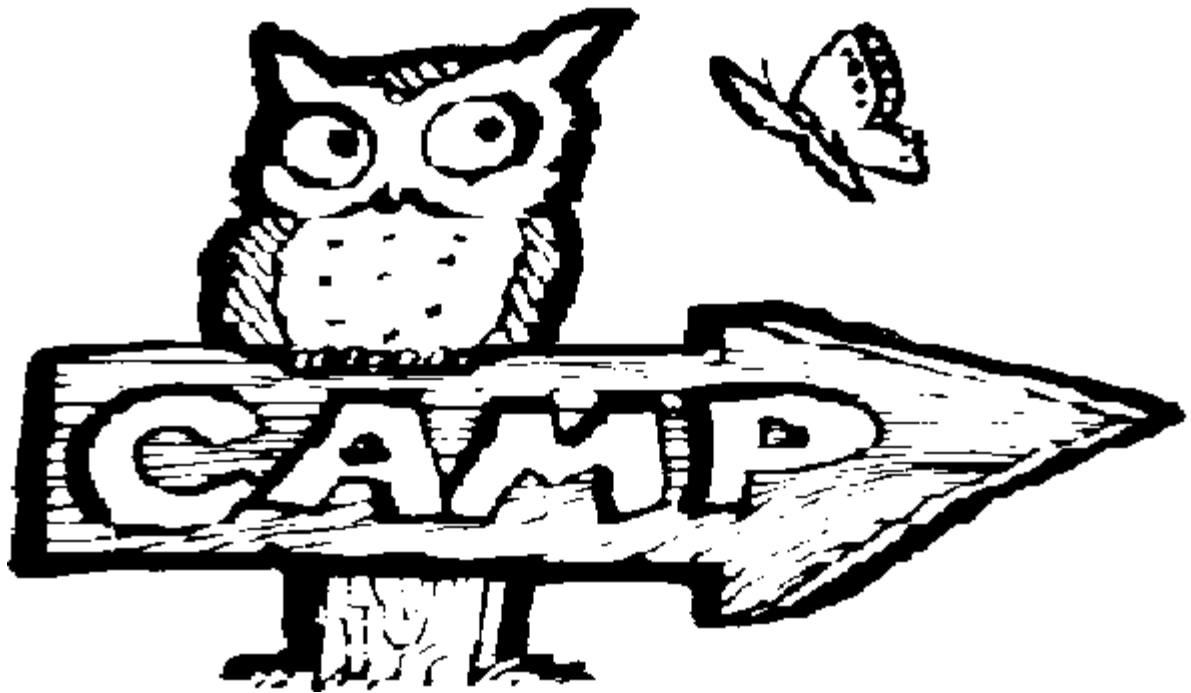


Oak Leaves

Oak Grove Mennonite Church
Monthly Newsletter

West Liberty, Ohio
August 2010



CAMP COTUBIC

As a hectic summer begins to wind down, you have a great opportunity to relax and fellowship with your church family at Camp Cotubic. Whether you are able to spend one or two nights or just come during the day, there will be plenty of fun. Friday night we'll enjoy Jeff's kettle corn around the campfire. Saturday morning after breakfast, Deb Horst, director of Camp Luz, will have a short devotion time and then we'll dismiss for some games and visiting. Back by popular demand will be an egg-toss and an Ultimate Frisbee game. Even if you don't play, they will be fun to watch. After lunch will be time at the lake with the boats, slide and the Blob. Saturday night will be our auction, with the money earmarked for the Jenna Trust. This year we will have a guest auctioneer, Tom Short, Everett Yoder's son-in-law. Sunday morning, after breakfast, we will gather for our morning worship service and Deb Horst will be bringing the message.

Why not make this the year you come and see what you've been missing? Camp is Aug 13-15 and registrations are due to Steve or Shan Neer by Aug. 1. Information about auction items should be given to Dixie Idle by that date. See you there!

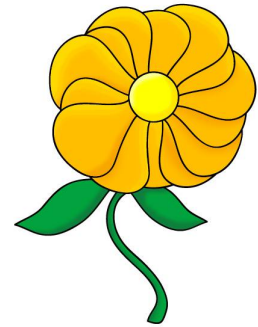
In August, we wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to . . .

- 2 Joan Thoman
- 4 Jim Bartlett
- 5 Ashton Peraza
- 6 Jennifer Reminder
Melinda Yoder
- 8 Shelly King
Abbie Thoman
- 10 Kirk Larson
- 11 Michelle Neer
- 15 Joel Kauffman
- 16 Ashley Overholt
- 17 Kim Leichty
- 19 Christopher Buschur
Neal Seymour
- 20 Jeff Yoder
- 24 Janet Schlabach
- 25 Joyce Hostetler
- 26 Katie Hartsel
- 28 Sam Park
- 30 Kristen Siegenthaler
Crista Shoemaker
Judy Conrad
- 31 Amy Steider
Simon Kauffman

*Each day is God's gift to you.
Let it blossom and grow
into a thing of beauty.*

And a HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to . . .

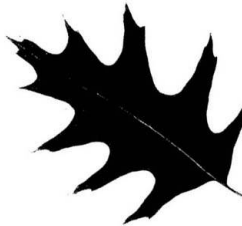
- 5 Anthony & Ivy Thoman
Larry & Judi Steider
- 13 Jeff & Gladys Brown
- 16 Drew & Emily Reminder
- 17 Donnie & Annie Kauffman
- 18 P.D. & Mary Esh
- 20 Dick & Mary Barrett
Winfred & Willie Stoltzfus
- 21 Bruce & Janet Schlabach
- 22 Harmon & Judy Conrad



This newsletter is compiled by the Oak Leaves committee. A major purpose is to strengthen a sense of community at Oak Grove Mennonite Church. We welcome submissions from anyone in the congregation. Items for publication can either be put in the Oak Leaves mailbox near the front door or may be emailed to oakleaves@oakgrovemennonite.org.

Oak Leaves is generally distributed monthly by the beginning of the next month. Original writing is preferred, though other items will be used as space allows. Questions or comments may be directed to the current members of the committee:

Valerie Kauffman, Esther Witmer and Mary Barrett. Hope to hear from you soon!! Thanks for reading!

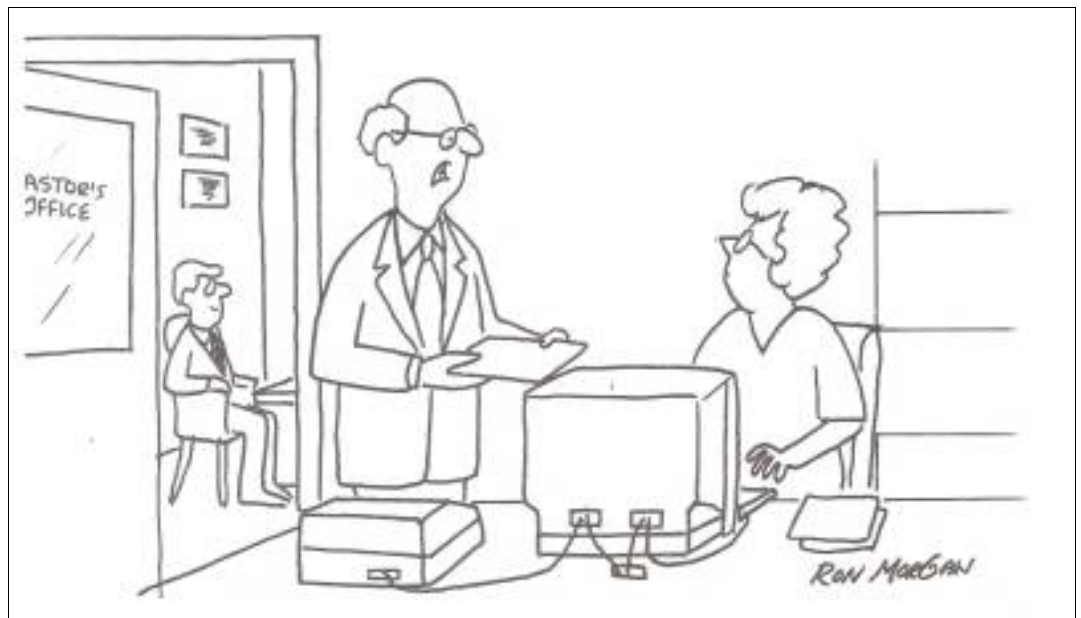


THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: AUGUST 22

Next month, Mary Barrett will be going off the committee and Lisa Hershberger will be joining. We'll miss you, Mary. Welcome, Lisa!

This month, we welcome Alex and Erin Dye to Oak Grove. We're thrilled you're here! Thanks for "associating" with us!

Note: the OL committee is fully responsible for any jokes, bad or otherwise. . .



"He's fully qualified to be our new associate pastor, but he wants all weekends and holidays off—the same days I want off."

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 8 at 9:30 during the Sunday school hour, Carl and Vera Hansen will share about the work of Meserete Kristos College. Meserete was founded by the Meserete Kristos Church (The Mennonite Church) in Addis Ababa in 1994. (The Mennonite church was growing so rapidly there were not enough pastors trained in Biblical literacy to lead the churches.) MK Church's purpose "is to train leaders for the fast growing churches of Ethiopia, Its mission is to prepare servant graduates passionately committed to the transformation of society." Its accomplishments: Since its inception, the college has graduated 468 persons most of whom are actively serving as evangelists, pastors, teachers, or administrators in churches or in para-church organizations. Please be prompt to the sanctuary for SS that morning!

Sunday, August 29 Steve Bustos, Clete Schrock, and Vyron Schmidt will be at Oak Grove from MMA to speak on Stewardship during the sermon time. Clete has a children's story.

They will be leading workshops during the Sunday school hour from 9:30 – 10:15. The topics will be:

1. Managing Money to Honor God – Adults (Clete Schrock) This is an excellent presentation for an overview of managing money. The class teaches people how to integrate faith and money throughout life.
2. 7 things young adults need to know about money – High School and College age (Steve Bustos) This class helps show a college-aged audience the importance of saving, understanding debt, and avoiding excessive credit card spending.
3. Leaving a Legacy – adults, especially 50+ (Vyron Schmidt) This presentation will help people to plan for a witness and legacy to those they care about most. Topics covered include retirement income risks, whether you're adequately covered for unexpected medical expenses, end-of-life decisions you need to make regarding distribution of your estate, etc.

Note from Grace Leichty. Jake and I had the privilege of visiting the Mennonite Mutual Aid Offices in July. We've known about MMA for years and that they are our church organization dedicated to providing mutual aid insurance, but we were overwhelmed with the size of the organization and the many services they provide in addition to health insurance. They can assist with many money issues including saving and investing, credit union, all types of insurances, information on wills and end of life issues, etc. Myron Yoder is our congregational representative and will be happy to provide information to any who would like to further explore any of these topics. Your attendance in SS on August 29 will give you a glimpse of what MMA is all about!

WHAT IS NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

Take a look at some new additions to the church library! We have many newly purchased and donated books and DVDs for children, youth and adults. Look for them on the east side of the library where the VHS tapes used to be.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Max Lucado's Hermie and Friends Series:

Hermie A Common Caterpillar – Learn from Hermie that God has made us unique and wants us to be just like Jesus.

Flo The Lyin' Fly – Flo is always making up stories and telling lies. Only God can help her win back the trust of her friends.

Stanley The Stinkbug Goes To Camp – No one understands why Stanley is “stinky” and no other bugs at camp want to be his friend. Soon the bugs learn an important lesson about friendship and accepting others the way God made them.

Buzby The Misbehaving Bee – Buzby never follows the Garden Golden Rules, the other bugs complain but Buzby won't listen to anyone, not even God. Then one day Buzby finds out that breaking the rules isn't cool at all...

The Berenstain Bears Living Lights Series by Stan & Jan Berenstain:

The Berenstain Bears Discover God's Creation – Mama Bear pulls the plug on the TV and the cubs are upset! A peek outside shows them that God has given them a beautiful world that is far more fun than the TV screen.

The Berenstain Bears Hurry to Help – It's time for the Bear Scouts to earn their Good Deed Badge, and things get a little crazy as Papa Bear looks for someone who really needs their helping hands...

The Berenstain Bears Learn to Share – Sister Bear learns that God has blessed her with great friends and lots of time and toys to share, but sharing is hard!

One Special Me by Allia Nolan – The kids in this story are all very different, and that is just fine with them! They know God is the one who made them that way (lift the flap and touch-n-feel book)

An Easter Gift for Me by Crystal Bowman – a rhyming Easter story board book

Thank You God by Kathleen Bostrom – The world is full of wonderful things God has made! (board book)

God Made You Special – Discover how God makes each child special! (board book)

Just in Case You Ever Wonder by Max Lucado – A story to remind your child how much you love them and how special they are to God (board book)

Benjamin Bear say Sorry – Benjamin Bear is always full of bounce, and one day he's in such a hurry that he accidentally upsets his friends. Then he learns to say sorry and put things right again. (board book)

Benjamin Bear says Please – Benjamin Bear is racing off to have fun in the snow, but he keeps forgetting something. Then, he and his friends learn the importance of saying the word “please”. (board book)

The Parable of the Lily by Liz Curtis Higgs – A farmer helps his young daughter understand the power of grace and forgiveness and the true meaning of Easter

The Sunflower Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs – Side by side with his father, Logan discovers the value of planting seeds, not only in the ground, but also in the hearts of his friends and neighbors.

What Color is Love by Nancy Gurley – A story of a grandmother's love for her granddaughter as she creates a very special gift to always remind her of God's love

Who is Sam Harrington? By Rick Osborne & K. Christie Bowler – All over the town of Coledale, children were doing nice things for each other, saying “It's what Sam Harrington would do!”. But who is Sam Harrington?

Shaoey and Dot by Mary Beth & Steven Curtis Chapman – Fly along with Dot the ladybug as she befriends a “lost little bundle of love”, a baby girl left near a Chinese village and follows her to a place she can call her forever home.

Let's Go On a Mommy Date by Karen Kingsbury – What is a Mommy Date? The zoo, circus or park? Or maybe it's just spending time together!

Coming Home by Max Lucado – Two shipwrecked brothers are scared, living on a lonely island. Then they meet a ship captain who says he is going to prepare a place for them and then come back for them. Will he really come back like he promised? An allegorical tale of the second coming of Christ.

CHILDREN'S DVDS

Start Singing with Boz – Boz has a joyful song in his heart and he can't wait to share it with you!

Rez - The Rock That Rolled - Bible-Toon story that brings the miracle of Easter alive...

Hermie a Common Caterpillar – Learn from Hermie that God has made us unique and wants us to be just like Jesus.

Stanley The Stinkbug Goes To Camp – No one understands why Stanley is “stinky” and no other bugs at camp want to be his friend. Soon the bugs learn an important lesson about friendship and accepting others the way God made them.

The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe – an animated version of the classic tale by CS Lewis

Veggie Tales – Moe and the Big Exit – a lesson in following directions

Veggie Tales – Minnesota Cuke and the Search for Noah's Umbrella – a lesson in confidence

Veggie Tales – Gideon Tuba Warrior – a lesson in trusting God

PRETEEN BOOKS

Rachel Yoder Series by Wanda Brunstetter – Follow the life of 9-year old Rachel Yoder, an energetic Amish girl with trouble that always seems to be following her around! A series of 8 books:

School's Out!, Back to School, Out of Control, New Beginnings, A Happy Heart, Just Plain Foolishness, Jumping to Conclusions, Growing Up

Daughters of the Faith Series by Wendy Lawton – Stories of historical teens as they grow in faith.

The Tinker's Daughter - 10 year old Mary Bunyan, Daughter of John Bunyan (author of Pilgrim's Progress)

Shadow of His Hand – Anita Dittman, a young girl growing up in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust

The Captive Princess – 15 year old Pocohontas

Almost Home – 13 year old Mary Chilton, a passenger on the Mayflower in 1620

The Wall Series by Robert Elmer – Stories that extend across generations and unfolds against the backdrop a dangerous Cold War Berlin. Follow these teens as they grow in their faith during their struggle to grow up in a city brutally impacted by the Berlin Wall. ***Candy Bombers*** (Berlin 1948), ***Beetle Bunker*** (Berlin 1961), ***Smuggler's Treasure*** (Berlin 1989)

Red Rock Mysteries by Jerry B Jenkins & Chris Fabry – Bryce and Ashley Timberline are normal 13-year-old twins, except for one thing – they discover action-packed mystery wherever they go. Wanted to get to the bottom of any mystery, these twins find themselves on a nonstop search for the truth. 4 book series: ***Haunted Waters, Stolen Secrets, Missing Pieces, Wild Rescue***

Friends for a Season Series by Sandra Byrd - Four girls make friends in unlikely places. Read as they grow in their faith through their friendships. 4 book series: ***Island Girl, Chopsticks, Red Velvet, Daisy Chains***

A Girl After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George – Homework! Friends! Activities! Parents! The life of a tween girl is full of so much action, and confusion. How can you make time for Jesus in this busy life? Start out on this fun adventure with Jesus and learn what it means to be a girl after God's own heart.

YOUTH FICTION

The Becoming Beka Series by Sarah Anne Sumpolec - Follow Beka Madison through her junior and senior years of high school. Through this journey, Beka learns to make her faith her own as she faces the ever-shifting waters of family, friends, dating, and school. 5 book series: ***The Masquerade, The Alliance, The Passage, The Reveal, The Encore***

Katie Weldon Series by Robin Jones Gunn – Follow the story of Katie Weldon (best friend to Christy Miller, of Robin Jones Gunn's *Christy Miller Series*), as she navigates through college classes, friends, dating and learning what God has in store for her future. 3 book series: ***Peculiar Treasures, On a Whim, Coming Attractions***

To Save a Life by Jim & Rachel Britts – Jake & Roger grew up as best friends. But in high school, Jake becomes a star athlete who has it all, an ideal life that come with pushing away his childhood friend. Roger grows tired of being neglected, and he makes a tragic move that spins Jake's world out of control. Could Jakes have saved his friend? Jake begins on a journey to reach out to others, but learns that it may cost him everything.

ADULT FICTION & NON-FICTION

Brides of Lancaster County Series by Wanda Brunstetter – Follow four Amish women of Lancaster County as they learn to what God has planned for them. 4 book series: ***A Merry Heart, Looking For a Miracle, Plain & Fancy, The Hope Chest***

Brides of Webster County Series by Wanda Brunstetter – Follow four Amish women of Webster County, Missouri as they learn what God has planned for them. 4 book series: ***Coming Home, On Her Own, Dear to Me, Allison's Journey***

Clayburn Novels by Deborah Raney – it all happens in the town of Clayburn, Kansas
Remember to Forget - Maggie Anderson had dealt with an abusive boyfriend for 2 years until she makes an unlikely escape. Trevor Ashlock is barely existing, trying to forget all that he has lost. Then these two strangers meet...

Leaving November – Vienne Kenney moved away from Clayburn to pursue a law degree. Jackson Linder left Clayburn with no explanation. Now they are both back in town...

Yesterday's Embers – Doug DeVore lost his wife and child, and is left with 5 kids to raise on his own. Mickey Valdez, a daycare teacher steps in to help the family out. What happens when Doug and Mickey work together...

Brides of Gallatin County Series by Tracie Peterson - The Gallatin sisters are all alone in the world after their father dies, and there's no one but the three of them to run the family hotel in the wild Montana territory. 3 book series: ***A Promise to Believe In, A Love to Last Forever, A Dream to Call My Own***

Big Sky Dreams Series by Lori Wick – Learn about the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness through three women in Token Creek, Montana in the 1880s. 3 book series: ***Cassidy, Sabrina, Jessie***

Lineage of Grace Series by Francine Rivers – Five Women whom God chose. Each was faced with extraordinary and sometimes scandalous challenges. Each was destined to play a key role in the lineage of Jesus Christ. ***Unveiled*** (Tamar), ***Unashamed*** (Rahab), ***Unshaken*** (Ruth), ***Unspoken*** (Bathsheba), ***Unafraid*** (Mary)

Shades of Blue by Karen Kingsbury - Brad is about to marry the girl of his dreams. Then memories of a high school girlfriend begin to torment him. Lost innocence and one very difficult choice flood his conscience. He must find his old love and make amends. He turns to God seeking forgiveness and redemption.

This Side of Heaven by Karen Kingsbury Nate and Annie Warren have a strained relationship with their son, Josh. He's always been a disappointment to them. Only a few people know the truth: Josh is a real-life hero and his one heart's desire is to be united with a daughter he's never met. Will his family care enough to get to know their son?

A Thousand Tomorrows (Cody Gunner Series #1) by Karen Kingsbury – Cody and Ali both deny love. When they meet, they hide behind their emotional walls. But their attraction is too strong, and

neither can avoid falling in love, regardless of the consequences. Only after 3 years--a thousand tomorrows -- do they realize at what cost their relationship comes.

Just Beyond the Clouds (Cody Gunner Series #2) by Karen Kingsbury - Still aching over his wife's death, Cody doesn't want to let go of his Down's Syndrome brother, Carl Joseph. When Carl Joseph's teacher, Elle, begins helping with his independence, she and Cody are at odds. But what if Elle is the one woman who can teach Cody that love is still possible?

The Great Christmas Bowl by Susan May Warren - Marianne loves Christmas and she starts creating a holiday her family will never forget. Read about this mother's hilarious quest to serve up the perfect holiday.

Sweetwater Gap by Denise Hunter - Josie's sister Laurel thinks she's come home to pitch in with the apple harvest and save the family orchard. Her brother-in-law Nate thinks she's there to talk overworked, Laurel into finally selling the family business. The orchard's new manager Grady just thinks she's trouble with a capital T. Why is Josie home?

The Irresistible Revolution by Shane Claiborne (a speaker at the Columbus Youth Convention) - The revolution begins inside of each of us, and through little acts of love, it will take over the world. Let us begin to be Christians again!

Crazy Love by Francis Chan - Once you encounter God's love, you'll never be the same, so fall in love with God!

Amish Grace - How forgiveness transcended tragedy in the Nickel Mines Amish School shooting

Hiking Through by Paul Stutzman - When he lost his wife to breast cancer, Stutzman quit his job and hiked the Appalachian Trail, learning that God had been with him every step of the way.

The 36-Hour Day - a family guide to caring for people with Alzheimer's Disease, dementias and memory loss

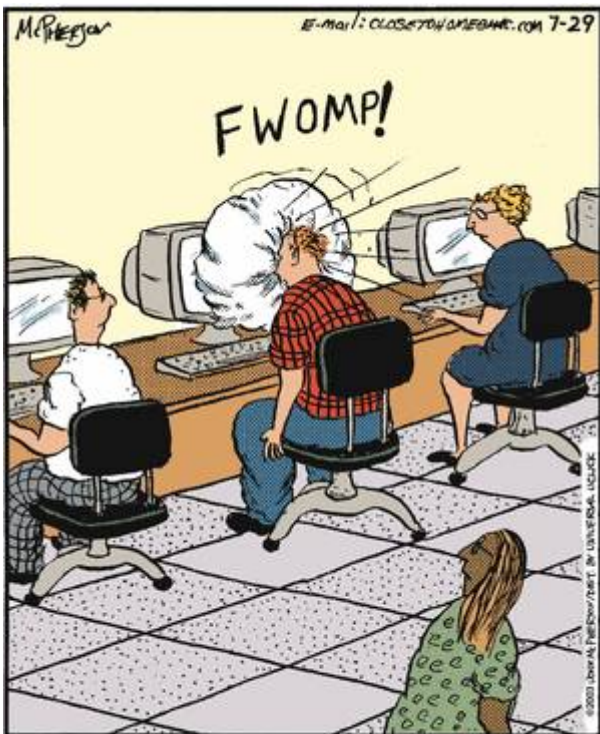
My Journey into Alzheimer's Disease by Robert Davis - a true account of his life as a pastor diagnosed with Alzheimer's

Body Talk by Ingrid Moser - Learn to practice stewardship of body and health (published by MMA Stewardship Series)

A Treasury of Miracles for Women by Karen Kingsbury - True stories of God's presence today

The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearns - What if all followers of Jesus looked beyond the walls of their churches and worked together to reclaim the world for Christ's kingdom?

The Christian Atheist by Craig Groeschel - Do you believe in God but live as though he doesn't exist?



Sensing that he was about to doze off, the air bag on Wade's computer rapidly deployed.



"The AC in the house croaked."

Alphabets

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame.
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow.
God is forever able,
Hold on to what you know!
Imagine life without His love,
Joy would cease to be.
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to Thee.
Move out of "Camp Complaining!"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future;
Redeem the time at hand;
Start every day with worship--
To "thank" is a command.
Until we see Him coming,
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high.
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

~Author Unknown~ -submitted by Esther Witmer

Book Review:

I read with interest the article on China by Chris Smucker. I recently read the book, Safely Home by Randy Alcorn. It is based in China, and although it is a work of fiction much about the life of Christians in China is based on fact. Both persecution of Christians and the scarcity of Bibles are addressed in this book. Just thought someone else might be interested. -Sharon Kauffman

Are you wondering what Pastor Dick is doing on his sabbatical? Wonder no more! Check out his interesting experiences at:

<http://oakgrovemennonitepastor.blogspot.com/>

Hurry, he'll be back soon!

A HUGE thank you to the Bible school committee and everyone who helped make the week on the high seas a success (including all the children who attended). If you haven't already heard, ask your children what Sailor Jack did all week and see if they remember the Bible points. "LET'S GO!"

White Pizza Dip

1 envelope Lipton Recipe Secrets Savory Herb with Garlic Soup Mix*
1 container (16 oz. sour cream)
1 cup (8 oz) ricotta cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1/4 cup chopped pepperoni (optional)
1 loaf Italian or French bread, sliced**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In shallow 1-quart casserole, combine soup mix, sour cream, ricotta cheese, 3/4 cup mozzarella cheese and pepperoni. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup mozzarella cheese. Bake, uncovered, 30 minutes or until heated through. Serve with bread. Makes 3 cups

*I've never been able to find this particular soup mix, so I use 1/2 package of Good Seasons Zesty Italian Salad Dressing and Recipe Mix, which you can buy at Thoman's IGA.

**I usually buy a loaf of Italian bread, slice it, then bake it at 350* until light brown and crunchy. You can also drizzle olive oil, salt and pepper over the bread before baking if you want a little extra flavor.

I have made this white pizza dip for a few baby showers over the last couple of months and many people have asked for the recipe. -Kim Leichty

"The perfect church service, would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God."
--C.S. Lewis

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."
— Billy Sunday

Church sign:
Under same management for over 2,000 years.

Sharon and Kim win the "Responsive Readers" award for the month for replying to the Oak Leaves request email. Thanks!!!

'Flying car' intended for Amazon use

By Alton K. Marsh and Alyssa J. Miller

There are already more than 100 light sport aircraft you can buy, and now there is soon to be a new one, the I-TEC Maverick Sport Model. It isn't exactly a flying car, more like a powered car-a-chute. It was developed for use by missionaries in remote areas of the Amazon to use roads—as far as they go—and to fly the rest of the way over the jungle canopy to indigenous people.

The Maverick is the result of seven years of research and development by the [Indigenous People's Technology and Education Center \(I-TEC\)](#). I-TEC founder Stephen Saint grew up among the Waodani Indians of the Amazon, and the vision for the nonprofit organization grew out of his experience among the people. The primary objective for the flying car is humanitarian use in frontier areas of the world. Developing a commercial market is meant to help reduce the cost for frontier use.

“The Maverick Sport is a dream boat,” said Troy Townsend, I-TEC chief operating officer and test pilot for the Maverick. “It’s easier to fly than a regular powered parachute.” Townsend should know; the instrument-rated private pilot is also a sport pilot instructor who has been flying powered parachutes for more than 12 years.

It takes five minutes to transition from car to powered parachute and vice versa. The aircraft requires a 250-foot takeoff roll, can climb at 500 feet per minute, and soars through the sky at 40 mph. It’s weight comes in right at the 1,320-lb. limit for LSA standards.

“The Maverick Sport is different from current production S-LSA powered parachutes in that the pilot does not have to kite the chute from the ground,” Townsend explained. “Instead, a proprietary mast and spar system is used, making takeoffs, landings and crosswinds much more predictable.”

Flight is much different as well. The craft is operated in the air the same way it is on the ground—with a steering wheel and gas pedal.

“When I’m flying, I have to remind myself that I’m in the air,” Townsend said, “because I feel like I’m in a car.”

According to Townsend, the Maverick Sport received its Florida Department of Motor Vehicle license June 29 and is road legal. The car can maintain interstate speeds, has a robust suspension, and is float capable. It has a dual drive system that fits a transaxle or drives a propeller.

Saint’s father Nate served as the pilot for a group of missionaries who made early contact with the Waodani in the 1950s and were killed. Despite the missionaries’ deaths, the Saint family and others continued to work to establish friendly relations with the Waodani. Rachel Saint, Nate’s sister, served the Waodani until her death in 1994.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Saint graduated from Wheaton College and has launched several successful businesses and has worked as a missionary in West Africa, Central America, and South America. At the request of the Waodani elders, he returned to the Amazon in 1995 along with his family. Since then, some Waodani have learned to fly powered parachutes.

See <http://www.aopa.org/aircraft/articles/2010/100629maverick.html> for pictures and video.

-Submitted by Valerie Kauffman

*Congratulations to the Nichols family
on the birth of Kendall,
who joined her sister Randi,
Mom Rachel and Dad Mark on July 6!*



*“Let the children come to
me; do not hinder them, for
to such belongs the kingdom
of God.”*

Mark 10:14

This is a classic story that every Mennonite should know. . .

The Story of Preacher Peter

Switzerland, 1700s

Night was falling on his tiny Swiss village, and Preacher Peter went to bed as he always did. He carried his lantern to the bedroom, put on his nightclothes, and crawled into bed.

As Peter lay in bed, he thought about his life as a Mennonite preacher. It was not an easy life. Many times he had been teased and bothered by others in the village who did not agree with what he preached. People did not understand why the Mennonites thought it was wrong to help fight in wars.

Peter had just fallen asleep when a noise awakened him. *That's strange,* he thought. *It must be my imagination.* He tried to go back to sleep.

He heard the noise again. *Now I know this is not a dream,* he told himself. *I did hear something.* The sounds were coming from outside. It sounded like someone was walking on the roof!

Peter got out of bed, lit his lantern by the fireplace, and went outside. He looked up to the roof. It was true! Several men were up there, busily working. Peter held his lantern up high, so he could see better. *Why, they're taking the thatch off my roof!* He realized in dismay. *What have I done to them, that they would treat me this way?* Peter was shocked. He prayed, "God, please help me to do what is right. Give me the right words to say to these men."

Then Peter had an idea. He went back into the house and quietly woke his wife. "Wake up!" he whispered. "There are men working on our roof. I know this sounds strange, but could you make a meal for them?"

Immediately, Peter's wife understood what was happening. She got up, stoked the fire and began to cook for the men who were destroying their house.

The old preacher went outside. He called to the men, "You must be tired! Come in for a bite to eat."

Surprised, the men came down from the roof. Slowly, they entered the house and sat down at the places set for them. They looked down at their plates, too embarrassed to look up at the kind preacher.

Peter prayed a simple prayer. "Thank you, God, for the meal you have provided. Thank you also for our guests. Bless them in Jesus' name. Amen." Peter's wife served the food to the men, but all they could do was stare. They couldn't eat. They just sat quietly.

After awhile, the men left the table and climbed back onto the roof. Peter and his wife heard scuffling noises, so they cautiously stepped out the door to see what was happening. To their surprise, they saw the men putting the thatch back on the roof and fixing the holes they had made. They were making things right with Peter and his family.

"If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat; and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink." Proverbs 25:22

This summer, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school class learned a little more about Mennonite history. The story on this page is one of the stories they heard.

It is found in the book Plant a Seed of Peace by Rebecca Seiling. Illustrated by Brooke Rothshank. The book is excellent and can be purchased from Mennonite Publishing Network (Herald Press, Scottdale, PA). You may have also seen the story published in a previous book called Coals of Fire by Elizabeth Hershberger Bauman, Herald Press, 1954.

If this story caught your interest and you'd like to read a quick (and interesting!) overview of Mennonite history, visit the website:

<http://www.thirdway.com/menno/lite/menno.lite.pdf>

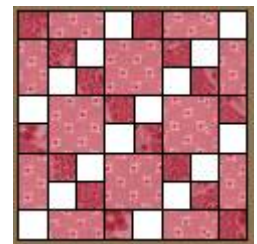
It's worth reading! -VK

What have you read recently? Write a few sentences about what you thought and send it to us. We'd love to hear about it!

Several couples and families spent time (but not all at the same time) in **Ohio Amish Country** (Holmes County) this summer.

Are you feeling inspired by those memories or just feeling crafty? Check out this website for an abundance of quilt block patterns, complete with directions and illustrations:

<http://www.quilterscache.com/QuiltBlocksGalore.html>



THE NAKED ANABAPTIST

A new book from
Mennonite Publishing Network,
by Stuart Murray

Explores the bare essentials of Anabaptist faith.
Mennonites grew out of the Anabaptist stream of faith
from the 1500's.

Excerpts from each chapter:
<http://www.thirdway.com/>

You can even discuss it on Facebook!