

Merry Christmas!



*Sending best wishes for the 2009 holiday season
from the home of
Jan-Marie and Donnie!*

This year has had plenty of ups and downs, but we are ending on a high note, with much to celebrate! We hope this greeting finds you well and enjoying a season full of fun, family and festivity!

January started off a little "iffy", with my surprise diagnosis of uterine cancer, surgery and recovery last winter. My mom took off a couple of weeks to be with us and I am sure I recovered much more quickly with all of her TLC. Don equated her to the "energizer bunny" and had to literally pick her up and remove her from the kitchen occasionally! My Dad gave long distance support with at least one phone call per day, and he has continued this tradition by checking in with me daily. It really helps us feel connected. Easing back into full-time work took some time, but that all seems very far behind us now!

In case there is someone left on the planet who doesn't know, I celebrated my 60th Birthday at the end of August. I must admit, it wasn't too painful and we had a wonderful party, which included a visit from my sister Bobbi and her hubby Ed from Buffalo. I think my birthday was a pretty good excuse to visit Indiana and meet their grand-nephew and see new homes. Party also included visits from Wabash and Lakeside friends.

Don and I continue to enjoy Fort Wayne and having at least a few of our children close-by. Matt and Olga moved into their new Indianapolis house last May. It's a beautiful home with an open concept living area and outside pool. Jeremy, Sandy and little Alexander followed a few months later into their darling home—perfect floor plan for a young family with yard bordering on a nature preserve and convenient to jobs and daycare. And... in addition to Cleo and Ella, we can add Maggie to the list of "grand-puppies" - Matt and Olga adopted her last summer.



Alex celebrated his first birthday on October 7. Festivities included a party with his Grandma Jan, Grandpa Don AND a very special visit from his Great-grandma Marion and Great-Grandpa Don!!! Then up north to celebrate with all of Sandy's family and another smash cake—this "smash cake" for little ones is a new concept for me! Back to Indy for a visit with Great-Aunt Susan and Uncle Tucker (technically first cousin, once removed—but who can really keep track of that stuff) Sandy and Jeremy do an awesome job of keeping us all in the know via Alex's personal website! Read about all of his antics and see every adorable photo at <http://www.alex.zimmdesigns.com>. His pirate costume for Halloween is priceless!

More great family news includes the engagement of Don's daughter Jacque to Casey _____. Not sure when the wedding will be, but grandchild No. 3 is expected in mid-July! We are anxious to meet Casey. Sounds like Don's oldest Andy and grandson Jaden (almost 4) are doing fine. Middle son, Christopher is enrolled in ____ Community College and studying Music Sound Technology. As a music major, he has chosen voice as his instrument—we enjoy reading all about his projects on FaceBook and are expecting a visit from Chris after the first of the year. Youngest son David (now 21— OMG!) was out for Thanksgiving visit for a few days. As usual, he and I had a great time experimenting with food—and he baked up a storm. David is in his last year at George Washington University and doing very well (Why are we not surprised?).

