

Welcoming Piper to the World

Being the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, I was elated to be welcoming a baby girl to our family! Piper would be the first homebirth and we had planned for her to be delivered by her Daddy. We were also expecting her arrival on her Dad's birthday – September 29th to boot! Since her brothers were both hospital births, I had taken the time to prepare weeks in advance (i.e. gathering supplies, setting up the birthing tub...and SO glad my mom was in town to set it up for me...thanks mom!!). I was absolutely thrilled about having my baby in the comfort of my own home surrounded by only those that I CHOSE to be there! No stranger there to snatch my baby from me moments after birth only to be stuck with needles and dragged off for unnecessary testing! What's more, I was actually looking forward to the delivery part! If it weren't for my good friend Pam Ibanez and the birth of her beautiful boy Phoenix, homebirth would have been so removed from my mind.

And was Piper ever so punctual...I felt my first contraction at 12:30 am on September 29th! I figured I'd wait it out a bit so I didn't have Jeni waiting all day for me to deliver. I did give her a "head's up" sometime around 1:30 am though. I called her a second time around 5:30 am and I recall telling her that I couldn't tell from the strength of my contractions if she should head out my way or not. We talked for about 20 minutes, I knew the contractions were strong but they just didn't feel "that bad". Jeni tried to get me to think back to my last two births and try to compare the intensity...no luck, I just really couldn't remember. But being the pro that she is, she knew that once I could no longer talk through my contractions she packed up her mini-bus and headed out to Virginia Beach.

Jeni arrived shortly before 7 am and I felt like I needed to be in the tub at that point. Boy! Our minds sure have a way of protecting our bodies...I forgot how to push too! I thought I had the urge to push but became frustrated when I wasn't making any progress. Jeni told me to "listen to my body"...and since I had only experienced hospital births (where they check your cervix and "tell" you when you're ready to push) this was a much foreign concept. Eventually I began to trust my body and just let it do what it was supposed to do. With my husband ready to "catch" our darling girl, Kristopher filming her arrival (awesome job with the cinematography sweetheart!) and Danyl and my mom cheering us on, Piper Makenzie Bates was born safely at 8:20 am. She weighted 7 lbs. 14 ounces and was 20 inches long!

We are so grateful for how blessed we are. To have been given the opportunity to have our baby girl at home without incident and surrounded by all those we love – we just couldn't ask for more!

Special Thanks to our sons Danyl and Kristopher for their support and expert filming abilities, Papa (I would never have found the hose adaptor for the birthing tub without you!), Pam for arriving "almost" on time (sorry about that!), Jeni for just about EVERYTHING and Robin for always being there to answer all my questions and give me advice!