

# The Coopers - 2011

Hello dear friends! We've had a really busy year, and the month of December is proving to be no exception to the rule, so I'm going to be more pragmatic and less flowery and write a summary of our year in point form. If you hate it, go ahead and toss it, we'll never know! ;-)

- The first exciting thing was the fact that I turned 50 in early January. (Yeah, real exciting... ;-) ) To celebrate in fine form, Jim threw me a really nice party at a favourite restaurant of ours and invited all my kids, siblings and a few dear friends. It was really lovely. ☺
- In April we all headed down to St. Thomas, USVI for Will and Erica's wedding! It was really lovely, and we are so delighted to have Erica officially a member of our family now. Since the wedding, Erica has subsequently received her PhD, and has been hired as an assistant professor of psychology at Bryn Athyn College, which is all pretty exciting. Since Jim's daughter Wendy and my son Ed also live in that area, it's great to be able to catch up on so many of the kids in one place.
- In June we attended the church's General Assembly and then Council of the Clergy in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. It's always great to get all sorts of good spiritual food, and fun to see many old friends, but since Jim's in charge of the ministers' meetings, that portion tends to be a little less fun.



- In July Jim and I went on a road trip! We first decided to go and visit Diana in Denver by car. We headed basically straight west to Colorado, and then spent almost a week with her. We had a really nice visit with Di and saw lots of neat sights, like Pike's Peak and the USAF academy.

From there we went north to Wyoming, where we spent a couple of days with Dan and Ruth Goodenough, my uncle and aunt. It was wonderful to visit with them, but one highlight there was going to the Sheridan Rodeo! Jim's been to many, but it was a first for me, and very interesting. From there we drove through Montana upwards to Saskatchewan. We stopped at Rouleau, Saskatchewan ("Dog River") so that we could see the Corner Gas set, and then on to Moose Jaw to have supper at a friend's home. From there we went to Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. We spent a couple of days with my aunt and uncle, Bruce and Chloe Jorgenson, and we had a really nice visit with them.





Then we got ready to drive home—we drove in Ontario alone for 4 days! But boy was it beautiful—the land north of Lake Superior is everything I remembered it to be from my childhood. On our last night out we stayed at Adri and Mieke Braam's cottage on Manitoulin Island. It was a wonderful adventure. ☺

- The 2011-2012 school year started off without a hitch. I was the homeroom teacher

for the grade 5-6 classroom with two whole students. On the second day of school the teacher for the grade 1-2 classroom realized that she couldn't do it, and resigned. So we needed a new teacher for them, and we realized that I would probably be the best fit since I have lots of background with that age group (well, kindergarten). Sooo, starting the following Monday I became the homeroom teacher for the grade 1-2's and a capable young man we know became the grade 5-6 teacher. The insane working-till-midnight thing only lasted a couple of weeks, but even three months in I still feel a little too behind the 8-ball. There are 6 kids in the classroom, and while there are some academic challenges, their behaviour (for the most part) falls well within the parameters of normal, and for that I'm grateful.

- On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Pamela Madison Cooper was born to Craig and Laura—and with that we have entered the world of grandparenting! In November we went to Newport, Rhode Island to visit them, and we can



report that little Madison is just adorable! We are delighted that they are back on this side of the pond again, so hopefully the visits won't be too far and few between. ☺



And here we are in December again, well immersed in all the activities and entertaining that December inevitably means. But I will certainly admit that being heavily involved in activities with people you care about is far preferable to any of the alternatives!

May you too be blessed with such a plethora of family, friends and fun! ☺

Love from Jim and Karen

PS. If you would like to see more photos, please befriend me on facebook! ☺