MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEARS- 2014
May your Christmas be joyful,
peaceful and bright
Filled with love of that very first Christmas"

Thinking of you as Advent has arrived and as we prepare for Christmas it is special time to be in touch with friends near and far away. Our home is decorated since we have several groups of friends and church groups that are here this month. We enjoy sharing this time of the year with everyone.

It has been a busy year and most thankful that the problem I had with my legs last Christmas has improved and healed well. I am diabetic with diet control and so have lost some weight and keep working at it. It is harder at this time of the year!

Our family was saddened by the sudden death of my sister in law Brenda on March 11th, 2013. John called 911 about 2 a.m. She had a hemorrhage in her brain, was unconscious and I went to be with them in Emergency She was moved to palliative care about 6 a.m. died at 8 a.m. Jonathan, their son was able to get here from Toronto before she died. Her funeral was a celebration of her life. We do miss her greatly especially when our family has been together for many occasions this year. All our family and friends have been very supportive during this
time.

The family had a special celebration for my 70th Birthday in June. Many friends came from far and near. There were also many Birthday greetings from others who were not able to attend

My brother Richard continues to be cancer free with follow up visits at Princess Margaret and with his cardiologist at Toronto Hospital. (still keeping an eye on his heart and considering a pacemaker). He keeps busy in the summer with gardening and helping many older friends. He is busy at his church both in choir, pastoral care and gardens. He sang in the Oriana Singers Christmas concert last week. He is involved with both the Lakeshore Genealogy and Cobourg Historical Societies. Our dog Mandy died this September. She was 14 and not well the last few months. Sam is also 14 and deaf and partially blind but seems to be some better this past month. Then there is Brutus- 13 and much the same. Sam and Brutus get along much better now that Mandy is not with us.

David and Marlene keep busy with his various responsibilities at church and community too. Marlene enjoys curling, golfing and being a grandmother. Her mother died in January.
They enjoy the grandchildren's visits and activities with them. Cole is 6 now and in Grade 1 French emersion. Jordan is 4 and in Jr. Kindergarten. Jason, Shandelle and family along with Andrew will be home for our family Christmas celebration on Dec. 21-22nd. So we enjoy those special times together.

I still keep busy in my retirement.. I am Clerk of Session at St. Andrew's, member of the choir, Women's Association, WMS, Pastoral Care, leading Bible Study and "Young at Heart" Coffee Time.

Our minister left the end of April and I have been even busier, working with our interim moderator and the minister who helps us with pulpit supply. I usually do one service a month and many other related things.

Our Search Committee has completed the Congregational Profile and the interim moderator is now receiving applications. The Committee meets again in mid January. I expect it will still take few more months before a call will be made and accepted.

I lead the service last Sunday which was the Christmas Pageant " The Bethlehem Children" with the Church School children and youth and their families participating. It was a snowy Sat night but everyone made it to

church! The members were mostly the families. We have many seniors so some of them did not make it out that morning. I lead the service this Sunday -22 and Christmas Eve. The Choir and members will be singing a few times at both services so we are in the final stages of preparing that now. Everyone is co-operating and participating with a real family Christmas spirit.
(We had a terrible ice storm on Dec 22 and church services were cancelled and even by Christmas Eve it was still difficult for many of our senior members to come to the service. The Winter even in Canada has been challenging for us this year thus making it more difficult to people to get out to special Christmas activities.) But we are thankful to God for his continuing mercies and keeping us safe as there have been so many disasters around the world related to weather recently.

I am Vice President of CNOB Synodical of Women's Missionary Society and become president on April 5th, 2014. Plans for the second National Women's Gathering in May of 2014 are going well. We will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Missionary Society in May. This is the group that sent me to Taiwan as a missionary in 1969.
I have always been part of this group since my early childhood when I was a member of Mission Band. I will also be on WMS National Council beginning this May which also meets in Toronto that same week. I will be busy!

May God continue to bring us all closer to Him at this Christmas time as we share His great gift of love with others. Christmas is a time to Rejoice!

Love Peace and Joy

Joy