

Merry Christmas 2009 to our family and friends

In January Dennis had open heart surgery. His mitral valve was repaired and a triple bypass performed. He came through the surgery so well and is looking and feeling so great that Stephany thinks she ought to order one as well!

In February we remodeled our kitchen island to make it larger and more functional. It turned out beautifully! It now includes a sitting area which granddaughters Ellery and Sydney love.



This year both daughter-in-law Kim and grandson Heath won iPods in different drawings. With that luck maybe the rest of us should start entering raffles as well!

We had a summer full of travel and camping in our RV this year.



Stephany decided to explore Washington with a trip to the North Cascades and Mount Baker in June and later a trip to Mount Rainer National Park in July.

In July and August we took our granddaughters Ellery and Sydney on four Oregon State Park camping adventures including Cape Lookout, South Beach, Fort Stevens and Silver Creek Falls.

In September Stephany and dog Bill took the long northern route to Omaha in order to visit Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and finally see the Great Lakes which she had never seen. Dennis joined us in Omaha for Brooks first birthday on September 23.



Sadly, while we were visiting in Omaha we had to have our much loved dog Bill euthanized. He had been getting sicker and sicker during our travels and in Omaha he was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. He was a faithful, loyal companion and we miss him very much.



In September granddaughter Ellery returned for another year of preschool at Village Montessori in Lake Oswego and a very happy and eager grandson Heath started preschool at Pipal Park Community Center in Omaha.

As well as for our family, we continue to be thankful for our health and each other. Dennis is still working as a chaplain for hospice although he has cut back to two days a week. In the meantime Stephany continues her hard work as a professional retiree.

Our best wishes to each of you for a happy and healthy 2010. Remember to check our web site www.heathsmith.com for all our latest family news throughout the year.

