



Dear Family and Friends,

This year has been eventful with a great deal happening in the last month. Karin's mother, Edythe Falck, who had bounced back from physical setbacks so many times before, finally succumbed to congestive heart failure on November 28 and went home to the Lord Jesus Christ whom she loved. We are poorer but she is richer and she has left a great legacy of demonstrating joy in spite of adversity. Karin's sister, Heidi, and her husband, Tim, provided wonderful care for Mom for the past 3 years in their home, making it unnecessary for her to go into a nursing home. The funeral program and tributes can be viewed at www.rossolson.org. In the last 5 years we have lost all 4 of our parents. We are now the patriarch and matriarch!



Clara was born to Jeff and Rachel April 13th, a day before her Daddy's birthday. She is our 8th grandchild. The first three were boys and then Karin started praying for a granddaughter. There has been an unbroken string of 5 girls in a row. Here is a picture of Clara at 7 days of age and because she keeps getting cuter, viewer discretion is advised in following her progress as hearts tend to melt.

A heartache is Tami and Jason's divorce, but we are glad that we and Jason still have frequent contact with Christopher (14), Patrick (11), Aizec (9) and Annika (nearly 5). Tami still home-schools the kids. Christopher has become a Rubik's Cube whiz and is world ranked in some categories. Patrick is the gentle brother, caretaker of the little ones and Aizec is the creative inventor, mostly of weapons. Annika enjoys going to Bible Study Fellowship with cousin Helen (dressed up as twins by Grandma who is loving this) and having a 24 hour grandma-grandpa day each week.

Jeff and Rachel are busy with Laura (7), Helen (5), Esther (2) and Clara (8 months). They are also a home-schooling family. Laura is an avid reader. Helen strikes up conversations with anybody and remembers names. Esther wants to be included in everything and Clara is, well, Clara. Helen loves her cousin Annika and the times they share. Laura, Helen and Esther get a half day a week with grandpa, who mostly sits while they run around — where do they get that energy? We are grateful to God for family, home, church, friends and retirement with adequate income.

Susan and Eric continue to be fully employed and grateful for that. They are busy but find time for family activities where they are good aunt and uncle to the kids. KaWan is teaching full time in a special education program called "Transitions Plus". She is using many of her multiple gifts in areas of ministry and creativity. KaWan is also courting a dear friend named Brian. Stay tuned....



Karin and Ross celebrated 40 years of marriage by taking a trip to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, wonderful places to see with great seafood to eat. On return, they attended Ross's 50 year high school reunion. It was great to look at the name tags, the graduation pictures and then glance at the face attached to them and think, "at least I don't look THAT old." Karin had her 40 year nursing school reunion. Although we are getting stiffer, we are not yet fossilized and both keep busy. Together we love to practice hospitality with family,

friends and Chinese students and scholars. There have been many house guests for days to weeks, as well as groups for dinner on the deck or in the house. We needed to have 2 Thanksgiving dinners to accommodate all the people we wanted to host. We had some of Mom Falck's friends to a luncheon on the deck this past summer and Mom also attended Karin's annual party for her kindergarten Sunday school class.

Besides teaching kindergarten, Karin continues as a discussion leader at BSF. She is also a mentor mom for MOPS. She hardly missed a beat (yuk yuk) when she had a gastric pacemaker implanted on May 27. (This compensates for diabetic nerve damage that had paralyzed the stomach.) Ross is on the boards of Outpost Ministries and Twin Cities Creation Science Association, running both those web sites. He chairs the Outreach Commission of First Free Church and teaches science for Kingdom Builders Home School Co-op. Ross also gets occasional invitations to speak on his favorite topics — every single one of them politically incorrect! He also continues to teach Junior Church and leads up to 60 adults and kids on twice a year all day hikes along the rivers — now making sure that there are enough teenagers along to do the chasing, herding and rescue work and enough strong adults carry him out and to drive the group home if one of his limbs malfunctions again. This year's major evidence of aging was the need for shoulder surgery in February.

Have a wonderful Christmas!! And 2011 may be the year Jesus returns!!

Ross & Karin Olson