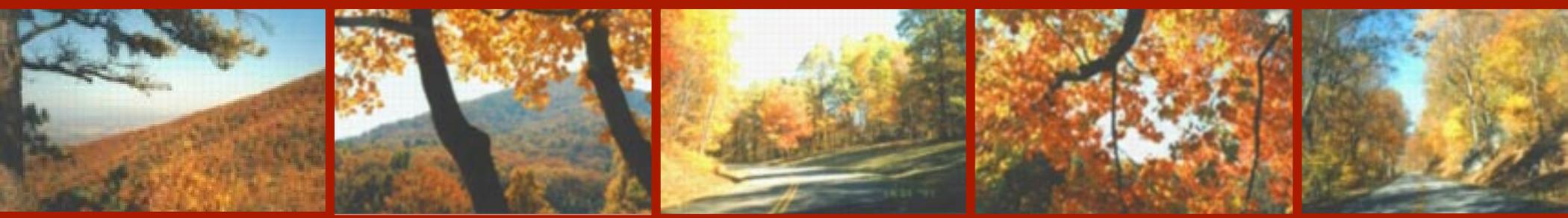


FRIDAY FOLLIES

November 5, 2004

MY NEW HOME SWEET HOME!



Hey!

November 5, 2004

Happy Friday!

Sorry it has been so long, but if I told you what all has been going on - you wouldn't believe me! So, I will simply say, "Hey!" Thank you all for the cards, calls, and emails since the summer. They were greatly appreciated. Even a couple from Michigan and Australia this week wondering if I had died! Ha! Nope! I'm still kickin'. Just been really, really busy.

I am all settled in my new home now and am enjoying being one block from the Atlantic Ocean! I cannot believe I lived here for twenty years and never thought about living this close to the ocean. I do not *ever* want to move from this area again! *I love it.* I try to take "Gandalf the White" to the beach at least three times a week, even now with the colder weather. I hate that it gets dark so early, now, though. Gandy loves the beach, but he hates the water! He just likes all of the people and dogs we run into along the way.

The area I live in is like a mini "Williamsburg on the water." There is a brick sidewalk right outside my front door that is about the width of a car. It runs straight to the side entrance to the Cavalier three blocks away. If you are standing at the Cavalier and look way down the sidewalk - - - you see my pumpkin on my front steps! I am literally at the end of the sidewalk! Also, all of the houses face the sidewalk instead of the street. I never knew that! I always thought it was because they were trying to pack more houses onto each street. Not so. These three streets (43rd, 44th, and 45th) all have alleys between them and then this incredible sidewalk running down the middle of the block! It is the coolest thing I have ever seen. I'll take photos to show you later.

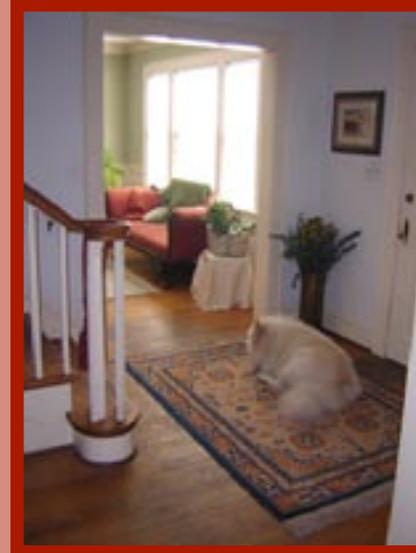


Anyway, I also have several friends that live right here next to me. We have had a blast. Plus, now that I am here, I am amazed at how many people live down here just within a few blocks in either direction . . . people I have known since the mid-80's. It is really like a small town. I truly wish I could buy the house, but the owner plans to move here from Boston in a year or so. It was his childhood home. I just thank the Good Lord I am here now and can enjoy it for a year. Truly. In the meantime, I will be looking for something obviously MUCH smaller that I can buy down the road. (Maybe a closet! Ha!)

This house is truly incredible. I really think she has a soul. She just needed some attention and to be appreciated. We have been very good to each other thus far. A little paint, a few plants, oil on the wooden floors, candles and wine on the tables, friends laughing and enjoying themselves, and . . . she is *sparkling* again. Just magnificent. I honestly have a hard time making myself go to work. I know my time here is limited, and I just want to stay home and "play house" all day!

I laugh and say that I ought to be wearing pearls and an apron and calling "The Beaver" in for dinner. I feel like I have stepped into some kind of time warp. The owner's grandfather designed and built her, and I am not kidding you, every conceivable space is utilized with a walk-in closet or built-in drawers or book shelves and closets, closets, and more closets! (Plus a HUGE attic.) They just do not make them like this anymore! She has a huge overhang in the backyard and a hill covered in trees that will never be built on, so the lot is extremely private to be this close to the beach and town. AND - you know I am from Mississippi - there is a gigantic MAGNOLIA tree in the back yard!

Anyway - it has been very hectic moving and getting settled and continuing to work full-time. It would have been nice to have a few days off, but there really has not been a break since Labor Day. I am looking forward to Thanksgiving when I can spend more than a weekend at home. I have friends who offered me their home in Willmington, friends who offered me their home in Santa Fe, a friend who invited me to go to Hawaii . . . but there is nowhere on Earth I would rather be this Thanksgiving than right here!





In addition to missing my mom terribly, and moving, getting settled, and working, I got a call last Wednesday morning at 9:00 stating that Jessica had been rushed to the Virginia Beach General Hospital's emergency room. She had been sick with a terrible headache for two days, but was much, much worse Wednesday morning. They were ordering tests and her dad was already there and said I needed to get there right away.

Once I arrived, they made me put on a mask and within minutes we were off for her cat scan. Next was the spinal tap. Long story short - she does have meningitis - but viral - not the bacterial, life-threatening kind. Thank the good Lord!

Now I am telling you - I was so impressed and so scared. I have had both of my kids in the emergency room so many times for various things over the years, and so often they have to sit there for hours before they are seen. Not this time. Everything was STAT, and they were rushing around with all of us in masks. It scared me speechless. It definitely put everything into perspective - that's for sure.

You know, I have been through a great deal this past year, and at times, I feel like I need to be careful because I have not "let down" or grieved properly. I know it is going to come, but there has literally been no time. I have just had to keep putting one foot in front of the other and have *tried* not to let emotions play a factor in anything. I really was doing OK. But when that call came in about Jessica - I almost had a break down. I honestly had trouble walking to my car and then driving to the hospital (which is just less than a mile away). That is when I realized that I was going to collapse if I didn't let down and deal with some of the stuff that has gone on. None of it compared to getting that phone call, though.



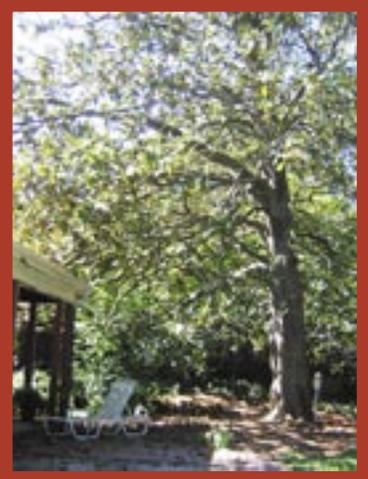
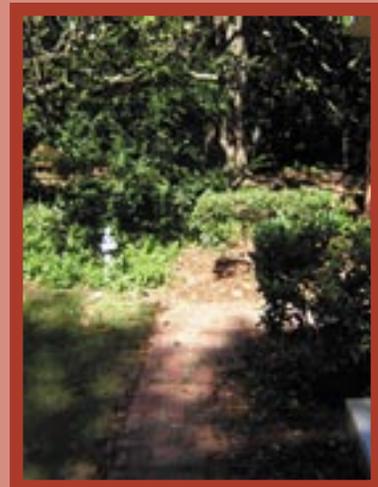
Bottom line - all is fine, now. They pumped her full of morphine and fluids and sent her home to rest for a week. She is much better. Her headache has returned, and we are watching that. If any of the symptoms worsen, we are to take her to a neurologist, but I am sure she will slowly ease off of the pain medicine and return to normal. At this point, we are not even having to tell her to take it easy. She doesn't want to do anything. That is good. She slept for almost five straight days. The doctor says she will be almost 100% in a week to ten days if no other complications arise. She feels fine now and is back in school and at work.

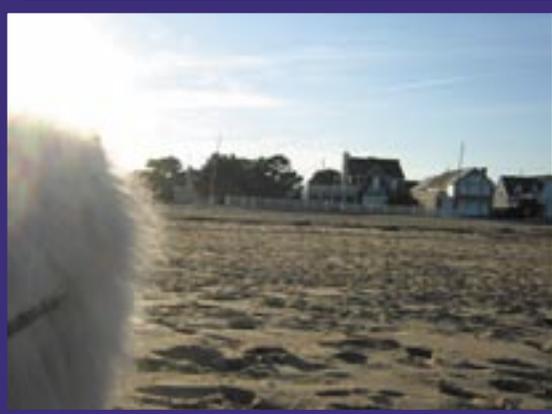
I had planned a small "Open House" for the week Jess got sick, so, of course, that came to a screeching halt, but I had it this past Friday night. It was just a small get-together for some of the people in my office and some of the neighbors. That is absolutely one way to make sure you get your house organized in a hurry... have a party, right? For once I did not kill myself getting ready for it and it was fine. I was very pleased. As I said, the house was filled with love...she was just glowing...and my Jessica was well!

OK. I had better stop typing and start downsizing some of these photos or you will never get this issue open! Enjoy! Now, remember, I have only been in the house for three weeks. I will take better photos as I get more settled. Several rooms, I will not even show you yet.



Three of the bedrooms and
the backyard . . .





I will leave you
with these
incredible shots
of my
“front yard.”
(Smile. . .)
God is good.



To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Chattanooga, New York, Oregon, Maine, Australia, Europe, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week.

God bless. Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these “Follies” place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. P.S.S. If you send a joke and I don’t use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, “No!” I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don’t have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!