



Christmas Eve, 2015

Dear Friend,

Just a quick little note to update you on last few weeks of my New Adventure, and to let you know that I'm doing ok!

My first chemo infusion was December 10th, and it went just fine. For me, it's always the uncertainty of a thing that causes the most distress. Now that I've been through it, I'm ok. It's just a matter of taking one step at a time.

My sister is my "chemo buddy," and we had a really good time that day! After the infusion - it lasted five hours - we went shopping in Kansas City (which is always a treat, when you live in rural Kansas) until early evening. I felt great! A little woozy, maybe, from the Benadryl they filled me up on, but, since they also mixed in a good quantity of steroids, I was a bit buzzy and very energetic.

In fact, the next day was *crazy*. I woke up feeling better than I've felt in three years! I took my Mom Christmas shopping the whole day, babbling incessantly the whole time. At one point, I remember thinking, "Wow, you need to stop babbling!" but I couldn't. Words just kept coming out. I couldn't help thinking, "If this is chemo - *give me more!* I feel really good."

That evening, though, the balloon deflated - the steroids wore off in one fell swoop, and the last couple weeks have been spent dealing with side effects. The cancer center is very good about making sure patients have all they need to help them deal with side effects, so, although it was a bit glummish and rough for a patch, it was just a matter of getting through it.

My next infusion is after the first of the year (the infusions are every 21 days, but the holidays disrupt the schedule a little). I'm ever-so-grateful and quite blessed to be feeling terrific right now, and to be able to spend Christmas with my family, in fairly good health and great spirits.

I hope the same can be said for you - that you are happy, healthy, and surrounded by those you love.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and an abundance of blessings in 2016!

Love,

Mary

