



Merry Christmas 2003

(Italics are PSW's comments)



Dear Family and Friends,

This Christmas finds us older, not much wiser, but quite contented to be the grandparents of 2-year-old Ginny, who keeps life interesting for all of us! *(We don't get to visit her often enough, of course, but she keeps us amused when we get the opportunity.)*

Keith and Vanya have made wonderful progress on rebuilding/restoring their 1890 Brooklyn brownstone. Vanya finished Columbia Law School, passed the New York bar exam, and is working for a New York law firm. Keith is programming financial management software. Both are doing well! *(How they have had enough time to do the house, the careers, and raise such a sweet little daughter is hard to fathom.)*

Chris and Patricia became the proud owners of a charming 1890s Victorian house in Troy, New York – not far from Albany. The house has 15 rooms, abundant porches, and amazing nooks and crannies. *(A finite but large number of opportunities for Chris to learn to be a handyman. Still, with the two dogs and two cats, it's not like the place seems too large.)* Patricia is a Chaplain at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, and Chris writes documentation for a small software company. We all look forward to spending Christmas with them this year.

Our one sad note this year was the loss of our faithful canine companion, Scratch. At 14, he was suffering from severe arthritis and other maladies. We will miss him.

A trip to London in September was delightful – and we certainly saw as many sights as we could squeeze into a 5-day trip. *(I became quite fond of pub food. But I wish someone would teach the Brits to make ice in quantity.)*

We are both busy with all kinds of community, church, and creative projects *(actually, I still spend much of my time arguing with computers. Amazing how they can refuse to cooperate at the least convenient times.)* – the sort of things that retired people finally have time to do. And we still wonder how to make enough time for our favorite occupation – grandparenting!

We hope you will pay us a visit in 2003! May you be richly blessed in the New Year!

Much love from us all,

MaryandSims

