



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*I will sing to the Lord all of my life;*

*I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

*May my meditation be pleasing to Him as I rejoice in the Lord.*

Once again I will try to arrange my thoughts and remembrances of the year.

I think I have struggled more this 2<sup>nd</sup> year after Burt's home going. The first year I was sort of in shock but this year has been pretty tough at times. My house has been lonely and empty and I think I have been rather down at times. Part of it is my fault for not getting out and seeing people even though I was helping in the ministry and involved in church and ministry events. Joy has kept a close eye on me to be sure I wasn't falling into depression.

Illness has invaded far too much...due to my chronic leukemia. I am now getting my immune therapy every 6 weeks in an effort to keep me well. To make life even more interesting I have a compression fracture in my spine. It took several weeks to figure out what was wrong. When I learned the results of a CT scan I called Joy. We were about to get hit by hurricane Irma and were to be evacuated the next day. In a few hours I was booked on one of the last seats out of Myrtle Beach and on my way to Mark and Anne's in MD where I became Queen with my own parlor...the rearranged dining room. 😊. Two weeks later I flew home with Mark and Anne who already had tickets to visit me. I was seen by the Spine Dr. here and given pain meds and a back brace. I am to the point now I don't need the brace. Hopefully when I see him next week my back will be healed. And the hurricane missed us!

Brian had just gone to the local pawn store and bought me a used Nextbook. Joy loaded Kindle on it and I now had a simple way to read and it took very little space in my laptop bag on the plane. Now I can read whenever I want!

There are fun things too...helping with Kid's club at Easter time, traffic control during hay rides and helping with logistics of beach parties and counseling those who have made decisions to follow Christ. Helping with our potlucks and being part of ladies Bible study and our fun monthly Ladies luncheons. Always things going on here and we are thrilled to see close to 800 souls added to God's family this year alone. I am now going to church here in the park as it is easier and it is where all my friends are. We have a wonderful full time Chaplain.

My family continues to expand with four little ones this year,



There are 4 more due

early next year...I have trouble getting all the quilts made.

I do have news...I have a new man in my life named Jake. So many people have said "you need a dog". I prayed about it because I have never owned a dog. God has provided me with this adorable 3 year old Shih Tzu mix. I got him from a local rescue shelter. Joy and I went there one day to just check out the little dogs they had. He was handed to me...a shaking pitiful little dog. We looked at each other and it was love at first sight. He is one of the hypo-allergenic breeds and doesn't shed. He isn't house broken but doing much better. He is so much fun and loves to play. I am walking now about a mile a day as we walk the circle three times a day. I feel better and am losing a bit of weight in the process which will make my Dr's happy.



Roz's "B n B" continues to see family and friends come and visit a while. Glen and Naomi and the 8 kids were here this summer for 2 fun filled weeks. Glen is no longer able to work due to his auto immune disease. My sister, Pug, and hubby, Clyde, came from FL for the Thanksgiving weekend. It has been two years or more since I have seen them. I really love it when family and friends come for a visit.

Ashley and kids are going to MO for Christmas this year. She just finished her 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of nursing school and has 2 more to go. Joy was feeling bad that there would be just the 3 of us for Christmas. But she will be surprised, when they return Sunday from visiting Brian's aunt, to learn that her daughter Robin and family are here for Shaun's six week semester break. Robin, Shaun and Alexander stay with me and Christopher and Briana and their dog Miss Delilah will be at Joy's. There will be lots of back and forth going on. I know the kids will help us "older" folks with some of the needed stuff we can't do.

So all in all it has been quite a year. I am so thankful for all of my huge family and my friends, thankful to still be able to help in the ministry here. And I have the ability to come and go and be independent for the most part.

Best of all I know I am loved by God and have a home in heaven waiting for me. I hope that is true for you.

Roz