

*Merry Christmas from
Owatonna, Minnesota*





For most of 2007 I have been in Minnesota caring for my mother, Blanche Morrell (center above). She has a recurrence of breast cancer after 10 years cancer free. She is at home with symptoms under control thanks to a morphine patch. So we are enjoying precious time together. My sister and brother have spelled me a bit so I was able to visit my home in Belize in time for the Belize Audubon AGM (center, below).



My sister Becky Schmitz was sworn in as Iowa State Senator in January (above, right). I am on the right with Becky's husband Ron and daughter Cassie with boyfriend Jonathan Koomjian. It has been interesting to hear about her work, especially all her successes in the legislature.



As always, my grandchildren are my greatest joy. Oliver had his first birthday in October (top, left). His parents are Jeff and Glee and they live in Portland, Oregon. Billy is three, Frankie is six, Dean is eight, and Ray is twelve. They all live in Atlanta with their parents, Tim and Cristi.

I continue to enjoy my desktop publishing work via email from my mother's living room. I just finished a paper on passenger railroads for the Quaker Eco-Bulletin and am working on Belize Audubon's Environmental Agenda for 2008 in preparation for Belizean elections in February. You can find links to most of my work on my website <judylumb.com>.

I hope this holiday greeting finds you well, happy and at peace, despite increasingly desperate conditions on the earth. I get discouraged with the enormity of the problems: the Iraq war, our over-consumption that is contributing so greatly to global climate change, increasing poverty currently represented by so many losing their homes, and on and on. All I can do is my small part, focusing on the task before me, and hope that I am following my leadings faithfully.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, let us pay attention to what Jesus said. In those words are the solutions we need today.

Judy

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