

'Tis the Season

12/30/2007

There are fourteen stockings still hanging from the mantle. Next year we may need a bigger mantle. After serving all of the family plus a few more, I think we may need a



bigger house. It was a lot of work, but I can't imagine it any other way. If I could just convince certain family members that I really do love putting on those big dinners. They really don't have to contribute. But there will always be the five different green bean casseroles and so many cookies no one could possibly eat them all. Some of those were really good; others were not really identifiable.

Tomorrow is the last day of 2007. Hard to believe, isn't it? And oh, the changes just this past year! I can remember paying 24.9 cents for a gallon of gas. Ok, I know that really ages me, but I'm not embarrassed about it. I'm kind of proud of my 54 years. The only thing I don't like about this age is that so many of my loved ones are becoming elderly. It makes me appreciate them all the more and want to spend as much time as humanly possible with each of them. Life seems short, doesn't it?

My cousin in Texas wrote a note on a Christmas card to let me know how much they liked my book, *The Lady of the Haven*. Their family is very proud of me. His wife is battling cancer. Their faith is their strength and they take every opportunity to proclaim it. You're in my prayers, Jim and Connie. God bless you both.

One final thought--this new year that is now so close will hold challenges. It will also hold blessings that come like surprise packages for us to open with great expectations. May you meet the challenges with humor and patience. May you receive the blessings and be thankful. May you find your place and write your story.

Betty Thomason Owens

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