

Kathy (Cassidy) Barnes



Name, address and e-mail:

Kathy Cassidy Barnes

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Marion IA

Family names & ages:

Husband Bob 58

Charlie 27

Jake 22

Kally 15

What's happening in our family?

We are all alive and well. Bob works with mental health clients, I teach, Jake manages a jewelry store in Sarasota, Kally is in high school, and Charlie left today for a SCOOTER trip to California. Ye gads! I think of all the times I told my mother not to worry as I took off for the wild blue yonder, and I realize paybacks are hell! 😊

Fond memories of high school:

Still far and away the funniest memory I have was of Alicia Jones crawling down the hallway on a dare, landing one hand on Sister Henry's shoe. Like a train wreck, I couldn't tear my eyes away. I got close enough to hear her say, "Sister!!! I am SO glad you're here! I lost my contact and my mom will kill me!" She proceeded to pat the floor around her, even getting Sister down on her knees to help. Then she gleefully shouted, "HERE it is!" and 'popped' it into her eye. The sheer genius of thinking that up on the spur of the moment was only enhanced by the fact that no one had contacts, and Alicia didn't even wear GLASSES!

Career status:

Still teaching – starting my 37th year this fall, the last twenty at Wilson School, teaching 7th graders language arts.

How I spend my time:

Gardening – of all things, takes up a great deal of my time... don't ask me why. It came on me slowly, and changed over the years. In my 30s, it was nothing I couldn't eat. In my 50s, it's nothing I can't smile at when it blooms.

Renovating this house has been an ongoing project. My husband promised when we bought it in June that it would be done by November. Then he pointed out that he hadn't stipulated WHICH November. The joke then stretched to which

decade, and now, of course, which millennium. I don't know how such a little bitty house can take up so much time and money, but it does.

Keeping tabs on my husband keeps me pretty busy. He has had a few bumps in the road and thinks he can still do everything he used to do. Of course, keeping tabs on the kids is also a full time job – how was I so stupid to think it would lighten up when they hit 18?

One of my biggest pleasures is having Yvonne (Erceg) Hopp as a sounding board and friend. When I think of all the luck I have had in my life, having Yvonne in my corner is always in the top three.

Comments for classmates:

Maybe I am smart enough to say 'No comment.' Nah – can't resist. My aunt's last words as she focused herself after years in an Alzheimer's funk to look at her daughters, smile and say, "Enjoy your life." I am doing my best, and hope you all are too.

Lessons learned since 1969:

Too long a list – not to mention that I can't remember most of them anymore, anyway. (That's why it's so great having Yvonne in my life – she doesn't forget ANYthing!) But I DO remember a few lessons just this month:

- 1) Don't try out a new hair color right before you're leaving on vacation
- 2) Don't follow a truck unless you are SURE it is your husband in it!
- 3) (this one is over a year old) When you find two teenagers in a 'delicate' position, DON'T ask, "WHAT are you doing!?!?"

When you see me please don't ask:

Ask whatever you like – trust me, teaching 7th grade for 20 years, I've been asked worse.