



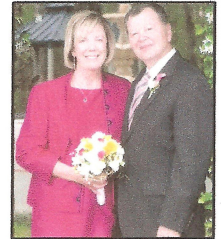
Christmas 2018



Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas 2018

For some of you may be learning of this good news for the first time: The Braden Family now includes, as of last April 7, my new wife Joyce. I introduced you to Joyce in my 2017 Christmas letter. We were married in a small church ceremony with mainly family in attendance, and had a nice reception at a local restaurant.



Both of us had lost our dear spouses to cancer years ago, but we actually knew each other well before those hard times. I had coached one of my grandchildren and one of Joyce's grandchildren in soccer, and Joyce's daughter Michelle had sung at my daughter Sandra's wedding back in 1996. We had also met at the Moffitt Cancer Center when Bonnie and Fred were each being treated there.

Though we each own a home in the area, we decided to find a new home that could be "ours" so we are currently in a rental that is about 10 minutes from my old house (but two minutes closer to my Super Walmart!!!). Each of our "old" houses is up for sale and we will be very, very pleased when they are sold.

We are happy, spending our days out shopping for matching walkers, watching reruns of *The Andy Griffith Show*, sipping on our *Ensures*, and debating the merits of various denture adhesives.

Well, actually not yet. We have been out having some fun while we can with trips to Cancun, South Carolina, Club Med USA, Orlando area theme parks, Gatlinburg, and Jamaica; with a Caribbean cruise slipped in for fun.



Things are working out well, with only a few exceptions.

One of these is that I am the director of my Sunday school class in Brandon and Joyce is in the choir in her church in Thonotosassa (north of Brandon) so Sundays we get to travel from one church to another.

Yes, I still play golf and racquetball, and Joyce is an expert gardener and also serves at what everyone says is expert medical advocate advice for numerous friends and relatives, so we stay busy in those endeavors.

Both of our families are doing fine. I started out to give some updates but now with six children and 18 grandchildren between us, this letter would turn into an epistle, and who would want that? (Actually all my kids would and I'm probably in *big* trouble, but let me just say from my side that major events this year include the birth of grandchild #13 and watching my eldest grandchild go off to college.) For lots of family information please visit the BradenClan website.

Now wishing you the best for this Christmas and the coming years. May you continue to grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

Jay and Joyce
The Braden Family:
BradenClan@gmail.com

Jay, Joyce, kids, grandkids, and (spoiled) kat
www.BradenClan.com



Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV):

"For I know the plans I have for you..." declares the Lord

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV):

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ...," declares the Lord

Our address: 3035 Colonial Ridge Drive, Brandon, FL 33511