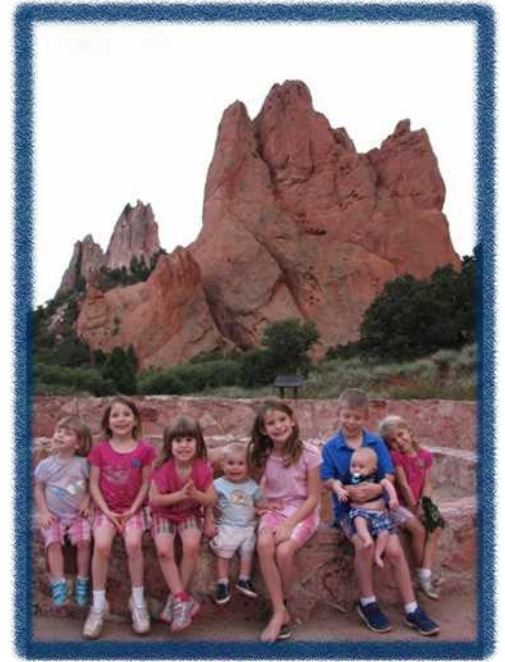


Cahill Family Newsletter - 2018

After building great houses, parks and gardens, Solomon deduced that satisfaction in your labor is a gift from God.

Then he proclaimed: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Garden of the Gods



Mt. Capulin

**Touring
in Denver**



Greetings family and friends! Over the last few years we have worked hard taking dominion over a piece of property, slowly creating our homestead. Along the way we find our priorities are changing from "finishing," to rejoicing in the results that God has given to our work. From putting school on hold to get to the heart of an attitude, to stopping in the middle of a project for a game or outing, we are embracing each season of life as it comes.

A time to stay, a time to go: The year started with monthly family fun nights including a sock snowball fight, ice skating, scavenger hunt, indoor camp-out and swimming. We also made time for several town festivals, museum trips, and took the older kids to their first home school conference. Going continues as Amy enjoys a weekly one-on-one shopping trip with a kid while Brian takes the crew home after Bible study. To top it all off, swapping childcare with Amy's sister has yielded a wonderful season of weekly date nights.

The highlight of the year was a September excursion to Colorado. Excitement mingled with trepidation as we planned our first family trip that included toddlers and infant! We accomplished our goal of spending time with relatives in Denver while navigating through gardens and parks. A beautiful day in the mountains included exploring a waterfall and discovering a river running through a rock tunnel. Despite mild car trouble, we returned from our adventure victorious and exhausted.



**San Marcos
babymoon
with Flying
Armadillo's
disc golf**



A time to work, a time to rest: We have been developing the idea of Sabbath rest for several years now and have



Befriended Iraqi family

found it to be delightful. In fact, the the kids call it “Sunday - Daddy Fun Day.” Brian jumps on the trampoline with them, has “pay day” for their week of chores and goes over their Bible study. Meanwhile, Amy has a quiet morning for reflection and reading. In the afternoon we play games and enjoy couple time. We meet bi-weekly with Amy’s sister and her husband to sing and pray together, then let the kids play while the adults discuss a book.

The open format of Sunday has given us time to disciple the kids. We ran a 7 week Bible study with the oldest four called “The Talk,” introducing the subject of sexuality, and teaching them God’s design for their bodies. A conference speaker provided intentional questions for yearly review so we spent several weekends holding one-on-one conversations with the older kids, something we plan to repeat. We encountered some parenting challenges this year and were thankful for the groundwork of relationship that allowed these difficulties to be worked towards healing and victory.



Eden is baptized



**Ryder Kevin
June 20, 2018
8 lbs. 2 oz.**

A time for home birth, a time for hospitals: Our eighth child was due mid-June. As with the other babies, Amy was planning a home birth, but struggled psychologically due to the difficult previous delivery. She claimed Isaiah 40:11, how the Lord would “gently lead those with young,” casting her fear on God

and asking Him to treat her gently this time. Labor came, but stalled with the baby in a less than optimal position. This used up Amy’s small store of courage, so in the wee hours of the morning, Brian and Amy headed to the hospital. An epidural took away the exhausting and discouraging element of pain and a healthy boy was delivered by his grandfather, a family practice OB. In a different way than imagined, God answered the prayer for a gentle birth!



Frog dissection for science

A time to teach, a time to learn: The Spring school term remained strong in academics with individual assignment sheets keeping everyone on track. Amy continued to host an American Girl co-op



Learned ships and rowing

Amy created signs with scripture



Puddle boy

additional props. Our cousins moved in next door and joined us in making Viking food, writing messages in runes and building a Viking tent. We were sorry to leave this unit, but look forward to pirates next and then the explorers!

A time to grow, a time to stabilize: At work, Brian achieved two Amazon Web Services certifications and read six books which had takeaways for family life as well. His favorites were How to Win Friends and Influence People and The Phoenix Project. In the neighborhood, Brian has continued efforts in coordinating maintenance on



Brian and Skye change starter

Brian works on home automation



covering history and geography. With the birth of a summer baby, Amy decided to dissolve the formal co-op that she had been hosting for five years. To balance the needs of multiple ages during fall school time, Amy devised a plan: The oldest four rotate between “stations” of: time with Mom, engaging preschoolers, reading with Grandpa and working independently.

Afternoons find us immersed in a hands-on unit study. A book of Viking myths kicked off our fall semester and was so interesting that Ivy took over reading when Amy was busy. Picking Viking names and creating costumes extended the learning play all day. Metal melted over a campfire and poured into clay molds added



Harvested more than 60 watermelon!

our private road. Intense flooding prompted a presentation and the start of negotiations with the county. At home his automation skills were used to convert an incubator into a temperature and humidity controlled hatching machine! Oh and did you know that a little bit of green manure may kill one peach tree, but a bunch of it will kill them all? Trying out a thought that prayer could join the physical with the spiritual, Brian has picked a couple of prayer targets and uses that as a reminder to reach out.

Needing a chance to heal mind and emotions, Amy read two series of books that were just for fun. She also made time to scrapbook as a distraction from pregnancy. Subscribing to a fitness

website provided gentle workouts that supported her through pregnancy and recovery; that and a nightly massage from Brian. Supplementing with a magnesium spray brought a surprising, but welcome, calm to ride the waves of parenting. As capacity to handle life returned, Amy tackled a book called “The Gift of Dyslexia” and was fascinated to learn how this

perceptual difference causes difficulties with symbols like text. She coached a child through applying techniques to overcome confusion and work towards reading mastery. Though she went through a rough patch spiritually, Amy is still finding herself drawn towards God. With the kids, she finished reading the Old Testament, studied Revelation, memorized a passage in Acts and is going over the genealogy of Christ for Advent.

On the kid front, an opportunity for growth came through chore upgrades while responsibility was encouraged with a 21 day challenge and rewarded by a special meal with mom and dad. Lance became a chess player and decorated his own birthday cake as a “gummy worm apocalypse.” Ivy read through the New Testament to earn a set of horse playmobil. Flora has blossomed in cleaning and organizing skills and taken on goat milking. Eden and Iris learned to swim, Skye is proficient with scissors, Garrison has graduated to the potty-trained crowd and the four of them shared the experience of

chicken pox. Last, but not least, Ryder laughs easily, can sit on his own and is adored by his cousin.

In closing, we would agree with Solomon: *“eat thy bread with joy... Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”* Ecclesiastes 9:7-11

**Brian, Amy, Lance, Ivy, Flora,
Eden, Iris, Skye, Garrison, Ryder**
www.cahills.us

Garrison loves trains!



Flora sews a nightgown



Skye, Eden, Iris enjoy baby goats

Lance's 10th birthday - Nerf war in Papa's unfinished house



Ivy trains our new dog - Suse

