



The Leonard Gazette

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LATE EDITION

HONOR FOR HIS SACRIFICE. GRACE WHEN WE FAIL.

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PRAYER BEATS CANCER

This year has, without a doubt, challenged and stretched us more than we could have ever imagined. It has also blessed us more abundantly than we could have ever imagined.

Maddie had a scope procedure done at the Children's Hospital of Orange County on Thursday, May 12, and on Monday, May 16 we got the official diagnosis—an endodermal sinus tumor in the vagina (also called a germ cell tumor). As you can well imagine, this news brought on a mix of emotions, two big ones being fear and devastation. Day by day, and sometimes minute by minute, we got through each step in the process, thanks to your fervent, faithful prayers. Fear took a back seat to peace and hope, thanks to your prayers and the good news from the doctors each step along the way.

How is Maddie now? She couldn't be better. Honestly, she has done

amazingly well through the process of surgeries and chemotherapy. We had no idea what to expect, and she stayed so strong through her treatment, again thanks to your prayers.

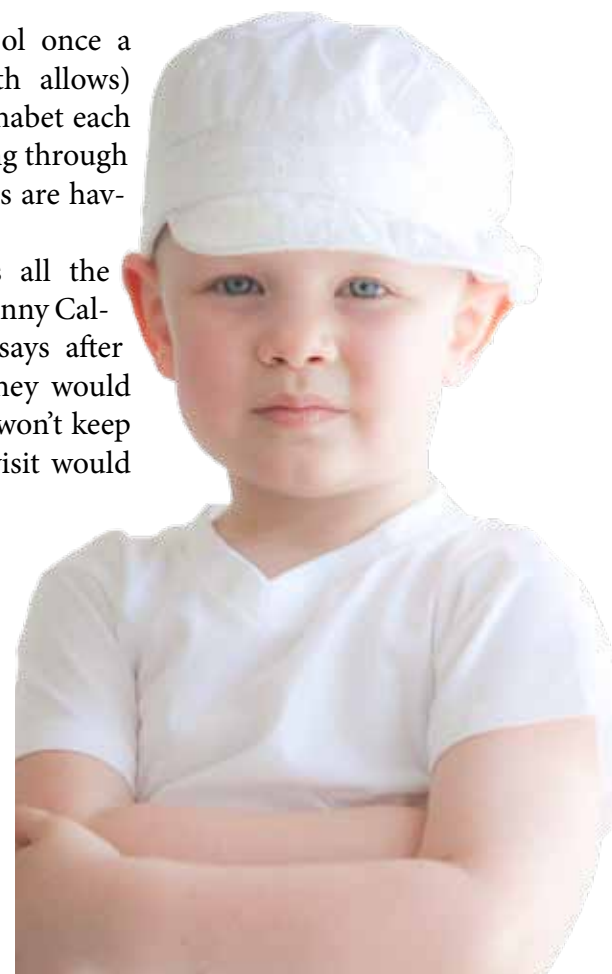
She excitedly celebrated her 4th birthday on November 30 and is coming off the high of Christmas. (That's a lot of gifts for a kid to get in one month!) She had the privilege of being in a calendar, which supports the Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern California. If you are interested in getting a calendar to support this outstanding organization, just go to <http://ccfsocal.org/candle2/calendar>. CCF does so many wonderful things for children with cancer and their families. We are impressed over and over again by this foundation.

Maddie looks forward to going to "real" school next year, though she does enjoy preschool with her friend Aliyah and teachers Jill and

Sarah. We have preschool once a week (when good health allows) and do a letter of the alphabet each time. We are slowly getting through the alphabet, and the girls are having a lot of fun.

Maddie loves visitors all the time, so come on out to sunny California! Maddie always says after anyone leaves, "I wish they would live with us forever." We won't keep you here forever, but a visit would be perfect.

Madelyn Beverly Leonard (4) underwent chemotherapy treatments over the summer. She and her family were blessed by the love and support of friends and family throughout the cancer treatments.



9-MONTH-OLD ATTACKED BY FLUFFY PINK PUPPY

We welcomed sweet Katelyn Marie into this world on April 6, 2011. Sweet is the perfect description of her. We couldn't ask for a better baby. She has been a great sleeper and drinker, which are two ingredients to making happy, restful parents.

We got Maddie's diagnosis when Katelyn was barely a month old, which added a few challenges to the parenting "balancing act." Thanks to Patty Wagner, our on-call sitter, Katelyn had a place to be loved and held and loved some more during Maddie's hospital stays. Patty was amazing while we were in the hospital. She brought Katelyn to me during the day so I could hold



and feed her. We had another Patty (De Weerd) who stepped in and helped with Katelyn when the other Patty was busy. We are thankful for both of our Patty's.

Katelyn is learning by the minute—sitting up, reaching for everything (LOVES hair and earrings), smiling and giggling a lot! She is doted on by her cousins in Escondido (Isaac and Caleb) and is sometimes mothered by Maddie. Mackenzie is a little indifferent around Katelyn, but every now and then we catch her talking to or playing with her baby sister.

We are grateful beyond words to be blessed with a truly happy and healthy baby. God is good!



Katelyn Marie Leonard was born April 6, 2011

MACKENZIE SETS RECORD FOR LONGEST CHEW

2011 has been a year of learning and growth for sweet, cuddly, and very independent Mackenzie. Turning two is a big deal, and we have loved watching Mackenzie change from a baby/toddler to a little girl with many ideas of her own.

She and Maddie love to play together (most of the time), and her imagination has exploded. She loves to play pretend and is really into her Little People. Mark and I love watching her play by herself and talk to her toys; this age is so fun.

She has always been our little peanut who shows little excitement for food (unless it's chocolate or candy). She continues to try our patience during every meal, and she holds the record for keeping food in her mouth the longest amount of time.

Seriously, it's impressive but, quite gross—something you will find out for yourself when you come out for a visit.

When going through Maddie's diagnosis and treatment, we were concerned about how everything would affect Mackenzie. She seemed to love the hospital time since it meant going somewhere during that time (thanks, Lapkas, Wits, Schenkels, and Wagners!). The biggest transition was always the "back at home" time, but even that went smoothly. It always took a day for Maddie and Kenzie to realize that they needed to share our attention and share with each other.

We love Mackenzie's independent spirit. It is that same independence that tests us day after day, but we are thankful for the little individual that she is growing to be. God has blessed us abundantly with Mackenzie Patricia. God is good!



Mackenzie Patricia Leonard (2) enjoys a rest in her favorite pink lawn chair with umbrella attachment during her most recent photo shoot.



AFTER 8+ YEARS, WIFE STILL FINDS HUSBAND LOVEABLE, ALBEIT A LITTLE DORKY

When you factor out the events involving our kids, it is difficult to write an article about just “Mark and Jill.” I’ll give it a try anyway...

I (Jill) am still working part time at Redlands Christian School as a middle school band director. I absolutely love working with middle schoolers; they keep me on my toes. We have a couple of festivals coming up in February and March, which will keep things interesting. I enjoy and am thankful for the time I get to spend at home with the girls, and I really love when Mark and I are able to enjoy a date night (thanks to lots of awesome friends who watch our girls!).

Mark is shopping for his next full time position. His job with Arrowhead Christian Academy ended on July 1. Mark has worked very hard in the last few months to meet key people in the industries and communities in which he would like to find his next position. In addition to expanding his professional network, Mark has also spent a lot of time building two businesses – a portrait and wedding photography business that we and started three years ago, and a consulting company that Mark started in June after completing his M.B.A. While we are anxious about our financial situation and eager for Mark to find that next great career fit, we are bouyed by the sup-

port our community has given us and our faith in God’s promise to look after us always.

We feel blessed and overwhelmed to have an amazing support system—family and friends who have loved and encouraged us each step along the way in a scary and difficult journey with Maddie. We feel like “thank you” just doesn’t cover it; the amount of gratitude we feel for you cannot be expressed in words. We have been showered with prayer, food, notes of encouragement, phone calls, financial help, and more prayers.

We received so many gifts this year. The non-profit groups that we have come to know through Madelyn’s cancer put a lot of presents under our tree. And then we were surprised to be the recipients of a 12 days of Christmas scheme executed by a family from our church. Each night they rang our doorbell and ran leaving a gift bag full of surprises for our girls to enjoy.

Thank you for cov-

ering us with love in 2011. We eagerly await what God has to teach us in 2012!

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

Diaper Transition Director – Direct and manage all stages of diaper transition process including butt-sniffing, tiny onesie button negotiations (part 1), wiping, and tiny onesie button negotiations (part 2). No experience required. Hazmat certified a plus.

SERVICES

Mark and Jill Industries will accept proposals from **Qualified People With a Pulse** for the Watch Our Kids So We Can Go to A Movie contract. Dates and times are flexible. Just show up for details.

FOR SALE

Plastic Little People figurines that hurt like crazy when you step on them with bare feet in the dark. 1¢ or best offer. Supplies are abundant. Fresh opportunities for purchase on front lawn every morning. Act now to receive bonus toy cars that cause you to fall when you step on them with bare feet in the dark.



Mark and Jill with daughters, Madelyn and Mackenzie enjoy a California beach sunset during one of Mark’s recent photoshoots. Youngest daughter Katelyn not pictured, because she just wasn’t feeling “beachy” that day.