

From Mary

March 26, 2009

- our quick visit to Delavan, Minnesota for Mike Willette's funeral -

- T'was a wet and stormy time, but there was room at the "Inn" of Mary, TMore and family, despite the fallen trees and whistling wind outside; and still the barn did not fall down - just one side of the old garage (*to Mary's glee*)



Dear Ones,

God was willing and the creeks didn't rise until we were coming back from the celebration of Mike Willette - a powerful gathering of family/friends that filled the church. As TMore eloquently said, his voice choked with emotion, thru the litany of losses in our family, we must learn to recognize that grief is love--it is not something to run away from but to celebrate. All of Mike and Joie's children and grandchildren were there. Allison and Paul's little ones had come from Maine and in the week of Mike's slow withdrawal into the next world they were a reminder of how life is so immediately full of wonder at the start and that it does go on (I think baby Geb and Jo did that for us after our Mike's death) In testimony how the younger ones become the older ones, I am attaching a photo of the barely "duzin of cuzins" from Mike's generation who were able to join this reunion.



But, before closing, let's also celebrate the ongoing life of those March madness birthday group—Paul, Brendan, Jennifer Swanston, and of course the Ante before them all—Brigid. Next week, Isaac will go from being 4 and 11.5/12ths to 5, Hilary and Kathy will have been married 27 years: And, Gordon and I are going to Brooklyn for the weekend to see our eldest turn 40 and his eldest turn 9 yikes! More promise for the future news is that Scott Yeager's Supreme Court Hearing seems to have gone well; Sarah Frisch was selected to be creative writing instructor at Stanford--two year contract complete with benefits so San Francisco will stay home for them!! Hip Hip Hooray all around.