

The Green Notebook

And Baby Makes Four

You may have noticed my byline has changed slightly over the past few weeks to “...mother of three (soon to be four).” I threw that in there to see who was paying attention and many of you have commented on it. Here’s the scoop: we had a wonderful Christmas surprise in December when my husband John and I found out we were expecting our fourth child. With an 18 year-old, a 14-year-old and an 8-year-old, we are definitely looking at starting over.

While it took a while for me to wrap my head around this surprise, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and blessing in the fact that we would be welcoming a new member to our family. No matter that at age 44, we will be 62 when this little one graduates from high school! It’s all good and will either keep us young or perpetually tired for the next 20 years. I prefer to think this gift will keep us youthful and enjoying the roller coaster ride of life for years to come. I told John to fasten his seat belt!

To answer all those questions I’ve gotten over the last few months in a nutshell: Yes, we know what causes that (obviously); yes, the kids are all from the same husband (you’d be surprised what people ask); no, I am not having twins (okay, I may look like I am, but remember this is my fourth child—don’t compare my belly size to your younger cousin Sue who has youthful stomach muscles); and no we don’t know what we’re having. We are going with the whole surprise theme, since that has worked thus far.

A lot has changed since having our youngest 8 years ago and the choices of diapers, bottles, clothing and various sundry accessories is all a bit overwhelming. There wasn’t much choice back in the ‘90s with my older kids. I am glad to have some more natural and organic products available—now to decide what is really necessary and what isn’t. As I finally make some decisions, I’ll share my findings with you and promise not to bore you with too many baby columns.

I am keeping a journal and working on a rather amusing memoir of having a baby over 40 with older kids—especially recording the funny situations and things people say. It keeps me laughing and marveling. Just the other day, I stopped in Babies R Us to pick up some organic cotton crib sheets that were on sale and then headed over to Cord Camera to pick up my sons senior pictures. All in a day’s errands, but it sure felt strange! My girlfriend told me we weren’t supposed to replace our kids when they went off to college. Really? I didn’t get the memo.

Tuesday Trippier lives in Delaware, is a writer and mother of three (soon to be four) with a special interest in green living.