



# Oak Leaves

## How Great Thou Art

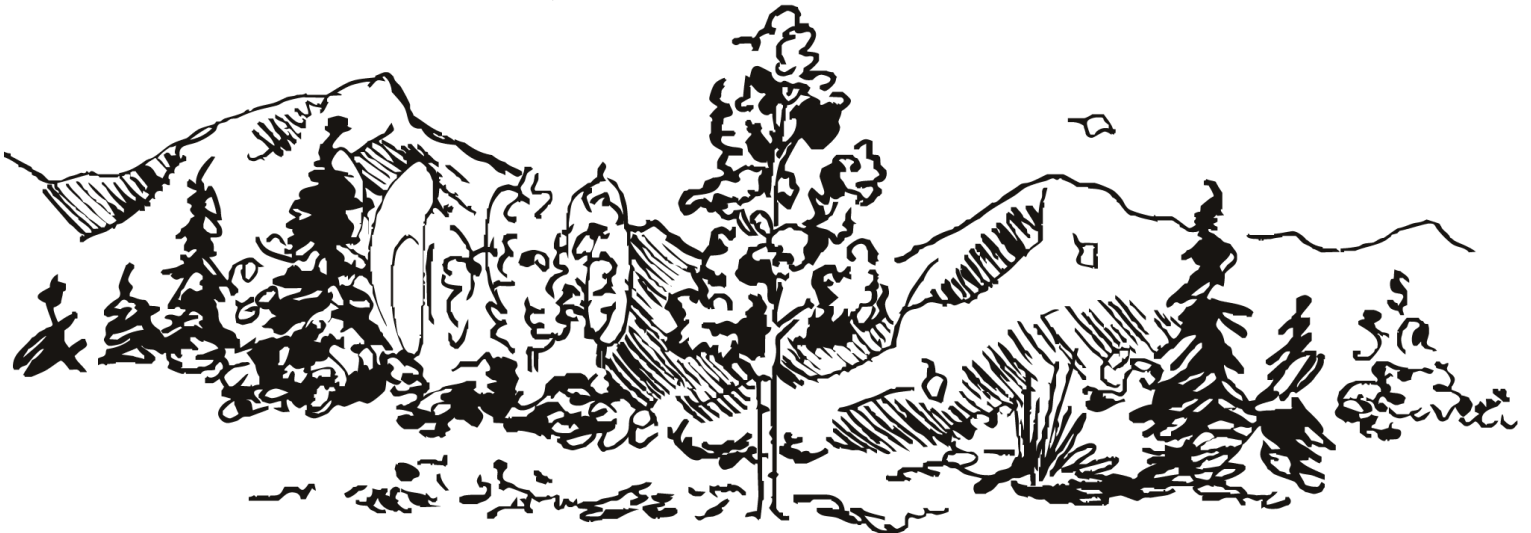
*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

*But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die—I scarce can take it in  
that on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away our sin;*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!*



# This is My Father's World

*A personal reflection by Bruce Schlabach,  
written by request*

“The Heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.” (Psalm 19: 1, 2) These verses have come to my mind many times as I have taught different science classes during the past 30+ years. To think that the sun can pour its warmth and light on us from 93 million miles away boggles my mind every time I talk about it to my classes. Verses 5 and 6 state that the sun is **“like a champion rejoicing to run its course”** and that **“nothing is hidden from its heat”**. (It’s easy to believe that this summer) Scientists much smarter than me state that the sun has enough hydrogen fuel to last another 4 billion years. To believe that our sun just happened to come into existence and that Earth just happened to be placed at the perfect distance from the sun takes more faith than to believe that our God created it that way. Every time I discuss the solar system with my classes I believe that my faith in God our creator grows stronger and it is impossible for me not to give Him praise. The main science class that I teach is physics and it amazes me how the many laws of physics work together for our good. Every time I discuss one of Newton’s laws of motion, or gravity, or the nature of sound and light I am struck by the awesomeness of our God. Can you imagine life without these “laws” of physics? (Although playing golf with a little less gravity might be fun.) I could go on and on about how water is the perfect liquid and how two very dangerous and toxic chemicals, sodium and chlorine, can combine to form salt. One cannot look at science and not see God at work. Sir Isaac Newton said it well: **“... it follows that the true God is living, intelligent, and powerful; from the other perfections, that he is supreme, or supremely perfect. He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, he endures from eternity to eternity; and he is present from infinity to infinity; he rules all things, and he knows all things that happen or can happen.”** The next time you drink a glass of water, or put salt on your food, or listen to the birds sing and watch them fly, or jump up and come back down, or throw a curveball, or feel the warmth of the sun, give our awesome God the praise He deserves. **“This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and tree, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.”**

*Bruce Schlabach*

## Outreach

In June Oak Grove served at West Liberty Cares Food Pantry. 96 bags of food were given to pantry visitors during the 5 Wednesdays and third Saturday. Volunteers included Vicki Park, Ev Hostetler, Grace Leichty, Sharon Kauffman, Anita and Jim Bartlett, Rose and Heather Yoder and Dave & Gertie Kuhl. Thanks to everyone for donations of time, food and money to buy cases of food to stock the pantry.

The Outreach Committee collected and donated 228 used children's books to the Mercy Well Child Clinic at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Urbana in July. Thanks to those who donated books. We put labels on each book that included an invitation to services at Oak Grove.

## The Mennonite

Have you read the two articles by Everett Yoder’s grandson, Marty Troyer, in the July issue of “The Mennonite”?

Read “Peace Pastor blog reaches thousands” on page 42, and “Stewards of Grace” on page 32. Marty’s mother Sue Yoder Troyer grew up at Oak Grove.

Thought you might find this of interest.  
*Grace Leichty*

## Just for Fun

Do you like to sew (or dream of sewing projects you might complete someday?) There are some really cute ideas on <http://obsessivelystitching.blogspot.com> Including how to sew your own Angry Birds plush toys or Rubiks Cube ottoman!



# WHO AM I? \*

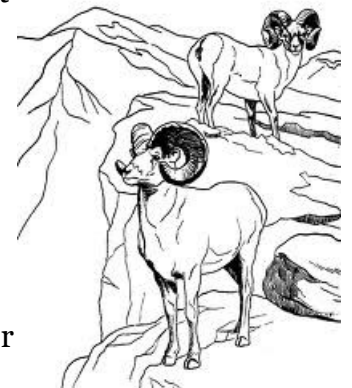
Compiled by Lisa Hershberger

- I was born in Chambersburg, PA and grew up in Chambersburg & Shippensburg, PA.
- As a child I loved living in the country on a farm, playing with kittens, riding my pony and mowing lawn on a John Deere.
- My first job was mowing lawn and taking inventory at the family business.
- I enjoy reading books by Karen Kingsbury and right now I'm reading some novels by Lynn Austin and Lori Wick which I'm really enjoying.
- I lived in South Carolina, 3 miles from the beach, for a year and made sure I went to the Beach at least once a week during that year.
- I would love to visit the Holy Lands some day and walk where Jesus walked.
- I like scrapbooking (digitally now), baking, hanging out with family and music
- If I had no responsibilities for the whole day, I would spend it sleeping in and maybe go shopping with a friend & out for ice cream
- Psalm 139 is a meaningful passage to me...
  - <sup>1</sup>You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
  - <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
  - <sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
  - <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.
  - <sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
  - <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain....
- At Oak Grove, I appreciate the wonderful friendships I have made and just feeling that God is working in everything that is happening - it's wonderful to have a Church family that is so caring and willing to help when needed.



# WHO AM I? \*

- I was born in Bellefontaine, and grew up in West Liberty.
- A favorite childhood memory is the yearly summer trips we took to Kansas to visit relatives.
- My first job was pumping gas and washing windshields at Union 76 in West Liberty. (Good grief – that makes me sound old!)
- I'm currently reading "Kerplunk" by Patrick McManus.
- Not many people know that I once lived in 5 different houses in 5 years in Lancaster County, PA.
- I love traveling to the US West – the Rockies and plains.
- I enjoy eating homemade ice cream.
- If I had no work/responsibilities for the whole day, I would watch a bit of a morning news show, work in the perennial garden, eat Donatos Pizza, take a nap, work on a home renovation project, grill something for supper, go for a 4 wheeler ride...
- A meaningful Bible verse to me is Romans 12:11 ~ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- There is a lot to appreciate about Oak Grove when you stop and consider it. I love the interaction time we have during Sunday School to share how our journey of life is going.



(\*Answer can be found at the end of Oak Leaves—we made it easy this time!)

# Shaping Families

*Shaping Families.com. . .web/radio/ podcast*

## **Weekend of August 6 – When Mom’s Incarcerated**

Camilla grew up in a home with alcoholism and used various drugs herself. But when she became a Christian, she was determined to turn her life around. Hear about the challenge of raising her daughter’s children because of her daughter’s incarceration.

## **Weekend of August 13 – Ken Medema: Career and Family**

How does a Christian musician with an active performing career connect with his family? Ken Medema, well known Christian musician/performer, shares a warm interview on Shaping Families.

## **Weekend of August 20 – Media: Perils and Possibilities**

If you worry about your kids’ media use and are looking for answers, be sure to listen to Shaping Families this week when Rebecca Randall, an educator from Common Sense Media offers practical ideas.

## **Weekend of August 27 – Autism: Finding Hope**

Karen and her husband are the parents of two children, one with autism. Shaping Families begins a two week series on autism, with insights from someone who’s been there.

# Haitian Banana/Sweet Potato Muffins

4 dozen

3 very ripe bananas, pureed  
2 cans of sweet potatoes (15 oz. each), drained & pureed  
2 t. vanilla  
2 cups sugar (I’m sure you could use Splenda)  
4 eggs beaten slightly  
1 & 1/2 cups oil  
7 oz. sweetened coconut, pureed in 1/2 cup buttermilk  
Mix all ingredients above.

4 & 1/2 cups flour  
4 T. baking powder  
1 t. cinnamon  
1/2 t. ginger  
1 t. salt

Sift all dry ingredients, then mix into wet ingredients.  
Fill muffin cups 3/4 full. Sprinkle top with sugar.  
Bake 325 degrees for 30 minutes.

*-Recipe from Anita Bartlett*

# Library book reviews

*By Valerie Kauffman*

## Report for Duty by Lily A. Bear

This is the story of Esther Witmer's uncle, John Witmer, who was drafted into the army in WWI. He went to military camp, but refused to wear his uniform because he was a Mennonite who believed that Jesus taught us not to harm others, even as a member of the armed forces. He spent a little more than a month at the military camp while waiting for his conscientious objector application to be approved. While there, some of his fellow soldiers and superiors treated him very harshly, such as throwing water on him and not giving him enough blankets at night. He became weaker and weaker. Soon, he became ill with a serious communicable disease which eventually killed many inside and outside the military camp. John Witmer died after only about a month in the army. Soon after that, John's captain was converted to Christ because of the example he witnessed in John. Years later, one of John's fellow soldiers came to see John's family to ask forgiveness for the way he had treated John in the camp.

This was a powerful story for me to read because it was an example of someone who stood true to their core convictions, despite severe trial. I highly recommend this book.

## Unshaken by Dan Wooley

This is the story of Dan, who was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake which devastated Port-au-Prince. He is an American who normally worked in Colorado Springs for Compassion International, but he was in Haiti to help capture a film about the families Compassion serves. He was fortunate to survive the earthquake despite being on the first floor of the Hotel Montana, which collapsed around him; he was rescued after 3 days. He describes in detail his struggles to stay alive, care for his wounds, communicate with God and keep hope alive when there seemed to be none. The story is interspersed with the story of Dan's wife Christy's struggle with clinical depression for the first six years of their marriage and parallels can be drawn between that experience and that of being trapped in a collapsed building.

This was a fascinating book to read, despite the fact that I do not exactly share Dan's views on the level of direct involvement God has in the world, and I would still recommend it.

# THE FIRST STAGE:

*Excerpt from Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan*

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a den,<sup>33</sup> Bedford jail, in which the author was imprisoned for conscience' sake and laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. Isa 64:6; Luke 14:33; Psalm 38:4. I looked and saw him open the book, and read therein; and as he read, he wept and trembled; and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "What shall I do?" Acts 2:37; 16:30; Habak 1:2,3.

In this plight, therefore, he went home, and restrained himself as long as he could, that his wife and children should not perceive his distress; but he could not be silent long, because that his trouble increased. Wherefore at length he brake his mind to his wife and children; and thus he began to talk to them: "O, my dear wife," said he, "and you the children of my bowels, I, your dear friend, am in myself undone by reason of a burden that lieth hard upon me; moreover, I am certainly informed that this our city will be burnt with fire from heaven; in which fearful overthrow, both myself, with thee my wife, and you my sweet babes, shall miserably come to ruin, except (the which yet I see not) some way of escape can be found whereby we may be delivered." At this his relations were sore amazed; not for that they believed that what he had said to them was true, but because they thought that some frenzy distemper had got into his head; therefore, it drawing towards night, and they hoping that sleep might settle his brains, with all haste they got him to bed. But the night was as troublesome to him as the day; wherefore, instead of sleeping, he spent it in sighs and tears. So when the morning was come, they would know how he did. He told them, "Worse and worse:" he also set to talking to them again; but they began to be hardened. They also thought to drive away his distemper by harsh and surly carriage to him; sometimes they would deride, sometimes they would chide, and sometimes they would quite neglect him. Wherefore he began to retire himself to his chamber to pray for and pity them, and also to condole his own misery; he would also walk solitarily in the fields, sometimes reading, and sometimes praying: and thus for some days he spent his time.

Now I saw, upon a time, when he was walking in the fields, that he was (as he was wont) reading in his book, and greatly distressed in his mind; and as he read, he burst out, as he had done before, crying, "What shall I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30,31.

I saw also that he looked this way, and that way, as if he would run; yet he stood still because (as I perceived) he could not tell which way to go. I looked then, and saw a man named Evangelist coming to him, and he asked, "Wherefore dost thou cry?"

He answered, "Sir, I perceive, by the book in my hand, that I am condemned to die, and after that to come to judgment, Heb. 9:27; and I find that I am not willing to do the first, Job 10: 21,22, nor able to do the second." Ezek. 22:14.

Then said Evangelist, "Why not willing to die, since this life is attended with so many evils?" The man answered, "Because, I fear that this burden that is upon my back will sink me lower than the grave, and I shall fall into Tophet. Isa. 30:33. And Sir, if I be not fit to go to prison, I am not fit to go to judgment, and from thence to execution; and the thoughts of these things make me cry."

Then said Evangelist, "If this be thy condition, why standest thou still?" He answered, "Because I know not whither to go." Then he gave him a parchment roll, and there was written within, "Fly from the wrath to come." Matt. 3:7.

The man therefore read it, and looking upon Evangelist very carefully, said, "Whither must I fly?" Then said Evangelist, (pointing with his finger over a very wide field,) "Do you see yonder wicket-gate?" Matt. 7:13,14. The man said, "No." Then said the other, "Do you see yonder shining light?" Psalm 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19. He said, "I think I do." Then said Evangelist, "Keep that light in your eye, and go up directly thereto, so shalt thou see the gate; at which, when thou knockest, it shall be told thee what thou shalt do." So I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now he had not run far from his own door when his wife and children, perceiving it, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on crying, Life! life! eternal life! Luke 14:26. So he looked not behind him, Gen. 19:17, but fled towards the middle of the plain.

... full text of this and other Christian classics can be found (for free) at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bunyan/pilgrim.iv.i.html> It is called the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. You can even join online book discussion groups.

## August birthdays:

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

## August anniversaries:

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

## The deadline for the September issue of Oak Leaves is August 21.

Thanks!  
Esther Witmer,  
Lisa Hershberger  
and  
Valerie Kauffman

## "Who Am I?" answers:

Roxanne and Jerry  
Kauffman

## First UMC youths give back to community

Article excerpt from the Bellefontaine Examiner, June 25, 2011

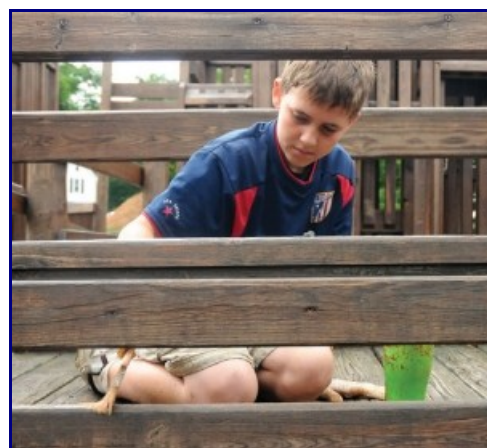
Some of the Childs' children participate in this youth group

Three local organizations, one individual homeowner and a lot of children had a brighter week this week, thanks to the efforts of 34 middle school and high school students.

Dubbed The Week of Hope, youths at the First United Methodist Church spent their days and evenings sprucing up Kaleidoscope Park, putting a new roof on the Western Neighborhood Outreach Center, building a sensory course for Discovery Riders, installing vinyl siding at a city woman's home and hosting a free block party for city children.

### Wow! Wow! Wow!

When I first read in the newspaper about the plans that the First United Methodist Church of Bellefontaine was making, I was very intrigued. Apparently, they normally go a distance for their missions trip but this year they decided to serve their neighbors right in their own community. I was gone on vacation the week they did the projects and let me tell you, when I returned home and saw what the group had done to Kaleidoscope (which is a large wooden playground in a park near my home) I was totally amazed and delighted! It had been repaired, stained a beautiful color, painted with bright colors and remulched. It looked AWESOME—probably even better than new! And to think that that was not even all the group did during the week. Thanks to the youths at the church and the Childs' family for their part in making people smile! -Valerie Kauffman



ABOVE: **Jacob Childs, 12**, applies stain to the Kaleidoscope playground at Mary Rutan Park on Friday.

# THANK YOU!

.. to the Bible school committee and volunteers (and students and parents!) who worked together to make the week fun and meaningful for all the children!

### One more thing. . .

The story is told of a woman who wanted to get a divorce. She couldn't stand her husband. He couldn't do anything right and she wanted out. So, she went to see a divorce lawyer. She told the lawyer that she hated her husband and wanted to make him suffer as much as possible in the divorce. She asked the lawyer what she could do to make this happen. The lawyer told her to spend three months being really nice to her husband, giving him lots of compliments and making him feel that she really loved him. Then, after three months, when he was feeling very secure in his marriage, serve him with the divorce papers, to his shock and dismay. This, the lawyer said, will kill him. He will be so hurt. The woman was delighted! She went home and did just as the lawyer said. She pulled out all the stops so as to cause maximum pain in the divorce. Three months later, the lawyer called the woman back to set up an appointment. The woman said, "Divorce? Certainly not. My husband and I just booked tickets to go on a second honeymoon. We've never been more in love!"

## Son Rock Kids Camp

(Bible school theme song)

Son Rock Kids Camp!  
Son Rock Kids Camp!  
We'll hike up the mountains  
and we'll wade in the streams.  
Let's do some exploration.  
We'll learn about God  
How much he loves you and me  
We're part of His creation.  
Let's go to camp with all our friends.  
I know all we really need is in God's hands.

Chorus:  
Come on along, everyone.  
SonRock Kids Camp!  
A world of adventure and fun!  
Son Rock Kids Camp!  
In God's great outdoors, there's so much to see and do  
Come to SonRock Kids Camp with me.  
Son Rock Kids Camp!

Verse 2:  
We'll build on the rock out in the world God has made.  
In Jesus we're really livin'.  
We are accepted, protected, and saved!  
In Jesus we've been forgiven.  
Let's go to camp with all our friends.  
I know all we really need is in God's hands.

SonRock Kids Camp!  
SonRock Kids Camp!