

Diane's Blog
12.16.2009

Dashing through the snow, on a one-horse open sleigh, o'er the fields we go....

I suspect we are all madly dashing around trying to get everything done before Christmas – the baking, cooking, shopping, gift wrapping, tree decorating, stocking stuffing, wreath hanging, card writing, party hopping – and, hopefully, we're laughing all the way. At least, that's the way the lyrics to the song imagine it.

So I had to laugh this past week when I realized the furnace wasn't working right as Portland temperatures plunged into the teens. I had all the motivation to bake that I needed! The furnace repairman, arriving at nine-thirty in the evening, fixed a switch and commented on the sweet cinnamon smells. Christmas was in the air, even the cold, cold air, and my food gifts are now in their pretty boxes, ready to deliver.

I suppose a lump of coal would have been a welcome gift had our furnace been coal fired, as it was when the house was built in 1927. But now we have a gas furnace with a newfangled electronic monitoring switch, that's what failed. The repairman jury-rigged a fix until he could return this week with a new part – and he will depart with a box of Christmas pecans.

I laughed some more when my friend, Harriet, told me she was interviewed for the local news as she left the tire store. Like everyone, she had been dashing to get snow tires on her car before a forecasted snow storm arrived. (It never did.) She said while she wasn't camera ready, wearing a baseball cap to cover up unwashed hair; her dog, Charlie, (my god dog) was prim and fluffed and ready for the cameras – and there he was on the six o'clock news.

I smugly laughed when I scored the closest parking spot to the door of a crowded big-box store. I dreaded the needed errand, but dashed in and out, laughing yet again when a new checkout line opened up just as I walked up to pay.

I hope the spirit of the season motivates us all to smile, laugh, and find the goodness in each other as we dash about this season. Have a wonderful holiday and happy New Year.