

12 December 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

We started the year on a sad note with the loss of our Siamese cat, Sable. Just over two weeks into the New Year, she started breathing very rapidly. After a quick trip to a specialist in Birmingham, we discovered that she had cancer, and we had to have her euthanized. We miss her a lot.

Ron left ManTech International in September to become an entrepreneur. His first company, Hackett Science and Technology Applications Company (www.h-stac.com), pursues DOD work and Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grants from the Government. H-STAC has a contract with ManTech to continue supporting the Document Detective software he developed. Government accounting rules are very strict, so Ron created a second company, Independent Computer Solutions (www.ICS-TechSupport.com) for doing web development, custom programming, and local Information Technology (IT) support. ICS already has two web development customers. Ron continues to pursue his music interests (www.RonHackettMusic.com), and has landed several performance opportunities in the past year. There are a lot of start up expenses, but all three businesses are on track to make a profit within the next year. Ron still plays in the church band every Sunday.

After 7 years of higher education, Candace is finally finished with school. In May, she graduated with her Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Florida Atlantic University. At the same time, she was a starring sword-fighter in Florida Grand Opera's production of *Don Giovanni*. At the end of the summer, Candace moved to Orlando, FL to find more work in the entertainment industry. Since then, she has worked with the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre teaching stage combat to the resident interns. Candace was also hired by Odd-O-T's Entertainment to be a street performer for SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration. She spends her days doing improvisational theatre dressed as an elf. And yes, that is what she went to school for 7 years to do. She is excited for this new phase in her life and hopes the New Year brings many opportunities and tons of fun. See Candi's website at www.CMHackett.net.

Debi is keeping herself busy with the Red Hat Society, Bible studies, and the Yesterday's Youth (YY) group at church. We made two trips with the YYs this year. We went to see the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and a dinner show at the Smith Family Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. She also planned a very nice Florida vacation that took us to Boca Raton for Candi's graduation and then on to the Conch Republic in Key West. She's been busy the lately making lace bookmarks for her Bible study class and table decorations for the church's annual Dinner Theatre.

Our Grandson, Hunter, started Cub Scouts this year. His younger brother, Evan, is growing quickly and likes to follow his older brother around. Aaron is still working as a tool repair technician and has developed a reputation as the "go to" guy to get things fixed. Christina found a new job working for local power company. Our last visit was Christmas of last year. We had a great time at a cabin on a lake near San Antonio. Aaron and Hunter fished, Ron played guitar, and Debi, Candi, and Christina shopped. Everyone had a wonderful time.

We hope that this past year has been kind to you and your family, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ron & Debi Hackett

122 Ashton Circle
Fayetteville, TN 37334