

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our friends and family.

2009 has been a year of blessings, some rocky roads and a broken heart for our family. February 7 Terry woke me up about 10:30 pm and said his lips were numb and wanted to go to the hospital. I drove him to the Sanford Hospital less than a mile from our house. This is a heart hospital. They got him right in to the emergency room and started testing him. They assured us he was not having a heart attack. The next day was Sunday and they couldn't do any tests so he had to stay in until Monday. Monday they gave him a stress test. Terry felt he passed with flying colors only to find he had failed it. Tuesday they did a heart Cath. and found his stents from 3 years prior were just fine as were his blood vessel and arteries. What they did find was his mytral valve was leaking badly and he needed open heart surgery to repair it. God blessed us with a wonderful Christian man as his heart surgeon. Wednesday morning Terry was scheduled for surgery. Just before surgery the surgeon discovered another test he had not seen and found Terry's aortic valve was also leaking. This was devastating to us but the surgeon assured us the risk was still very low. I was going to go through this alone in the waiting room but Terry wanted me to call Marie (our niece who was going to college in Lakeland). Marie left school immediately and came right to the hospital. She was such a comfort. The surgeon knew we wanted him to talk to Terry's cousin Chris Cove as he to is a heart surgeon but we just couldn't get the two together before the surgery. Terry's surgeon came in the waiting room before he started the surgery and asked me to write this down word for word as to what he was planning on doing in the surgery so when Chris called I could tell him. Dr. Thompson asked if we would pray for him also. Marie and I prayed continually for several hours. Shortly after the surgery started Chris called and I told him what Dr. Thompson said and he said I agree 100%. The Surgery took about 6 hours. Two men from our church came to offer support. Joel had been through this surgery 3 times and was able to fill us in on the recovery part. Terry came through the surgery great and now has a mechanical valve for his mitral valve and they were able to repair the aortic valve. He has to take coumadin the rest of his life and after a lengthy recovery he is almost back to himself. We are so thankful for all those prayers. We know they helped give us strength though this. Very few of our customers knew what was going on in our life those few weeks. We were with the help of my brother Duane, able to keep our business going. God is awesome! February was the biggest month in our business that we had ever had.

Our business continues to grow. We have 3 college girls doing 4 farmers markets for us on the weekends. Duane still helps out a day or two a week on deliveries. Terry gets tired easily so he has to have an afternoon nap (I think it's an Ames thing).

April 20 our beloved Cinnamon, our white Standard Poodle died suddenly. It just broke our hearts. He was such a blessing! He was the reason we got into the holistic dog food business. We miss him dearly and still get very emotional.

May 2, Marie graduated from college. Ann, her mom, Sarah her sister, Phil her fiancé, and Amy, Matthews wife all stayed at our house for the graduation. It was such a fun time but too short a visit. June 27, Marie and Phil got married. Terry had the honor of

giving her away and I had the pleasure of making the wedding cake. We had a wonderful time in Vermont. We stayed with Rod & Irene and cherish the time we spent with them.

Since we don't have a store front for our business we set up a booth at different events to advertise our pet food. About the middle of September all the out door events get started. We have done nearly 50 events in 60 days. We have the 4 farmers markets along with 2 other events every weekend. We are exhausted but have 2 more big events in December then have a 3 week period of rest. When April comes the events will stop because of the heat.

My dad celebrated his 90th birthday July 31. Duane took them to Vermont for about a month and had a surprise birthday celebration for him. A local magazine featured my dad on the cover and Duane wrote a fantastic article about my dads life. With the pictures and the article it took up about 4 pages in the magazine. My mom & dad also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary September 24.

We look forward to a healthy and prosperous 2010 and wish that for all our family and friends.

Love,
Terry, Patty, Toby, Paris and Shadow the cat