



Christmas and New Year's Greetings 2011

It's been an exciting year. The biggest news first. We're grandparents and more to come! Aaron and Elizabeth have a beautiful daughter, Aaleen, born in July. Elmeda's ecstatic and has been baby sitting at least every week. And Wibke and Matthew have twins on the way! The due date is late January, but they will probably arrive early.

It's been two years since Elmeda's aortic artery replacement. Earlier this year she decided in spite of what she'd been telling herself, she wasn't getting better, and asked her doctor for a physical therapist evaluation. The problem was obvious to the therapist – a 14% of normal chest muscle function. A few months hard work with a physical trainer and she's back to normal (well, maybe a couple years older). She's up to full speed on her quilting, creating some amazing pieces. We're starting to take longer trips and making plans for more in the future.

I'm still enjoying my winemaking career at Young Sommer Winery. I'm taking a commercial winemaking course at Finger Lakes Community College. There are 14 in the class and all actually work at wineries. They treat me like one of the gang, even though I'm literally three times the age of most of them. I know more than the teacher in some areas, but I'm clueless in this new micro-biology stuff. I'm still teaching computer graphics and wine making classes and doing literacy volunteer work. We've continued our Hammer Dulcimer lessons this fall and are going to play again in the Christmas recital at the Eastman Theater with our dulcimer class.

We took four trips this year. The first was a timeshare exchange to Florida in February, spending most of the time in St. Augustine. Matt and Wibke joined us for a few days. In March, we went to Nashville to attend Elmeda's cousin Jeanie Wamsley's wedding. There was additional time there for family visits and sightseeing. Scarcely a week after returning home from Tennessee, we took off for a week in California. We stayed north of Los Angeles, a new area for us, and did a lot of sightseeing. My best friend, John Bishop, passed away a couple years ago and we got to spend some quality time there with his daughter Dana and family who live there. In July, we again rented cabins right on the water in Alexandria Bay in the Thousand Islands. Natalie and family spent the week and other family members shorter times. We did Thanksgiving at Natalie's this year and we'll be having Christmas here for the family.

Mark is pretty well settled in Sodus Point. He hasn't been too successful finding employment so he's been stuck doing odd jobs when he can find them – electrical jobs preferred. Michael is still working for the Univ. of Colorado, shooting rockets at the sun. Matthew is still in his new position as a unit care-coordinator/trainer in a "step-down" unit at Strong which receives stabilized patients from Burn and Trauma. Wibke of course is getting the house ready for the arrival of the twins. Aaron and Elizabeth are now living at the house on Irvington near Strong. They're both working two jobs and taking care of Aaleen.

We'd like to wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Elmeda and Jan