

finding Home

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2009 was a year of finding home for Tim and Barb

This year we moved 3 times and lived in 4 different zip codes. (Current address is above)

"The whole globe is shook up, so what are you going to do when things are falling apart? You're either going to try and become more fundamentalist and try to hold things together, or you're going to forsake the old ambitions and goals and live life as an experiment, making it up as you go along." - Pema Chodron

Knowing that we moved a lot over the last 9 months,



you might think we were nuts. Rather, we are in such a good place being back in St. Louis that it has been pretty easy for us to handle. Clearly, home is where you

are surrounded by the warmth of family and friends. Without our time in Florida, we wouldn't have met our lifelong dear friends from our time there, but here we have re-found home.

The last day of March, Tim was told that his job at Silversea Cruises had ended. They downsized the Florida office and moved his role to Europe. The timing coincided well with the end of our lease and we quickly returned to St. Louis.

What we find here is a sense of community. Barb is back with her Friday AM group of church friends and Tim is part of a strong group of Habitat volunteers while he searches for a new job. We have been able to pick back up with our friends here and (as you might guess) Tim's mom and dad are thrilled to have us back in town.

Staged Right

When we moved back to St. Louis, Barb began a new business. Having observed that homes sell better when they are furnished and decorated, Barb put her passion to work helping people through the transition of selling their home. Her company is



called Staged Right and so far she's gotten several gigs. The biggest successes have come when we have staged vacant properties and live in them keeping them in

ready to show condition. So far, two of the homes we lived in have sold within a few weeks of our moving in. Given the current state of the real estate market, this is a phenomenal track record. She has worked hard to help replace some of our lost income.

Tim's Job Search

Tim continues to seek employment. Like over 10% of the US suffering through this economic downturn, we work hard to make sense of how to get back into the ranks of the employed. He is continuing to network with hundreds of people in search of an information technology leadership position.



Matt and Penny, Harper and Ryleigh

Our Dallas clan is doing well. Matt is working on a great new promotion for Bud Light (watch for it in January). Penny is adroitly juggling work and taking care of two high-activity girls. Ryleigh is a cool first-grader (ask about her lifesaving incident). Harper is a verbal 3 year-old who keeps mom and dad hopping.

David and Sarah

What an exciting time. David proposed to Sarah Varick just before they left the Methow Valley at the beginning of the summer. They have been dating for over 8 years and we couldn't be more pleased. Sarah, Dave, Steve and Susan Varick and we are planning a wedding for the Labor Day weekend 2010. A second daughter-in-law!

Meanwhile, David is currently working in Chicago for the Mayor's Office of Special Events as a Farm Forager. Not a job title shared by anyone else we know. His job involves connecting farmers and chefs to the 28 farmer's markets in Chicago.

Sarah has started a Masters program at Northwestern. For now they plan to live and work in Chicago.



Habitat for Humanity

Tim began the summer working on a Habitat house. Over the summer he spent 15 days building 2 homes. The St. Louis chapter built 24 houses this year, each about 1200 sq ft, which the homebuyers purchase for a little over \$100,000. It is unbelievably rewarding to work with the new homeowners over the course of the construction. Working side-by-side with them, you have the privilege to learn more about their families and understand what a positive change this will make in their lives.

Wishes for this holiday season.

Over the last years, you have been an important part of our lives and more than ever we treasure each and every one of you. Our prayers and wishes are with you this holiday season and throughout the new year. Come visit us. Stay connected. Hug your sister. Give back to your community.

Peace, Tim and Barb

