

**Birthday Wish**

Close your eyes  
And make a wish.  
Think real hard.  
Make it count.  
Wishes are gifts, too.  
Now, open your eyes.

I know what I wish  
For you -  
A smile on your lips,  
Laughter  
To tickle your tummy,  
And fun to go around!

Happy Birthday!

*~ 04-2007*

**Tiny Miracle**

On a cold, winter night,  
In a manger  
Snug and warm,  
A tiny Miracle  
Entered our troubled world.  
The heavens  
Announced His arrival  
With a brilliant star  
Above.  
Angels sang unto  
The shepherds,  
And the Magi  
Brought Him gifts.  
God, indeed,  
Did bless us  
With His Holy Son.

*~ 11-2007*

## Kittens

Summer sun has set behind our mountain.  
All becomes shadows.  
Wind softly tickles the grass among the trees.  
Turquoise skies appear.

Three kittens emerge from the barn  
Stretching out the kinks from their day of sleep.  
Mama mews and they follow her  
To the meadow up the road for stalking practice.

Mama finds a high spot to observe.  
Kittens bounce and pounce on the grass they see.  
A grasshopper springs away from the commotion  
Only to find three curious sets of paws after him.

Soon, kittens start playing tag with one another  
Trying to sneak up to pounce. As the sky turns  
Royal blue, they flip and jump and turn.  
Hissing signifies when the pounce is a success.

Energy unwinds. Preening begins.  
Mama trills. They mosey to her.  
She inspects them. Then, they nurse.  
Peace and contentment reign.

~ 11-2007

**Christmas Morn**

The night of suspense  
Draws to an end.  
Gentle morning arrives  
With awe and understanding  
Of the moment at hand.  
Pale pinks and golds  
Herald in  
The birth of our Lord.

Tree lights twinkle over  
The gifts of love.  
Joy caresses each face  
With a smile from above.  
Presents are revealed one by one.  
Gratitude abounds.  
The love of God has  
Gone full circle again.

*~ 12-2007*

**Christmas Snow**

Miraculous day  
Dawns  
Bright and clear.

Sun arrives  
To bath the treetops  
In golden brilliance.

On high,  
Sun climbs  
To its celestial home.

A hush of excitement arises  
When clouds suddenly scurry  
Across the sky.

More and more  
Gather darkly on the mountains.  
The sun soon takes a nap.

Sheets of snow crawl down to the earth –  
A gift to the newborn Child  
From his Father above.

~ 01-2008

**Moonlit Silver**

Moonlit silver kisses the earth gently tonight.  
Soft breezes caress the napping trees.  
A hush surrounds the scene  
Like a raindrop from the sky.

Lovers these celestial partners have been  
For millions of years.  
Dancing the tango's pattern,  
They spin and twist and turn in each other's arms.

Each moment is precious,  
Loving, and sweet.  
Nothing interrupts the understanding  
In their eyes.

Lovers wise and true.  
Lovers caring and kind.  
Lovers sharing and smiling.  
Lovers blessed and always.

*~ 01-2008*

**11:59pm**

The dreams of this year  
Are reflecting on their progress.  
Some are merely teenagers  
Waiting for their chance to try.  
Others are middle-aged  
With frustration on their brow.  
A few are wrinkled and gray  
Basking in their success.

The year is soon ticking down.  
Baby New Year joins the party.  
At 11:59pm, he opens the door  
And invites in the young dreams.  
They are fresh-faced  
With hope and resolve.

Midnight arrives. The previous dreams cheer.  
Fireworks announce the new dreams to the world.

*~ 01-2008*

**Music of the Soul**

Angry thoughts,  
Hurt feelings,  
Unfulfilled dreams  
Clutter my mind.  
Round and round  
They chase each other.  
I sigh and breathe deep.  
Frustration eases a little.  
Another breath  
And my thoughts go still.  
A song of such beauty  
Floats to the forefront  
Of my mind.  
Its melody frees me  
From my problems,  
And gives me hope.  
I could listen forever.  
The music of the soul  
Is the proof  
We are not alone  
In this great big universe.

*~ 01-2008*

## Happiness

Happiness  
Is not  
Just an emotion.  
It is  
A state of mind  
From which  
To live life.  
It is  
The centering  
Of the soul  
On what is important.  
This focus  
Allows  
The beauty  
Of a sunrise  
To be remembered,  
Or  
The, "I'm sorry,"  
To be cherished  
After a fight.  
It must be  
Nurtured  
Like a flower,  
And  
Practiced  
Like a prayer.  
Happiness  
Is  
God's gift  
To us.

~ 01-2008

### Morning After

Snow clouds poured in last night.  
They laid their load quickly and left.  
Wind whirled and whipped for hours after.

Morning sun peeks above the horizon.  
Rays gently rest on jumbled white.  
Icy crystals reflect rainbows to the eye.

World is so silent and still.  
Nothing moves unless out of necessity.  
Freshly-washed sky beams brightly down.

Climbing sun ends the magic.  
Rising temperature takes its toll.  
Snow soon sighs; all is now a memory.

~ 02-2008

## Washing Feet

Our Lord  
Jesus Christ  
Walked this earth  
Some two thousand  
Years ago.  
He reached out  
To those in need –  
Both the sinner  
And the saint.

Love  
Was His  
Message.  
Caring  
Was His  
Occupation.  
Unity  
Was His  
Cause.

Jesus showed honor  
To Our Father  
With His every action.  
His humble service  
Knocked down barriers.  
Washing the Disciples' feet  
Freed them from pride  
And passed on  
His mission to them.

~ 02-2008

**Forever**

When you came into my life  
That fateful, summer night,  
My world blossomed with  
Beauty, color and spice.

I saw my soul mate  
In your eyes.  
I saw my strength  
In your spirit.

We courted for  
Nigh on two years.  
Your mother said that I had  
Made her son complete.

The wedding told the world  
Of our love so deep,  
And of our plans  
For the future ahead.

Tonight, I see you  
Holding our new son,  
And I see through his eyes  
The you-and-me we've become.

We are his family now  
And he is our future.  
What a privilege it is  
To be here for one another!

The tree of Life grows  
With each new addition,  
And moves ever onward  
Towards eternity.

Forever began  
When we first met.  
Now, it carries on  
Through our tiny son.

~ 04-2008

### Through Your Eyes

I see your eyes  
Peeking puzzled at me  
Over the evening paper.  
The wrinkles around them  
Tell the story of our life  
As husband and wife.  
I can tell  
That you haven't heard  
A word that I said.  
"Turn up your hearing aide,"  
I reminded him.  
He smiled and did, then  
He gazed expectantly  
Over the paper again.  
"I love you!" I told him  
With a smile on my lips.  
His eyes crinkled with joy  
And he blew me a kiss.  
I saw the love  
He still had for me  
Shining from his eyes.  
It was like a hug  
From his spirit.  
"Wow!" I thought,  
"After all these years,  
You still pull my  
Heart strings." Sigh!

~ 04-2008

### Eight Belles

The day broke warm and clear,  
After days of bad spring storms.  
Twenty horses' futures  
Would be decided this day.

Festive moods and nervous butterflies  
Charged the scene.  
Soon, it was riders up  
With *My Old Kentucky Home*  
Calling them to post.

One of the twenty  
Was a filly.  
She was drawn to the challenge  
Of racing the boys.

Twenty gates opened  
And the hooves flew.  
Jockeys jostled for position  
Keeping an eye on the others.

Eight Belles, dark and sleek,  
Found her spot  
Edging gracefully towards  
The front.

As she turned the last corner,  
Big Brown took the lead.  
She chased him  
With all that she had.

Three lengths behind  
And he crossed the Finish Line.  
Second Place  
Looked mighty good.

When she slowed to cool down,  
Eight Belles stumbled head first  
To the ground.  
Her rider jumped free.

Veterinarians said that  
Her front ankles were shattered.  
They put her down,  
Where she lay on the track.

Twenty horses' futures  
Were decided this day.  
Nineteen went home  
And one stayed.

~ 05-2008

## Nature Is Talking

Hush, little one!  
Be still.  
Nature is talking.  
Can you hear?

On the wind,  
Rustling tree leaves are saying,  
“Good morning! How are you?  
Did you sleep well, last night?”

Birds take flight  
To shake off the night –  
Chirping back and forth,  
Looking for breakfast below.

Crickets finish their concert,  
Yawn and stretch,  
Then head off to bed –  
For the day is not their realm.

Flowers face the rising sun.  
They giggle softly  
When the breeze comes –  
It tickles when it bobs their heads.

Hush, little one!  
Be still.  
Nature is talking.  
Can you hear?

~ 05-2008

**Summer's Stride**

The day arrives  
With such promise.  
Sun beams bronze  
The early summer earth,  
Like a girl who's sunbathed  
On the beach.  
Tree leaves shimmer  
As diamonds in the sky.  
Mama birds nestle  
High above in branches  
Waving in the breeze.  
Butterflies seek  
Refreshing nectar  
From Honeysuckle vines  
Entwined.  
Bees whisk  
From flower to flower  
Gathering pollen as they float,  
For the honey soon to come.  
Summer hits its stride  
When the temperature climbs.

~ 06-2008

**A Wonder**

Take a walk with me, my friend,  
And I'll show you a wonder to behold.  
The shade is cool.  
The breeze is soft.  
Grass tickles your toes  
As we walk.  
Leaves wink as you pass under the branches  
Of the gentle trees.  
They whisper of your presence, and smile.  
Birds chirp, and move above.  
Ants climb up the bark to find food.  
Beetles click, and search for homes in the wood.  
Trees share their bounty with all who are in need –  
Even you.  
Can you feel their love and wisdom?  
Share this with all that have forgotten.

~ 06-2008

### My Pal Oreo

I have a little poodle  
Who's named Oreo.  
As you can guess,  
He's black –  
Like dark chocolate,  
With white –  
Vanilla frosting,  
On his chest and chin.

Ball is the game  
Of his heart.  
He'll play  
For hours on end.  
Then, when tired,  
Oreo will cuddle up  
With Mom or I  
Like a child  
Who's fast asleep.

Oreo rides often  
In my electric wheelchair.  
He'll beg at my knee  
For Mom to set him  
Behind me.  
I'll drive him around  
While I'm doing things.  
Oreo rests his chin  
On my left shoulder  
To see where we are going.

Poodles are loyal  
And smart.  
Oreo barks when  
Something's amiss.  
If I need help  
And I holler,  
He'll bark to make sure  
My mom's heard.

My pal Oreo  
Brings such love and joy  
To our house  
Each and every day!

~ 06-2008

### Jesus Sees Our Worth

Brother Jesus, oh so wise,  
Looks beyond the walls  
Of anger, hurt and sorrow  
To the person hiding  
On the other side.

Jesus smiles and  
Reaches out in love  
To gently waken  
The one dreaming  
A nightmare so real.

Wiping tears  
And sharing  
Encouraging words,  
The nightmare fades  
And life springs anew.

Joy erases pain.  
Love looks for good.  
Hope brings change.  
Walls crumble unused.  
Jesus rejoices in our progress.

Our worth is not about things,  
But about the spirit within.  
We extend God's Love  
When we remember the Christ.  
Jesus sees our worth.

~ 06-2008

### **Rain Scents**

Lightning zags.  
Thunder claps.  
Clouds are dark  
With promise.

Rain splashes dimples –  
Tickling the earth.  
Rain caresses trees –  
With an old friend's touch.  
Rain cleans flower faces –  
Like Mom did  
After a day of play.

Wind stirs the fresh air  
Mixing these scents  
In to a unique perfume  
So rare and prized.

Desert, mountain,  
Coastal or plain,  
Each rain scent  
Brings a memory  
Of summer to life,  
And carries one  
Home again.

~ 07-2008

**Walk in Faith**

Life is a journey,  
And the path unknown.  
Days of many emotions  
Lie ahead –  
Joy or anger,  
Love or hate,  
Fear or peace.

What to do?

Walk in faith.  
Talk to God.  
Take another step,  
And then another.  
He'll guide your way.  
Reach out to others –  
Share His Love.  
Home is up ahead.

*~ 07-2008*

### Pegasus Rises

Silence surrounds me,  
As I sit in the  
Moonlit meadow.  
Tiny breezes dance  
With the blades of grass.  
I sigh at the beauty  
Of it all.

A warm breath  
Ruffles my hair.  
Turning, I see  
Twinkling, brown eyes,  
And a silver coat of fur.  
Wings unfurl briefly  
In greeting.  
Startled, I stand.

Pegasus kneels  
To invite me up.  
I mount her silky back.  
Then, her leg straightens.  
She starts to trot.  
Going from gait to gait  
Our speed increases.  
Wings open and whip the air.

Pegasus rises tonight.

The grass recedes from view.  
Trees peer up,

As we pass overhead.  
Soon, the lake appears –  
Sparkling like gems in a crown.  
I smile with glee.  
Pegasus glides effortlessly  
Over the rippling lake.

Magical hours pass.  
We fly without a care.  
The night spreads out  
Before us.  
Night animals play and hunt.  
Man sleeps below.  
I caress her neck,  
Telling Pegasus my dreams.  
She nods while she listens.

Finally, the moon sets,  
And the stars grow tired.  
It's time to head back.  
The trees part.  
We drop into the meadow.  
Hooves touch down.  
Wings fold in.  
She slows to a stop.  
Pegasus kneels  
To let me down.

The night is over.  
Pegasus has set,  
And I must return  
To my waking state.

~ 07-2008

**Walk in Spirit**

Choices appear  
Before us,  
Every day.  
Which is the right one?  
Is there a right one?  
How do I know?

Hush, be still.  
Take a breath.  
Ask God.  
Listen within.  
He'll guide you  
To the one.

Trust  
That inner feeling.  
It is your  
Connection to God.  
Walk in spirit -  
You're not alone.

~ 08-2008