

Merry Christmas from the Finch Family, Darlene and our 5 pups

I hope you have all had a wonderful year. Seems like only yesterday I was working on the 2008 letter. It occurred to me that 3 of my dear friends have become grandmothers within the year and another a 2 time great grandmother. I hope this doesn't mean I am getting old. Now they all know the joys of being a grandparent. I went to visit Ben and Henry in February & May then took



Cousin Jeanette in August. I was able to be with both the boys and David for birthdays this year. Jeanette, my



Ben's First Birthday



Jeanette at Callaway

would say.

Our Chaz went over the rainbow bridge this year. He was such a love and constant companion to Fred. He is greatly missed. We know we gave him a good loving home and he gave back to us 200%.

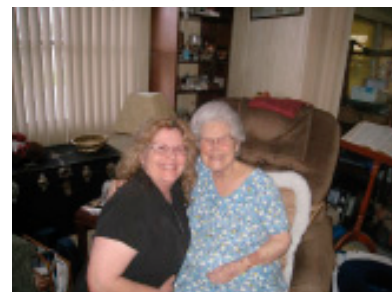
wonderful "found" cousin spent a week visiting Fred and I. We went to Callaway, ate out and Mellie took us on a tour of Atlanta where we ate at the Cheesecake Factory. She so enjoyed meeting David, Lynn, Henry and Ben and Lynn's mother Carla invited us to stay with her while in Charlotte. It was "swell" as Jeannie



We had a springtime hailstorm, which did damage our roof so we now have a new green metal roof. The floods this fall, 11.8 inches in 9 hours

did no damage to us. We are up on the hill as opposed to our neighbors below us. Unfortunately many people in our county and the next suffered lose of life and or their homes and businesses.

I went to FL in July for Mother's 86th birthday. We had a nice time together and I also got to visit with old friends. I stayed with my friend Donna who had recently run into a mutual friend we had not seen in 13yrs. So Donna had a wonderful breakfast for us to get reacquainted.

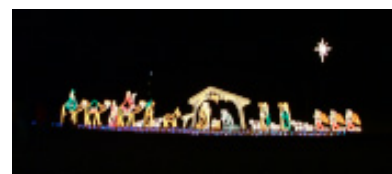


Darlene is doing well. She enjoys her magnifier and TV. We have found a Respite home



for her so that Fred and I can go places together. She really enjoys the other clients and staff there and it is very reasonable. Fred and I were able to take 2 days for our 30th anniversary in October and traveled to

Dahlonega to pan for gold and rest in a B & B. We also spent the night at Callaway Gardens in November, and took the trolley to see the Christmas lights. What a treat! We hope to take Henry with us next year.



I am still at the Carroll County Chamber. I am active in the Carroll Meth Awareness Coalition, DAR, and the Drugs Don't Work program. Fred is still creating websites and spending time with friends in his B2B networking group and we are attending the Villa Rica United Methodist Church.

Matt is still living in FL and is doing well. He has a new lady in his life and we can't wait to meet Sarah.

Thanksgiving was celebrated at our house with David, Lynn, Henry and Ben.

We had a wonderful 3 days together visiting, eating and playing with the boys. Henry has learned to use the telephone and calls me every few days. What a treat to hear what he has been doing at school or hear him count to 100. Tonight he called to tell me they had just come home with the tree. He was so excited.

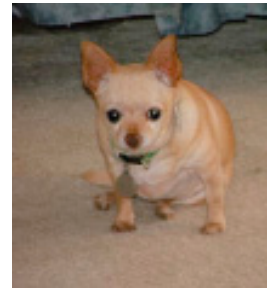
As I look back over the year the things that make us happy are those we love and those who love us, friends and family. Getting a new stove was nice, but spending time on a trolley with my husband, singing Christmas carols and seeing the wonders of Christmas was priceless. God has blessed us beyond measure.

Joan, Fred, Darlene, and the pups.

Our latest "visitor" - we are fostering him for the rescue club. King Rocco is a lover and wannabe lap dog. We hope he will find his "forever home" before you get this letter.



Our Dogs



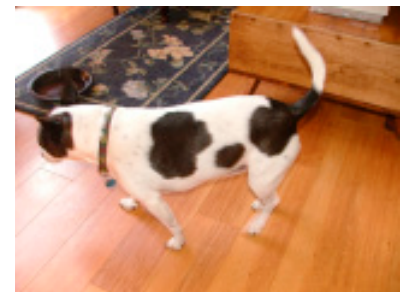
Tilly and Sadie in a rare moment... they are not usually friends...



Trish is a real lover, if you can get close enough. She wants to be loved... Getting better every day.



Cricket is getting more friendly



Ellie is my bud... she rides shotgun every chance she gets

