



Christmas and New Year's Greetings 2009

Our main blessing this Christmas is to have Elmeda home from the hospital. For those not in the loop, she found out just five weeks ago she had an ascending aortic aneurism that would require major surgery. She was operated Monday, Dec. 7th to replace a section of aorta and while that phase went smoothly, she had some negative reactions to the intubation, the anesthesia, and having her heart stopped for 16 minutes. She went into stroke symptoms Tuesday and Wednesday, fortunately temporary, and was discharged from the hospital Saturday. Sunday morning, her heart went into severe arrhythmia and she went back to the Emergency Room by ambulance. She was released again Wednesday, and has been home nearly 24 hours now without further incident. She is very weak and short of breath, and while they predict a full recovery, it could take months of therapy. Never the less, we're through the scariest part and counting our blessings.

Prior to her medical adventures, Elmeda had been busy creating a number of new quilts and had been volunteering at a local hospice. (The picture above was one of her recent small project quilts, a donation to the local quilt club's fund raiser.) My second career as a winemaker at Young Sommer Winery is going very well. I've also continued teaching computer graphics and wine making classes and doing literacy volunteer work. We've continued our Hammer Dulcimer lessons and while both are still musically challenged, we're having a lot of fun and building new neurons to ward off old age.

Our main trip this year was to Hawaii to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary. We took a seven-day four-island cruise plus spent several days in Honolulu. We also spent a week in Williamsburg in August with niece Natalie and her family.

Michael is at the Univ. of Colorado and has completed a second masters degree in Aerospace Engineering. He's just accepted a position with the University managing their high tech instruments and coordinating their rocket launches with NASA. Matthew is finishing up an MBA at the Simon School (Univ. of Rochester) in hospital administration paid for by Strong Hospital where he's worked in the Burn-Trauma unit for a number of years. Presumably he will gravitate more towards management in the future but has no definite assignment changes yet. His wife Wibke has completed a Masters in teaching English as a Second Language at the U of R Warner School which certifies her as a New York secondary education teacher. She is now teaching 7th and 8th grade German in the Webster school system. Mark is still in North Carolina but has moved from Mooresville to Statesville. Aaron is single again and is living in Rochester. The recession hit Mark and Aaron particularly hard and they are pretty much taking whatever comes along until the job market improves.

We'd like to wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. For more information, check out our web site at www.elmeda.com.

Elmeda and Jan