HOT DOG! Groomers will be celebrating nine years of business in Burleson in just a few short months. When you tend to linger in one place for a while, life's mile markers begin to pass you by with greater regularity. Dogs that were puppies nine years ago are beginning to gray and move a bit slower. Our children are growing up. Many of our clients who were working nine years ago are now retired. Sadly, a few are resting awaiting the trump of God and the voice of the Archangel.

The day will come when the work turned out in our grooming shop will be moot... meaningless. No one will remember how well we groomed your poodle or what scent we sprayed on your shih tzu before he went home. We will stand before God one day soon and be asked about the relationship with our brothers and sisters with whom we shared this moment in time.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." ~ John Donne 1624

We know that we are not a traditional grooming shop. We have no desire to be. Every year, we make a point of reiterating just how much we love and appreciate each and every one of you. This year is no exception. Nothing has changed. Please know that when we offer to pray with you or for you, it is out of love. When we hear that you are sick or hurting and we offer advice or a DVD, it is because we don't want to see you suffer and we certainly don't want to lose you prematurely. When we keep you around talking your ear off when you're trying your best to get out the door to work, it is because we are genuinely interested in you and your family. We do love and appreciate each and every one of you more than you will ever know. We do not believe that we were placed in each other's lives arbitrarily.

It is our hope and prayer that this Christmas will be the best ever for you and your family and that God will bless your new year with peace, hope, joy and love beyond measure.

> The Gerdts Family Robert, Melissa, Lilia, Liam & Aidan