

Dear Ones,

All things considered, 2009 was not a bad year. My new knee joint is working really well, and my general health is quite good. I must admit, however, that caring for all these weary and worn body parts has become very time-consuming. While I used to be able to wash, brush my teeth, change into my PJs and be in bed in 10 minutes, it now takes the better part of an hour! Whether you can relate to that or not, I'll spare you the morbid details.

Although I'm not driving anymore, I'm wisely spending our children's inheritance and helping the economy at the same time. I have provided a job for a delightful young lady who drives me to appointments, the grocery store, the Wellness Center (for exercise) and elsewhere. She also assists me with a variety of projects at home. Knowing I'm in good hands, my kids no longer need to be concerned about my every day needs. Works well for us!

It's different not being in my church in Vestal Center on Sunday morning; however, I've discovered the availability of good Bible teachers, preachers and worship services on TV--which I'm able to "attend" in my robe and slippers in the comfort of my own living room! ☺

Living here in the Highlands community is a wondrous experience. These remarkable "forever-young" folks bring a lifetime of experiences to share. Having lived through so much of the same history, we understand and relate to one another quite well. We take pleasure in being together for walks and talks, picnics and potlucks, singing our own kind of music, and much, much more. Can't get a lot better than that! ☺

The older we become, the more we must endure the loss of those we've loved. In perusing my journal, it was hard to believe how many friends had passed on in '09. Words never come easy in trying to respond to those who are grieving. I only know that friendship is a beautiful gift, and I'll always be thankful for having known these dear souls and for all the ways they have enriched my life. God bless them!

Forever I'll be thankful for this family that God has put together. The smorgasbord of personalities and gifts to observe and enjoy is more than I could ever have hoped for or imagined. Each of the sixteen grands and the three great-grands is priceless, not perfect; struggles and overcomes; learns, then teaches; and best of all, is loving and kind. This remarkable group of growing human *becomings* – in time, and in his or her own way – will help to make this world a better place! – and that's a good thing! ☺

Your lovely cards, notes, letters, pictures and phone calls are treasured gifts. The most recent photos are now featured on my bulletin board in the kitchen. Seeing them lifts my spirits on a daily basis!! ☺

It is incredible when I realize the long-lasting friendships among us. Thank you!

*Friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet  
When our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.  
– anonymous*

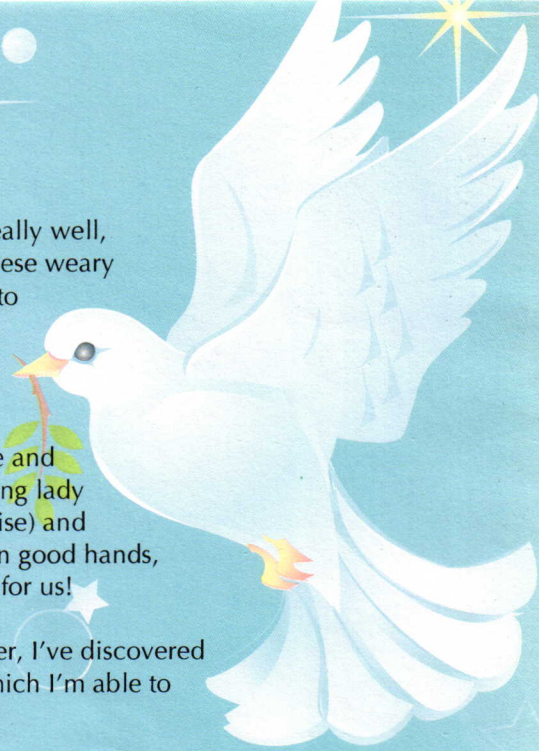
In spite of the terrible conditions that surround us in the world, if we can count on our faith, our families and our friendships we are blessed indeed. I'm hoping you will join me in trying to remember that, "I'm too blessed to be stressed."

May God bless you and touch your hearts with His peace, love and joy!

I love you, too!

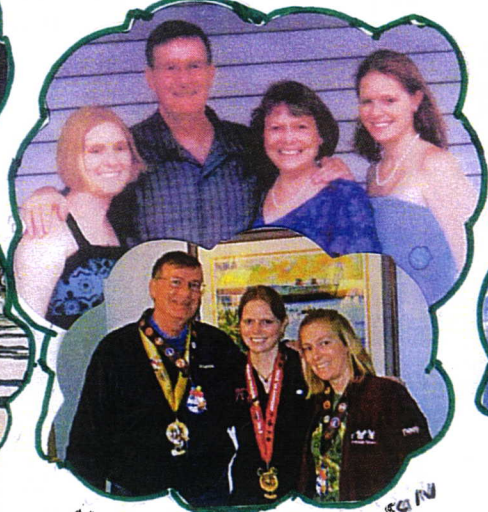
**Dottie**

P.S. I am now receiving email – *including photos* – at [grandmadottie@sunnygram.com](mailto:grandmadottie@sunnygram.com). Thanks, Ron!



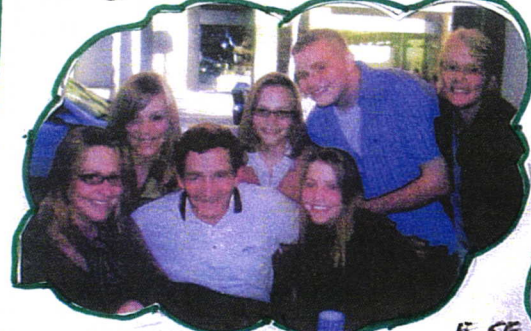
2009

MIKE AND LEIGH WALLS



MIKE BETHANY ALLISON  
OUR N.H. FAMILY

OUR CA. HOLTZ FAMILY



JIM AND KAREN  
"BOYONA" THE BONOBO

ADOPTED BY JIM

FROM THE CONGO

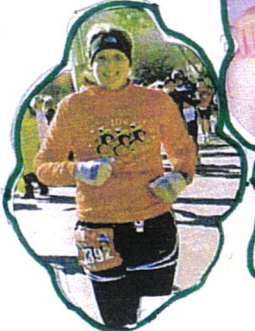


REBEKAH TUFTS U. OF PACIFIC  
PHYSICS / MATH COMPUTER MAN



ABBY CLOTHING

EVA  
SMALL BUSINESS OWNER



BETHANY  
SCIENTIST  
RUNNER

ALLISON  
DAYCARE TEACHER  
PHOTOGRAPHER



RON AND CINDY  
WHITNEY POINT, N.Y.



DOTTIE



AT WELLNESS

A NOAH  
AND DAD  
PROJECT

NOAH BAND - SPECIAL PROJECTS

GRANT



MATH  
ROBOTICS  
SPORTS

KESTAL, N.Y. DON AND SUSAN



EMMA



MUSIC

BOOKS

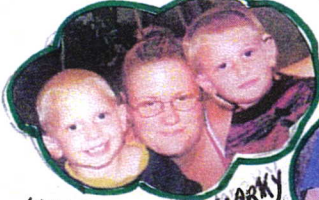


ART  
BOOKS  
MUSIC



MEGHAN

MARILYN - MOM



HUNTER AND MARKY

ROBBAN

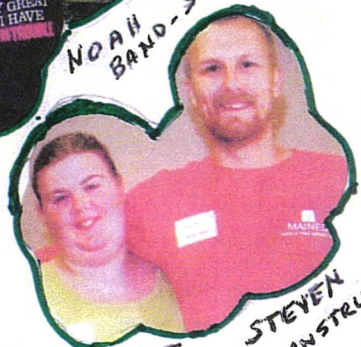


REMI



SARAH  
WAITRESS

REMI  
RESTAURANT  
COOK



LAURIE  
SITTER

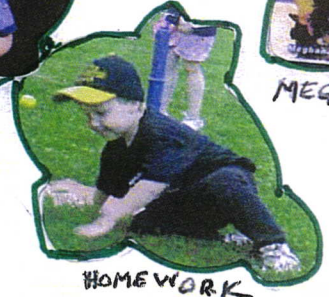
STEVEN  
CONSTRUCTION



SPORTS



EVAN  
NUMBERS



HOMEWORK