

December 2011

Dear Family and Friends,

The big event of the year 2011 was the November 25th marriage of our youngest daughter, **KaWan**, to **Brian Powers** (see www.weddingwire.com/olsonpowers password beloved.) After a honeymoon in New York City, they live in New Hope. We welcome Brian and his two children, **Avery** 12 and **Xavier** 8, to the family. We now have 10 grandchildren. KaWan continues to teach at Transitions Plus, which serves the Minneapolis Public Schools by helping 18 to 21 year olds with disabilities find jobs and function successfully in the mainstream community. She also teaches ballet at McRae Park. Brian teaches recording technology at Minneapolis Media Institute and also records and produces music in his home studio. He is an accomplished saxophone player and leads worship at their church. We thank God for bringing them together.



Jeff and **Rachel** keep more than busy with **Laura** 8, **Helen** 6, **Esther** 3 and **Clara** 18 months. Rachel is home schooling the girls and she and Jeff also get them to swimming, ballet, soccer and piano lessons. Jeff is a lead programmer for Thomson Reuters and is the volunteer webmaster and computer consultant for our church. (www.firstfreechurch.org) Laura is an avid reader and good helper with her sisters. Helen, who was late talking, has more than made up for it. Esther has shown signs of being a competent organizer. Clara watches and studies and tries to find her niche.

Susan and **Eric Anderson** have been married for 15 years. They still live in St. Louis Park. Eric, an electrical engineer, works for MetroSpec Technology, which makes custom LED lighting systems. Susan has stopped working at Burger King but continues her house cleaning jobs. She just started attending Bible Study Fellowship with Karin. Susan and Eric go to Cross of Glory Baptist Church in Hopkins.

Jason now has an apartment just a few blocks from us and one block from church. He has had lots of roofing work. He has his kids Saturday and Sunday as well as Wednesdays when they come for clubs and youth group. **Tami** married **Chris Molitor** (a FedEx truck driver) and continues to home school the kids where they live in Scandia. This allows flexibility in their schedules to stay involved in extended family and church activities. **Christopher** 15, is world ranked in Rubik's Cube competition. **Patrick** 12, is the gentle brother and is memorizing the Sermon on the Mount. **Aizec** 10, is an inventor – leaning towards weapons – and always enthusiastic about his latest project. **Annika**, nearly 6, (the rose among thorns) is already starting to read and write.

Karin has continued to be very active and productive despite complications of her Type I diabetes, mainly nerve damage. Since August, she has had two stress fractures in her right ankle and is still using a kneeling “scooter” to rest the leg. She has resisted the grandkids' advice to install a motor! She is a group leader at Bible Study Fellowship and this year takes three granddaughters with her — Helen, Annika and Esther. Karin is enjoying her 8th year as a Mentor Mom for Mothers of Preschoolers and her 9th year teaching Kindergarten Sunday School. She also added a new volunteer opportunity in April at Community Emergency Services, a Christian food shelf, occupying the building of the inner city church she attended as a child. Although not as old as Ross, Karin had her 45 year Central High School reunion this summer. (Who WERE all those old people anyway?)

Ross has found ways to stay busy in retirement as Chairman of the Board of Outpost Ministries, board member and webmaster for Twin Cities Creation Science Association and chair of the Outreach Commission (missions and evangelism) at church. He also teaches the 4th- 6th graders in Junior Church and leads all-day hikes along the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers twice a year, with about 35 kids and 20 adults and teens involved. As is always true, the kids put on about 6 times as many miles as the adults, and the teens chase them down. Wednesday is grandpa day every week. Lately, with Karin's foot problems, grocery shopping, doing dishes and even laundry is an important contribution (even though he never does it exactly right.) Ross also has been teaching Science at the Kingdom Builders Home School Co-op and has occasional opportunities to speak on various topics such as evidence for creation and the post abortion syndrome.

Our guest room has been used by Chinese guests and missionaries. We praise the Lord that one of the PhD students we hosted two years ago, **J K**, became a Christian and was baptized this year. Our Chinese friends continue to enrich our lives and our extended family as well.

We are grateful for another year gone by, for the strength to meet the challenges and opportunities. It has been a year since Karin's mother, **Edythe Falck**, died and we miss her involvement in our lives. A few months ago, Helen, then 5, asked, “Papa, how old are you?” When I answered that I was 68, she said, “You're almost done!” But then after a pause, “What comes after 69?”

What comes in 2012? We don't know but God does. And certainly we are closer to the return of the **Babe in the Manger** as the **King of Kings**. We are looking forward to it. Are you?

Joyfully Yours,

Ross & Karin Olson

Ross & Karin Olson Family
2011

