

The Weber Family 2012 Christmas Newsletter

*"And on earth peace, good will toward men"
(Luke 2:14b).*

Dear Family and Friends,

Since Stephen and I write every weekday at our [Daily Encouragement](#) site I am racking my brain to come up with something that hasn't been shared over the past year regarding the lives of the Webers, day in and day out. So bear with me if you've already heard or read about it; just chalk it up to, "Brooksyne's getting old and forgetful."

In late March Stephen resigned his interim pastorate at Discover Joy Church in Mastersonville. What a pleasure it was to serve these dear folks in a country setting for three years. We've reconnected with the church we first attended when we moved here nearly twelve years ago and where we are once again in fellowship with our longtime friends.

We celebrated our 36th anniversary this past year as a married couple and enjoyed dinner at one of our favorite restaurants; Red Lobster. We also celebrated ten years of living in one house – quite an accomplishment, but we didn't celebrate with dinner out.

Instead we gifted ourselves with scraping tools and adhesive remover to pull down what was, at one time, lovely wall paper with complimentary borders. Then we put forth intensive labor in painting ceilings, hallways, the dining room, living room, Ester's bedroom and the office where we spend most of our time. Still have more to do but these rooms should hold for another ten years! By then we might be in our retirement home and someone else can do all the painting. (I can't believe I'm writing those words! Where have all the young years gone?)

Stephen keeps somewhat younger tossing Frisbee to Mollie, Ester's dog, who turns two on Jan. 3rd. She loves catching Frisbee, rarely missing a toss, even the bad ones. If only Mollie could toss the Frisbee and Stephen do the catching (in his hand not his teeth), we wouldn't be talking about the diet we will start in the new year. Roxie turned 8 in October and is my sidekick – loyal to the core. She's just my speed. We still have our cat Dottie who, at 11 years, is by far the longest living pet we ever had.

We traveled a lot as usual, but I'll highlight only two trips: our trip out to the Midwest to Lake Delavan, Wisconsin which included our annual family Steincross reunion. Always a good time with Stephen's mother's family!

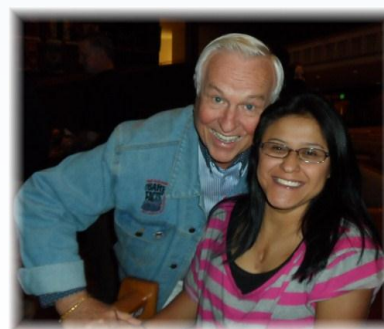
In October we traveled through New England and stayed mostly in the mountains of Vermont, such a special place in the fall; brilliant foliage everywhere we looked. New England will always have a special place in our hearts after living in Massachusetts for nearly 8 years.



Relaxing on the north side of our home.



Our home decorated for the Autumn season



Ester with Author and Speaker, Josh McDowell

In October Ester got a temporary job at Goodwill, only about 3 miles from our home. It was a good experience for her and she enjoyed it a lot. She cleaned and put out items to be sold. It ended in early December and she is now watching for a permanent opening. Her health has been stable over the past year and we are very thankful. Following her recent appointment where her heart is monitored with an echocardiogram, Dr. Cohen stated, "I couldn't hope for better results with her echo!" We couldn't have hoped for a better response from her doctors!

Stephen and I continue to write daily inspirational messages at dailyencouragement.net. We've met so many good folks through this medium over the past 17 years. Various churches invite us to share on a Sunday morning about our daily encouragement ministry, both our writing and our work chaplaincy. We presently serve ten businesses as their chaplains which includes weekly visits to the workplace where we seek to encourage and come alongside employees going through personal difficulty. It might be a major health issue, loss of a loved one, harmful addiction, spiritual needs or a host of other issues. And of course we develop friendships as well.

In light of the ongoing violence and bloodshed throughout our land, and even more agonizing during this holy season, I have been considering the words of a song often played at Christmas; "Let There Be Peace on Earth". This song was written in 1955 following the Korean War by songwriter, Jill Jackson, an actress who'd experienced one rejection after another from the age of 3 onward. As an adult she finally found genuine acceptance and love when she married and had a baby daughter. But then Jill's husband left her for other women which led her to attempt suicide. Her attempted suicide didn't result in death but left her with partial paralysis the rest of her life. Thankfully God rejected Jill in her suicide attempt which led her to search through differing practices of all the world's religious faiths. After her thorough search she finally found real lasting security through the words of Jesus. She escaped the dark times and declared that she had found "the life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love."

We live in troubled times which have existed in every generation since the fall of Adam and Eve. We don't expect world peace until Jesus returns.

But we can experience personal peace that comes when we invite Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to rule our hearts. No matter what rejections we face in this life; Jesus loves, accepts, and cares for us in this life and the one to come. That's a Christmas message good for everyday of the year!

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Mollie loves to jump and will eventually get the ring!



This year we painted our barn and barn roof.



Peace to you and yours from the Webers