

One year fades into the next and you could just as well read last year's letter again. Actually you can, at [www.rossolson.org/family](http://www.rossolson.org/family). **By the way, in the future, we will need to send electronically if at all possible. If you wish to continue getting this letter, e-mail [ross@rossolson.org](mailto:ross@rossolson.org) with that request. If you want the letter and it must be by US Mail, return the enclosed postcard with correct address. If we do not hear, we will assume you are either 1) dead; 2) not interested; 3) disorganized; 4) all of the above.**



But what has changed? Several things, mostly wonderful. Jason is back and has reconnected with all the family. Susan was invited to speak at a women's retreat hosted by her church in Somerset and received many positive comments on how helpful and encouraging it was. Christopher, now 22, is engaged to Sarah Cook to be married September 14, 2019. They met through cubing. She is a graphic designer from Kansas and now works in our church office. The wedding cake will probably be shaped like a Rubik's Cube! Patrick, 19, is going to spend one term at Torchbearers Capernwray Bible School in Australia, leaving here January 28 and returning June 15, 2019. Avery is attending Chatham University in Pittsburg



where she has academic scholarships and plays basketball. She was a block away from the synagogue shooting in October. Karin was persuaded to run for Gramercy Board of Directors but was not elected. She took it graciously — VERY countercultural!! All the rest of the family are even more wonderful than they were last year and we still cannot tell which of them will win the first Nobel Prize, Academy Award or Emmy. But... Christopher's documentary film "Why We Cube" is nominated for an award in the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest! Both Karin and Ross sing in the Gramercy choir — no awards expected.



Every day is a gift and we are grateful for each one of them. We want to continue to serve as we age. Karin has dropped her physically demanding Monday afternoons at Community Emergency Services as an advocate (walking through the food shelves was the hard part). She has rejoined Bible Study Fellowship for a year — not as a leader but a member. She and Ross both joined a small group out of our Agape Class at church. Ross writes the study questions. Karin also helps with a Bible study in our building and continues to chair the "Sunshine Committee" and is director of the "Card Recycling" group. They



make artistically attractive **new** cards that sell for \$1 in our lobby and are very popular. This helps satisfy Karin's creative impulses. Karin's art has been displayed at Gramercy where we live and also at our church. Less travel, but we visited aunt Delores on her 93rd birthday in L'Anse MI.



Ross is done after about 20 years on the Outreach commission (missions) at church — they finally decided on enforcing term limits. He continues volunteering with Twin Cities Creation Science Association and runs their web site. Ross is the January 15 speaker (look it up at [www.tccsa.tc](http://www.tccsa.tc).) He teaches science to home school students whose mothers attend **MOthers of Pre-Schoolers**. Karin is a Mentor Mom for that group. Ross is still on the board of Outpost, a "politically incorrect" but spiritually fruitful ministry. Pray for protection and wisdom for all who are involved. Karin is in her 16th year teaching Kindergarten Sunday School and Ross teaches 4th, 5th and 6th grade "Junior Church" and takes about 20—30 kids and an equal number of volunteer helpers on twice a year hikes (with a strict promise to Karin that he will not climb trees, hills or cliffs) and January "myth-busting" visits to the Science Museum. Every Wednesday is "Papa Day" with field trips for the 5 homeschooled grandchildren when they are not otherwise busy. In July we again rented 2 weeks at an Elk Lake cabin.



We have had to economize because our retirement fund, tied to the stock market, has taken a beating. We have enjoyed being able to be very generous over the years but now have to really pinch pennies and stretch dollars. That means not buying lunch for Papa Day, but making some sandwiches and asking the moms to pack some of the lunch. (Watch for a drop in Culver's and Chipotle stock!) It makes us more aware that we have always had to trust in the Lord, even when we didn't realize it. We are looking for other ways to generate income — Karin selling some of her sewing projects and Ross looking into freelance writing on line or teaching English remotely to children in China — but nothing has materialized. We are glad that before the crunch we were able to take a trip to California to accompany Annika, Tami and Annika's friend Faith to an International Chinese Dance Competition in Costa Mesa, California where they received a high rating.



Karin received a hard earned award from the Joslin Clinic for "50 Courageous Years With Diabetes" — she was 20 when diagnosed. She also painted one of several murals in the Gramercy parking garage, "There's No Place Like Home" complete with ruby slippers and rainbow. Everything she touches is artistically perfect — except Ross — but she hasn't given up hope.



Laura sings with Angelica Cantanti and excels in school. She is driving now. Esther and Clara are in Twin Cities Ballet Nutcracker and they look like dancers wherever they are. Helen, now a teenager, is green belt Karate and loves books. Xavier plays football. Brian and KaWan have had special challenges since Brian's 2 teaching jobs disappeared when the schools went out of business. He does musical gigs and is the worship pastor at a church called Faith Family Life Center in Rogers and is pursuing a ministry degree on line. KaWan teaches marketable skills to developmentally challenged recent high school graduates. (How many college graduates need that kind of help!) She also teaches ballet at several Minneapolis parks.



Jeff's job at Thomson Reuters seems secure through several corporate reorganizations and he has taken on lots of responsibilities at church, including vice chair of the council. Rachel manages her homeschool conglomerate which included all the extra activities mentioned and drama — actual plays, not just the “normal” drama of four daughters. Eric and Susan are slowly upgrading their big house in the little woods (10 acres) that has a pool. The extended family and Chinese friends are invited for Labor Day and Memorial Day and the kids always swim even if it is cool. Croquet is big. Eric's job is in a growth industry, LED lighting.



Aizec bowls in team and individual tournaments. He owns 24 bowling balls and always carries 6. He achieves excellence at everything he sets his mind to! (Ask him about the physics of “strike balls” and “spare balls.”) One thing new in the 21st Century — some colleges give bowling scholarships. Patrick is working double shifts at UPS to finance his school in Australia — we had hoped to help but had to renege at the last moment due to our financial crunch. Patrick is a hard-working Youth In-



tern at church. In addition he unloads UPS planes in the morning and delivers UPS packages to stores at Mall of America in the afternoon. Did you know that there is an internal hallway to the stores invisible to shoppers? UPS helps employees with college expenses. Tami — supermom — has successfully launched 2 sons! Chris Molitor as a great step father has helped. He drives overnight FedEx packages



Ross plans to reprise his “Seldom Seen Science” series at Gramercy for all who want to come. He is speaking at Twin Cities Creation Science Association January 15 on “Post Flood Catastrophes.” (Did you know that at the time the sun stood still for Joshua, the Mayans reported a day when the sun stayed on the horizon and did not rise for a long time?)



We continue to have the privilege of hosting Chinese guests, many of whom take the time to come to family celebrations. Rena Zhou came with her mother who cooked for us the whole week. We treasure the long term friendships that have developed with many of them.



The extended Olson Family is brought to you through the auspices of our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ, who not only knew us when He created the first man and woman, but also became our Savior, humbling Himself to become a human being, live the perfect life, suffer misunderstanding, hatred, humiliation, beating and death, willingly submitting to this so He could take the penalty for all the wrong things we have done. All He asks is that we admit our sin and helplessness and accept the forgiveness He offers. We will then live in gratitude by the power of His Spirit for however many days we have left on this planet. Wishing you an experience of the real meaning of Christmas and thanking God for what each of you mean to us.



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