

Another year with lots of change but it looks as though most of it has been positive. If it were not for the continuing upheaval in the economy things would be looking much better. Cheryl has had the least change this year as she moves into her new role at United Airlines. She is still working with the transition group that is overseeing the recruiting and consolidation of the management and admin staffs from the two airlines but is also now starting to work on her new role as a Senior Operations/Field Recruiter for the domestic and international airport stations around the world. She works very long hours and most weekends but hopefully it will slow down soon. She enjoys working with her boss and the group around her so that makes things more bearable. United's headquarters have moved to Chicago so it means Cheryl will have to travel from time to time for meetings and training.

Ryan and Meredith have seen some change this year with both having new jobs. Ryan's company went through a re-financing effort during the year and set up a new venture to focus on developing games for the iPad and mobile phone market. He was one of the few that survived the change and seems to be doing a good job as usual. However he definitely seems to prefer the PC development platforms so he may change again in due course. That might mean that they move to another area either here or in Europe. Meredith started a new job as a teacher at a school south of Houston that is focused on gifted and talented students and seems to be thoroughly enjoying the additional challenges that it brings. Additionally she is applying to various colleges to start her Doctorate in 2012.

Lauren has had the most dramatic changes. First she left her jobs at the church. She had trained a new youth pastor for the girls and it made sense for her to move on and allow the new pastor to take over. She also then secured a full time job at United as a payroll analyst and so gave up her admin job at the church as well. She is renting a house quite close to us with two other girlfriends and also very recently has a young man, Donovan, in her life. She is still planning on attending a couple of Church conferences in Europe in 2012.

I had a couple of significant changes in my life this year. First I did a deal with the owner of the restaurant, Café du Bois, I was involved with whereby I managed the restaurant for him in return for equity. So I have been doing that on a part-time basis for the year and now own 40% of the business. It has been very interesting but also challenging as we are a fine dining restaurant and the economy has affected the business. We have made good progress towards profitability but are not there yet! I also changed my full time job in August when I joined a company similar to my previous one but that has a focus on larger deals. So far I am really enjoying it as the sales cycle is very much more of relationship build and the commission is much better. I am chasing my first deal right now and hope to close it next week.

The big news of the year was The Cruise! To celebrate Cheryl's 60th and Ryan and Mer's first anniversary we took a week long cruise in August. We had a party of 13 that included nieces Karen and Lindsay from South Africa, two of our friends, a friend of Laurens and two of Ryan's work colleagues and his friend Chris. We had a great time with lots of memorable moments both on and off the boat. Cheryl got to zip-line through the Roatan forest and also swim with the dolphins in Costa Maya. We left out of New Orleans so the girls went down for a night on Bourbon Street the day before we left. I see more cruises in

our future particularly as two new ships have just started sailing from Galveston that is just down the road.

After the cruise, Cheryl traveled to London with Lindsay and Karen and spent a few days with our nephew Warren, Jen and the family. We were also excited to get a short visit in November from Ron and Jannette Duckworth from Durban.

We look forward to Christmas with the family again this year and, of course, Ryan and Mer's annual New Year's Eve party at our house. Cheryl and I will bring in the New Year at the restaurant and then join the party later!