

# THE YEARLY PRESS

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## Another One Gone!!!

I know I say this every year, but they just go faster and faster! Every time I look at a picture of us we look older and older. I suppose it beats the alternative.

It has been a busy year, though there isn't too much to show for it. Jim keeps on doing that work thing and I free lance in order to remain sane (a tall order). I must say, however, that retirement suits me and I have yet to regret that decision.

In personal terms, our families are doing well. Jim's mother turned 92 in November and is holding her own, though not as physically well as we would like. She has a really good outlook on life and is a blessing to us in lots of ways.

My mother is well and happy and remains the indomitable person that she has always been. We are happy to have her in our lives, also.

Jon and Patti have blessed us with another granddaughter this year. Lauren Elizabeth was born May 1 and is just as cute and sweet as big sister Katie. Being a grandparent is such a hard job!!! :):)

Jim and I are renovating our cabin in the mountains with the idea of moving there permanently within



### The Riggsbees 2003

Rear: Adam and Shanna, Lou, Fran, Lessie, and Jim  
Front: Jon, Katie, Patti,, Tula, and Lynn

the next few years. Currently, we have had to drill into bedrock and anchor the foundation to the mountain and have found underground water. The walls are poured, the slab is poured, and the framing has started, so we're on a roll!. The architect is almost through with the plans, the decks are down, and the place is a real mess. A lot of our time has been used to burn copious amounts of construction detritus! Also, the roof burned! :( However, all's well that ends well, so we are happy that we still have a place to live.

We missed the college buddies who

weren't able to come to the "Big Chill" II. Next year, without fail, (if we can get around the house)! You'll get an invite for mid-October...a perfect time in the mountains.

We hope all of you will have a happy and prosperous 2004.

# Jon and Patti

Jon and Patti welcomed Lauren Elizabeth on May 1 and we have been the very happy grandparents of the two Riggsbee girls ever since. Katie named the baby Tallulah (Masie's chicken) before she was born and, though we have variously corrupted that name to "Tula", "Toolyah", "Tools" and "Tooley", the nickname seems to have stuck and when one calls "Lauren" there is no response from the little thing. She is just as cute as Katie and has easily wormed her way into our hearts! She is standing quite well and walking some now, and making funny little noises. She doesn't sleep much, but she is rarely in bad form as a result. On Christmas Day when the whole family was at our house, she charmed everybody with her quick smile and winsome ways!

Katie is three and is doing all those grown up things. She has ceased to be a baby now and is into the princess thing (along with every other young girl

in the nation). She is a good big sister to Toolyah and I laugh when I watch them together. One day she and I were playing pretend and she "took" me to Appleby's about a hundred times. We waited on line and ordered chicken sandwiches, Coke, and ice cream every time! I am constantly amazed how she has learned her way around this big old world at such a young age! I told her that I was the luckiest MiMi in the world and she said, "I know. Me, too." Oh, be still, my heart!!!

Jon continues to work for Citifinancial and is a respected and successful member of their sales team. Patti continues to exhibit the patience of Job as she mothers the two girls. She is a focused and attentive mother and we are proud that she is part of our family.

# Adam and Shanna

Adam and Shanna are still in Chapel Hill, living in Jim's home place. Shanna does so many cute things with its decoration and it is a warm and homey place to visit.

Adam is right in the middle of the work on his doctorate and he is extremely busy. He is constantly amazed at his 75 year old professor who keeps telling him that there are 172 hours in every week. I laughed at him and Jon one day. Jon asked Adam if he was making any beer now and Adam allowed as to how he wasn't doing much since he was in college. Jon said "Well, I thought that's what you did when you were in college." Adam responded "I

used to think that too, but there's a great big difference in undergrad and PhD work." It seems that the boy has finally learned that not everything comes easily! :):)

Shanna is completing the final year of her Teaching Fellows obligation. She is at a charter school in Chatham County and teaches English to students in fifth to eighth grades. She has been accepted into the counseling program at UNC and is excited about the new direction in her life. Her mother is a counselor and I can see Shanna following in her footsteps. We love her (and her mother) a lot!