

# Joy to the World!

From the Peppers  2024

We pray that your 2024 has been a blessed year for you and your family! After battling Bud's cancer last year (now cancer free, PRAISE THE LORD), and Debra's spine surgery last month, we are grateful for all the days we have to share and enjoy God's blessings! May 2025 be the year we all thrive! Merry Christmas and blessed year ahead to all our dear family and friends!



After spending last Christmas with Deb's family in St. Louis, we took a cruise to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and Bahamas with Deb's brother Duke and Mama Bootsie, who (at age 99) danced with a local villager! They stayed with us for about a month, fishing off our dock, sightseeing, Duke speaking around Florida, Bootsie helping make Bud's banana bread from 15 banana trees in our yard.

Shortly After Easter we were all shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of Deb's brother-in-law Maurice. We all flew to Washington state for his celebration of life "graduation" to Heaven. He had professed his faith in Christ to Deb's sister, Donna, as they spent their last Christmas together. They had been married 59 years. Their seven grandchildren were the honorary pall bearers and their two daughters both gave beautiful tributes to their father. Deb's brother Duke was the minister. Afterward, we had great quality family time at Donna's home in Colville, WA, on Morry's Mountain.



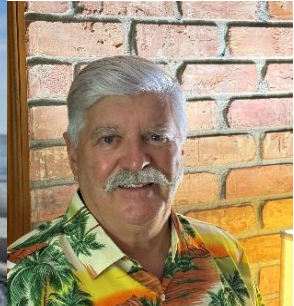
Donna returned with us to spend a couple of weeks with family in St. Louis, and ended up staying the rest of the year having both hip and knee replacements.



In May, we had several St. Louis celebrations for Mama Bootsie's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday! The Veterans of St. Louis had a church celebration, and for her actual birthday we all played miniature golf... and Bootsie came in second!

We now look forward to May when she will turn 100! Oh the stories and history she could tell! Deb is glad she doesn't tell all the stories of her teen years! She has loved having Donna there to "play" with her. She is still going strong, walking every day and on Zoom Bible Study (BSF) every week with Deb!





Since Bud's brother and family moved to Tampa, we get to see them more frequently! When Bud and Rick get together, everyone watch out! We also love spending more time in our own backyard on the lake. It goes to seven cities and even out to the Atlantic if you are brave enough to go through the dam and several passages. Picture 4 above: this is the epic year Bud decides to go gray!

For the third year, Bootsie was with Deb's Heart Sisters' annual event, Sparkle, where Deb was the speaker and MC. She was also speaker/ MC for several other events, including the educational Board she is on out of Leesburg, FL. Then, for a fundraiser for women coming out of addiction, she got to be a mermaid auctioneer of designer purses, raising over \$100,000!



Also, Bud volunteers at our church food pantry where he has his personal "fan club" of girls who come every week to assist him! (and hear his bad dad jokes!)

The rest of our life in Florida consists of taking side trips by auto, boat or train to explore the vast beauty of Florida, from beaches, to museums, to local events. We do radio to fill in occasionally and Deb still writes and records commercial spots as needed. She also does women's jail ministry here and is a member of DAR. She even got back to her home-town of Clarksville, MO for their annual Applefest and class reunions. This year she was asked to lead a flash mob of their school song. Bud fishes, cooks and gardens! Deb is also part of the Magnolia Circle Girls neighborhood who have carry-in dinners every month. Our whole neighborhood is the greatest with parties at different houses, going out to eat, street dances, and going out on the lake together (since we all live on the lake and have boats or pontoons.) Unfortunately the down side of Florida is hurricanes. This year it was Debby and Milton. We were blessed to have hardly any damage, just limbs down. But so many in other states were devastated; we had fundraisers and we continue to pray for them. Bud bought a generator and we needed it a few times!



The last major event of the year unfortunately, was Debra having spine surgery for dealing with major pain for 20 years. So far (6 weeks in) the pain is the same. The doctor said to give it 6 months. Please pray for her!

We pray that you and your family also know the peace of Christ – the Prince of Peace! If you don't, why not let Christmas of 2024 be the year that you have NEW LIFE ABUNDANTLY by inviting JESUS to be the Lord of your life!! We want you to know the same PEACE and JOY we have!!



**JESUS IS STILL THE REASON FOR THE SEASON! AND FOR EVERY DAY!**