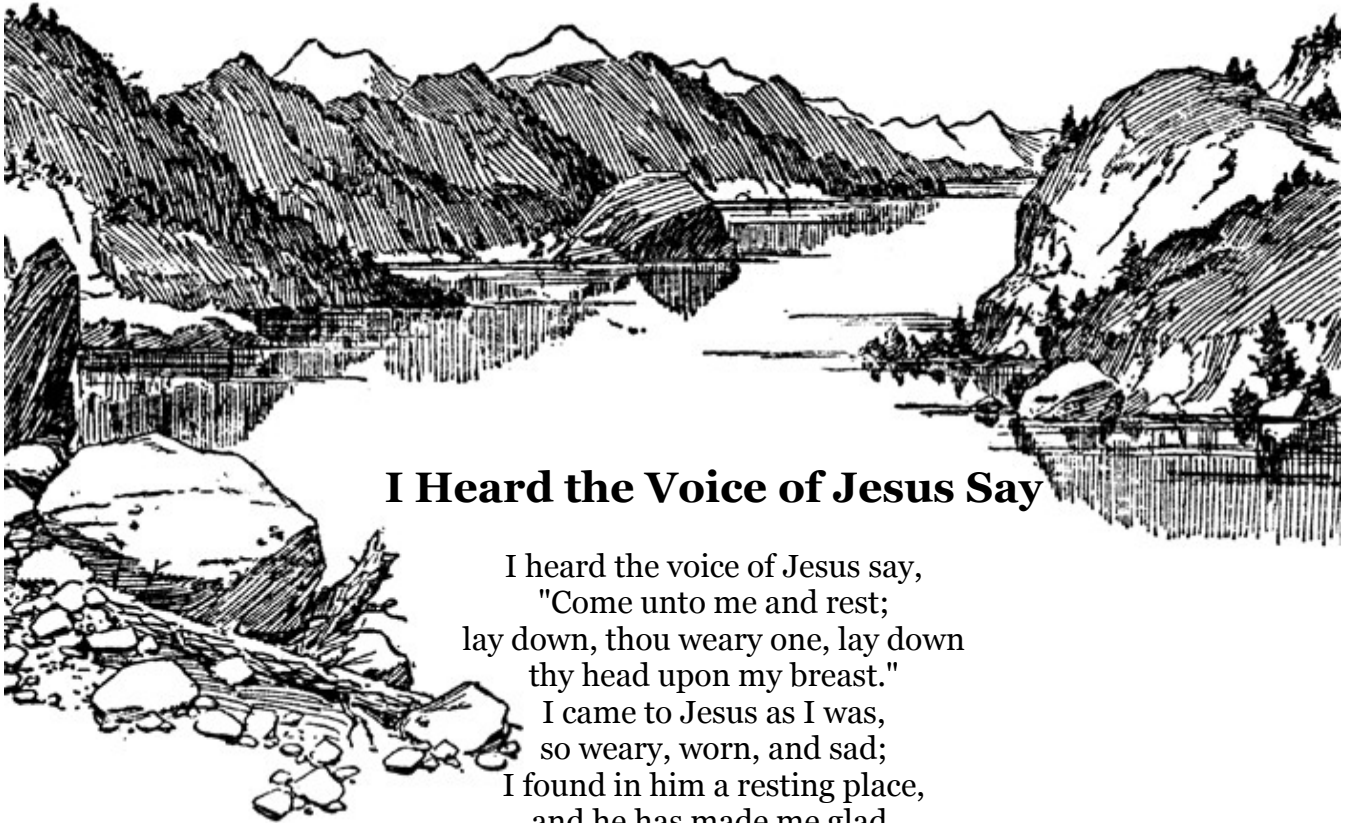




# Oak Leaves



## I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink, and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till traveling days are done.

*by Horatius Bonar*  
*Public Domain*

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# From the Student Aid Committee:

## Information from Everence

### *Private Student Loan Option*

Paying for college just got easier! Recognizing the need for private student loans for its members, Everence Federal Credit Union now offers a unique funding solution to students and their families with a new private student loan.

The loan can help pay for all qualified education expenses, including tuition, room and board, books, computers, even past due tuition bills. This program applies to new student loans, and the borrower's credit worthiness is based on more than just credit score; the calculation considers both the cosigner and borrower's credit bureau data as well as the borrower's academic attributes.

Members have access to a variety of online educational resources for the entire financial aid process. This private student loan option also includes a financial literacy component that helps students learn good credit habits and build their credit score while they are still in school.

Some additional benefits include:

- Competitive interest rates and with good grades, get even lower rates;
- 1-percent interest rate reduction once you repay 10 percent of the loan;
- 30-day no-fee return policy allows you to cancel the loan if you find a better option; and
- Email statement and small monthly \$25 payment that help build a credit score while still in college.

### *Sallie Mae Student Loan Referral Process*

Everence Federal Credit Union is also in partnership with Sallie Mae to offer members a private student loan option through a referral process. The "Smart Option Student Loan" will enable students to realize their dreams of higher education as well as encourage responsible borrowing and repayment behaviors.

With no origination fees, this program allows members to borrow the needed money up to 100 percent of the cost of education. Save over 20 percent throughout the loan by making \$25 monthly payments while in school and enjoy a 0.25-percent rate reduction by enrolling in automatic debit monthly payments. This makes the program an attractive way to bridge the gap between the available fund sources and the tuition. An easy online application and 24/7 online account management awaits!

## More about Everence

Everence Federal Credit Union offers many types of loans, including those for growing your small business, buying a home or paying for college. Faith-oriented services are our specialty. Apply online at [Everence.com](http://Everence.com) or call 800-451-5719.

Mennonite Foundation, an affiliate of Everence, can help you support your favorite charities while also receiving tax benefits, through their new, easy-to-use donor advised fund. To learn more, contact Myron Yoder, our Everence advocate, or visit the Charitable Services section of [Everence.com](http://Everence.com).

The Everence Sharing Fund gave \$3000 in 2010 in matching grants toward helping people in need in our congregation and community. These grants are made possible thanks to the many people who use Everence products and services. Thank you, Everence members!

# Vacation Bible School Celebrates 76 Years

The year was 1935. The three West Liberty Mennonite Churches were ready. It was now Monday morning, the first day of this new venture.

Trailers filled with child-size chairs arrived from Oak Grove and South Union. Teachers were prepared and children excited to participate in this new event. Bible school began at 9:00 each morning for the next two weeks and ended at 11:30 a.m.

Most of the children's classes were crowded in a large room in the Bethel church basement. Each class was partitioned with curtains. Bible stories were learned, verses memorized, songs sung, missionary stories told, and recess enjoyed. A special Bible school program was held at the end of the two weeks with parents and others from the three churches attending. The children shared what they'd learned.

In 1946, after 10 years of successful Vacation Bible School, all the churches of West Liberty participated in a community Bible school. It was held for two weeks at the West Liberty Elementary School. Mennonite curriculum, provided through the Mennonite Publishing House, was used. Teachers were mostly Mennonite.

It was now 1948. Oak Grove, Bethel and South Union decided to each have their own Bible school so more children could participate. Children from kindergarten through grade 10 were enrolled. Many in the church were involved. Some invited children to come, others transported the children to and from Bible school, or assisted teachers and helpers with meals or child care. As many as 200 children came to Oak Grove in those first years. A special graduation exercise was held for those who completed eight years, including grade 8. The class chose its own motto, colors, flower, and speakers. One of the exciting results of Bible school was the formation of our youth department.

Happy 76<sup>th</sup> birthday, Oak Grove Bible School! *May you faithfully continue to bless the children until Jesus comes.*

*June Hostetler, historian*

Research material taken from A History of Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty, Ohio, written by former pastor Eldon King in a term paper when he attended Goshen College. Also from memories of the writer.

## Andy Stoner's retirement

In recognition of Andy Stoner's 10 years of service as a regional pastor in the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA and in appreciation for his valuable service to Oak Grove, a gift was presented to Andy and his wife, Anita, on June 5 during the church service. It was a gift card to a bed and breakfast of their choice.

## Shaping Families

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

### **Weekend of July 2 – Mennonite Girls Can Cook**

*Charlotte Penner, one of the authors of the popular new Herald Press book, Mennonite Girls Can Cook is the guest on this week's Shaping Families program. Hear about the book and the blog that inspired it.*

### **Weekend of July 9 – Taking Time for Family**

*Dr. Martin Marty, an 80-something religious historian and prolific author, talks about his favorite memories from raising his family.*

### **Weekend of July 16 – Family Stories and Memories**

*Ervin Stutzman, executive director of Mennonite Church USA and the author of two Herald Press books about his parents, Tobias and Emma, was just three years old when his father was killed.*

### **Weekend of July 23 – Faith and Suicide**

*Spouses often respond to crisis differently. Fred and Gail share how the death of their son by suicide impacted their faith.*

### **Weekend of July 30 – Lasting Marriage**

*Harvey Yoder, author of Lasting Marriage: The Owner's Manual (Herald Press) has been a marriage counselor for many years, and offers personal and professional insights.*

## What is New in the Library?

*Take a look at some new additions to the church library! Thank you for those that have made donations! We appreciate any donations of recently published items. If you have any suggestions of materials to be added to the library, please let a committee member know! Lisa Hershberger, Sarah Leichty, Gretchen Christopher, Janet Schlabach*

**Report for Duty by Lily A. Bear** – World War 1 stirred intense patriotism. John Witmer soon found out that soldier boys didn't have much patience or mercy with conscientious objectors. Though verbal and physical abuse took an awful toll, John's heart was set to follow Christ's example of non-resistance to evil and God gave him grace to endure. This true account reminds us of the cost of discipleship and challenges us to faithfulness. *John Witmer is Esther Witmer's uncle—her father's brother.*

**Conversations with the Voiceless by John Wessells** – Written out of Wessells personal experience ministering to the severely impaired, brain-damaged, and the comatose, this book takes us to the real-world intersection of pain and faith. Learn about what some of the world's most helpless people can teach us about suffering and sorrow, the character of God and what it takes to be fully alive.

**My Father, Maker of the Trees, How I Survived the Rwandan Genocide by Eric Irvuzumugabe** – In 1994, 16-year-old Irvuzumugabe climbed a cypress tree and remained there for 15 days with little food or water to escape the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda. This is the story of both physical survival and spiritual rebirth as well the role he played in the healing and redemption of his people.

**Jumping Through Fires by David Nasser** (an Iranian Exile & former Muslim) – Nasser recalls being forced to escape from his native Iran during the 1979 Revolution and his transition from hating religion to having a living faith. This book will take you on a journey from religion and fear to the life-changing discovery of God's grace.

**Under the Overpass by Mike Yankoski** – Ever wonder what it would be like to live homeless? Yankoski, by his own choice, went from upper-middle-class plush to scum-of-the-earth repulsive overnight. With a backpack, sleeping bag and guitar, Mike and a friend lived life on the streets in 6 different cities. For 5 months they experienced firsthand the extreme hunger, danger, exhaustion, depression and social rejection of life on the streets. They wanted to find out if they could actually be the Christians they said they were apart from the comforts they'd always known.

**Divine by Karen Kingsbury** – a modern day telling of the story of Mary Magdalene – Mary Madison was a child of unspeakable horrors, a young woman that society wanted to forget. Now a divine power has set Mary free to bring life-changing hope and love to battered and abused women living in Washington DC...

**Seasons of Grace Series by Beverly Lewis** –

Grace Byler longs to discover the truth behind her mother's secretive ways and eventual disappearance. Sure the reason has to do with her father's uncommunicative ways, Grace breaks off her own betrothal to and is resigned to remain single. But then the young Amishman she thought was courting her best friend takes a sudden interest in her... "Englisher" Heather Nelson has come to Amish country to relive fond memories of her mother, and to find answers for a grave medical prognosis of her own. While in Bird-in-Hand, Heather meets Grace and the two young women strike a fast friendship. Will Grace and Heather find what they are looking for... or much more than they bargained for? (3 books - **The Secrets, The Missing, The Telling**)

**A Place to Call Home Series by Al & Joanna Lacy** –

Follow the story of Cherokee Rose, accepted by her Cherokee Tribe, but also set apart by being both a Christian and mixed-blood. Can she survive the "Trail of Tears" as she makes the trek with her tribe the Smoky Mountains to Oklahmoa? (3 books – **Cherokee Rose, Bright are the Stars, The Land of Promise**)

**The Lonestar Series by Colleen Coble** –

**Lonestar Sanctuary** - Though tragedy has wrecked her life, Allie Siders holds on to the hope that her five-year-old daughter, Betsy, will speak again. But with a stalker out for revenge, all Allie can think about now is their safety. She must sever all ties and abandon life as she knows it. She heads to the peaceful Bluebird Ranch, nestled deep in Texas hill country, and to the only person who can help them.

**Lonestar Homecoming** - Gracie has spent her life running from her problems. This time, it's a matter of life and

death. With nothing but five dollars, a train ticket, and the wedding dress she's wearing, Gracie Lister escapes with her daughter to the West Texas country where her family fell apart years ago.

***Lonestar Secrets*** - Shannon Astor returns to southwest Texas to serve as the town's veterinarian, believing she's finally found the space to get her life back on track. Then she catches a glimpse of Jack MacGowan, the man who ruined her life years before. But even more shocking is the sight of Jack's five-year-old daughter Faith, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Shannon's own daughter Kylie...

## **Get to know the Pratts...**

Ryan grew up in Elida and graduated from Wright State. He moved to Bellefontaine in 2007, when he began working for Logan County Children's Services, where he is now the intake unit supervisor. He also works with the Logan County Sheriff's Office as a detective for child crime cases. Ryan loves to cook, and we entertain neighbors, friends, and family often at our house on Columbus St in West Liberty.

Amy grew up in Rosewood, & graduated from Graham. She spent more than her fair share of time around West Liberty growing up, hanging out with cousins (McCullough's), tumbling at Mad River Gymnastics, and working at the Big Orange and Ohio Caverns. Amy graduated from Ohio State & Andrews University. Amy & Andrew moved to West Liberty in 2006, and spent many nights sitting on the bench at the Ice Cream Parlor! Amy works for the Miami Valley Regional Center as a Pediatric Physical Therapist (in schools, traveling a lot) & is very excited at the thought of working only 4 days a week next school year!

Ryan & Amy met during the week of power outages from the hurricane in September 2008, when Ryan was hanging out at Reminders because they had power & he didn't. He took Amy on her first motorcycle ride on their first date (to Young's for ice cream and putt-putt), and they spent countless hours removing wallpaper in Amy's new house getting to know each other. They got married at Piatt Castles in 2009.

Andrew will be 7 this summer, & just finished Kindergarten at WL-S, where he was in the mile club. He is looking forward to lots of time at the pool this summer, and to a stop on vacation at Legoland in Chicago! He likes to run and play soccer, and he loves his Legos. He also loves to sing. About everything he's doing. All the time. He's a fantastic big brother, always helping, playing, and laughing with Carter.

Carter is almost a year old already! He's insisting on walking everywhere all of a sudden, pushing clothes baskets or toys around. He loves watching everything Andrew does, and even cried for his "Ah-dah" as Andrew got on the bus for school every day this spring! He also loves to make lots of noise, and to eat. If people are clapping or somebody says "woohoo!!", you might see him throw his arms up over his head--this is Carter doing the wave, like Andrew & Grammie taught him one day this spring.

As a family, we like to boat, camp & hike, and we have volunteered for TAASC (Adaptive Sports for people with disabilities). We also run the JK5K every year (Andrew was 3rd in the 13 & under age group last year!!).

We appreciate that our neighbors talked us into trying Oak Grove when we were "church shopping"-- everybody was so welcoming that Amy continued to attend while Ryan spent his weekends in police academy, so that all the shopping was finished when he graduated!

## **Ministry Inquiry Program Intern Update**

*from Beth Yoder*

Hello from Elkhart, Indiana! I am nearing the end of my 3rd week of MIP (ministry inquiry program), which also counts as my senior internship. This summer I am working with two congregations, Belmont Mennonite Church and Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship. I have already made several connections with people from West Liberty or who are related to people in West Liberty. It's nice to have some commonality instead of a complete group of strangers to work with.

Since I'm working with two congregations, I have two supervisors- a pastor from each, as well as the lead pastor in

the morning congregation- so more like 3 mentors! So, I get to be involved with all kinds of things. A few things I have been involved with already include, Vacation Bible School, scripture reading during the morning service, attending a mission commission meeting, attending a worship commission meeting, and accepting the position of high school Sunday school teacher for the evening service for the rest of the summer. I'm pretty excited about this last addition to my activities. I plan on introducing the students to several different prayer practices I've learned, as well as planning some outside-of-church activities, including a spiritual retreat. This weekend I'll be attending the Indiana-Michigan regional conference, which I'm also really excited for! In July I'll be at Pittsburgh as a non-voting delegate for Goshen College, so I'll see a number of you there. One other committee I'm part of is the search committee for a part-time assistant campus pastor for Goshen College. I'm really enjoying seeing the other side of many church and school components I don't normally see.

This summer I'm staying with a family from the morning congregation. They have two daughters- an 11 year old and a 14 year old, and I love having younger sisters again! I really enjoy living with them, as well as being introduced to a different style of living- 3/4 of the household are vegetarian, and they live consciously trying to reduce their carbon footprint.

I will have more stories to share at the end of my summer. Thank you all for continued prayers; I so much appreciate it!

## **The Latest**

*from Heather Yoder*

A little bird, in the form of a facebook message, recently requested an Oak Leaves update on the life of Heather Yoder. Normally, I would say that it isn't a very happening time, but I'm currently excited about it for a variety of reasons, so I'll go ahead and share them with you.

As you may know, I graduated from EMU this spring on a rather rainy day. Fortunately, the rain let up by the time all of us grads had to put down our umbrellas and walk across the stage. On the whole, I really think I liked the rain better than the large amounts of heat I'm told accompanied graduation days for the past several years.

This past semester was mostly spent working on my senior paper. At least, the bits of it that I remember were spent with the paper. It was a bit all consuming. My fun class of the semester was a creative writing class. I enjoyed it, but we didn't form as close a relationship as my poetry class in the fall, which influenced me to take the creative writing in the first place.

When all was said and done, papers turned in, exams finished, exorbitant graduation costs paid (note to all future college grads: you don't have to wear the cap and gown! It's just a scheme to get you to pay more money!), I found myself with a degree in English and a minor in TESOL. Who knew?!

In an effort to put my four years of backbreaking labor and large amounts of money spent to good use, I'll be teaching ESL in Japan beginning in August. My school is in Osaka, about 3 hours southwest of Tokyo by train and far away from Sendai (in case you're wondering). My apartment is in Kobe, about an hour commute, above Kobe Mennonite Church.

I visited Japan the week after graduation to interview and sign things. I was mostly very tired and a little sick, so I don't remember loads, but I do remember that I loved it and that I can't wait to go back.

Until then, I'm bumming off my parents, trying to make myself useful-cooking, making jam, occasionally mowing the lawn, etc. I have Japanese class twice a week, which is enjoyable as well as useful. Sometime this summer, I want to visit Beth at her MIP placement, go to MI to see the fam, and visit Baltimore to see people I know from MVS. And for my b-day, hopefully we're going to the zoo. Pretty excited about that :)

Well, I guess that's about all for now. Come visit me in Japan!

## **Who Am I?** (Answer can be found in this issue of the Oak Leaves marked with an \*)

- I was born in Bellefontaine, OH and grew up on RR2 in West Liberty.
- A favorite childhood memory is going to a Cincinnati Reds game with my Grandpa.
- My first job was driving a tractor with a hay baler.
- I am currently reading the Mennonite Weekly Review.
- Not many people know that I have been knocked out 3 different times in my life. Should we suspect brain damage?
- I would love to visit more of the western US. I love the Plain states.
- If I had no work responsibilities for the day, I would spent time with my family.
- I love the old hymn, "Church in the Wildwood".
- At Oak Grove I appreciate all the different types of people blending together as one.

## **Who Am I?** (Answer can be found in this issue of the Oak Leaves marked with an \*\*)

- I was born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. I grew up in Michigan, Long Island and Northern Illinois.
- I have many favorite childhood memories, but I especially remember baking bread with my mother. She would give us each a section of the dough and we could shape it any way that we wanted and it was our own loaf to eat at dinner.
- My first job was babysitting.
- I'm not really a reader, so I usually only read the Bible.
- Not many people know that I went to 9 different schools before graduating from High School.
- I would like to visit Maine.
- I enjoy sewing, baking, knitting and cross-stitch.
- If I had no responsibilities for the day, I would spend it sewing.
- I appreciate all the support Oak Grove has given our family, especially in the past 2 years.
- One of my favorite passages of the Bible is Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[a]?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*Matthew 6:25-34*

# Independence Day

*A personal reflection by Larry Steider, written at the request of the Oak Leaves committee.*

There are two holidays that Mennonites seem to be conflicted about celebrating. One is Memorial day and the other is Independence Day July 4. Historically, our church has taught that our primary allegiance is not with one church, city, state, nation, or continent but rather to the God of *all* creation.

How do we reconcile these beliefs with showing the proper respect for the country in which we live? I think that we can all agree that we live very blessed lives and have innumerable freedoms because of being born in the U.S. Many of these freedoms came at the expense of the lives of those who have chosen to take up arms to defend our way of life.

I will not attempt at this time to suggest what the appropriate response is to these holidays, but rather offer a few thoughts on how we should respond to those with whom we have divergent views. This issue came to mind the week after Memorial Day while I was mowing lawn. I had been worship leader on the Sunday of Memorial weekend and I realized that absolutely no reference was made to the holiday. Even though many in our congregation have served in the military or had ancestors die while serving, no mention was made of the cultural significance of that day. I personally do not feel that a big production should have been made, especially after having been in a church on Memorial Day in which fighter jets, flags, and the cross were superimposed in a very militaristic video production. What did cause me to have second thoughts on what was said or not said was the scripture text from that week which was I Peter 3:8-22. In this passage, the writer says to *seek peace and pursue it*, and instructs us not to repay evil for evil, and to be able to give an answer for what we believe, but do it with gentleness and love. Verses 15 and 16 say, *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

As pacifists, we are too often unloving in sharing our stance. We may not show gentleness or respect when sharing the message of "peace." We are often unable to truly listen to other points of view. These two holidays should be an opening for us to share the *reason for our hope* but also be open to listening to those Christians who may have a different understanding of the believer's relationship to the government.

# Plant a Garden

*by Edgar Albert Guest  
1881-1959*

If your purse no longer bulges  
and you've lost your golden treasure,

If at times you think you're lonely  
and have hungry grown for pleasure,

Don't sit by your hearth and grumble,  
don't let mind and spirit harden.

If it's thrills of joy you wish for  
get to work and plant a garden!

If it's drama that you sigh for,  
plant a garden and you'll get it.

You will know the thrill of battle  
fighting foes that will beset it.

If you long for entertainment and  
for pageantry most glowing,

Plant a garden and this summer spend  
your time with green things growing.

If it's comradeship you sight for,  
learn the fellowship of daisies.

You will come to know your neighbor  
by the blossoms that he raises;

If you'd get away from boredom  
and find new delights to look for,

Learn the joy of budding pansies  
which you've kept a special nook for.

If you ever think of dying  
and you fear to wake tomorrow

Plant a garden! It will cure you  
of your melancholy sorrow

Once you've learned to know peonies,  
petunias, and roses,

You will find every morning  
some new happiness discloses.

*More about the poet: Edgar was from Birmingham, England and came to the US as a boy. He began as a copy boy at the Detroit Free Press and then a reporter and his first poem appeared in 1898. He penned some 11,000 poems He was made Poet Laureate of Michigan, the only poet to have been awarded the title.*

# Recipes

*two from Lisa Hershberger*

In the summer we always have loads of zucchini and tomatoes and I'm always looking for different ways to use them up. I found this recipe in a magazine and it has become a summer favorite in our house. We especially like it with the feta cheese option.

## **Calibasita**

4 small zucchini, diced  
2 tsp salt  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced  
4 ears sweet corn, kernels cut off  
2 Roma tomatoes, diced  
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella or feta cheese (optional)

1. Place diced zucchini in a colander set over a bowl. Sprinkle with salt: toss and let stand 20 minutes (This draws the excess liquid out of the zucchini)
2. Transfer zucchini to a kitchen towel and pat dry (this step is worth the time – keeps the zucchini from getting watery during cooking)
3. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 3-5 minutes until soft.
4. Add zucchini and corn kernels. Sauté 6-7 minutes until almost tender.
5. Add diced tomato, sauté 2-3 minutes until softened and zucchini is tender. Remove from heat and stir in cheese if desired.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is another favorite recipe in our house, Andy especially loves it. We eat it with our meal like a sweet bread or muffin or as a coffee cake.

## **Blueberry Oat Cake**

1 cup fresh (or frozen) blueberries  
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup rolled oats  
2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
1 cup white sugar  
6 oz vanilla fat-free yogurt (about 2/3 cup)  
1 Tbsp lemon juice  
1/4 cup milk  
2 large eggs  
Cinnamon sugar for topping

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9x5x3 loaf pan.

Combine the blueberries with flour, oats, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and sugar.

In another bowl, whisk yogurt with lemon juice: whisk in the milk and eggs. Pour yogurt mixture into dry ingredients and stir until blended. Spoon into the prepared loaf pan; sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture (about 3 tsp sugar to 1/4 tsp cinnamon)

Bake for 35-45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

(\* Steve Yoder)

## **A Confectionary Confession**

After receiving a couple questions about the “Rhubarb Dream Bars” in last month’s issue, I feel obliged to admit I did not try it myself until after publication. I had come across this when looking for rhubarb recipes and submitted it with every intention of testing it before any of you. Then our rhubarb dwindled...but I am happy to report that when it revived enough to make them, the bars were definitely worth the wait—in more ways than one! They required 30 extra minutes of baking even in my hot gas oven, but reminded me of pie and inspired Lena to say she was going to have “sweet rhubarb dreams.”

Thanks!! *Andrea*

# Haiti Mission Trip Fundraiser Lunch



In October, Oak Grove and other area churches are sending teams to Haiti to bring medicine and help to sick and injured earthquake victims. You are invited to help by attending the luncheon at Oak Grove following the worship service on Sunday, July 31. Donations for the meal will help with travel expenses and purchase of prescription and over-the-counter medicines that are not donated. The menu will have an island flare with pulled pork sandwiches, veggies, potato salad, banana bread, mixed fruit salad and fruit drink. Bring your family and friends, but register at the narthex table or in your Sunday school class so there will be enough food and seating. Thanks, *Outreach Committee*

## Mennonite Women

*Valerie Kauffman*

Recently, I found a paper on the narthex table that described the April meeting of Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women. It was really interesting and there were even pictures, showing many women—including several from Oak Grove--and one man (the youth pastor at Bethel). Perhaps you are familiar with this group already. I remember that at my church, when I was a child, it was called “Sewing Circle.” That was back when it was officially known as WMSC (Women's Missionary and Service Commission). From the pictures, I could see that Lydia was there, so I decided to ask her more about it. I learned that:

- The group meets at Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty.
- They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- They start at 9 and end at 2:30, but you don't have to come for the whole time.
- They meet year-round except for June, when Bethel holds their Bible school.
- The women take turns being hostesses.
- The group eats lunch together and has devotions.
- They typically do sewing, but that is not all they do. The projects help people around the world.
- Donna Leaman, of Bethel, is the secretary.
- Generally, Rudelle Matthews, Miriam Headings, Dorothea Headings and Lydia King from OG attend. You are welcome to join them! Even if you do not consider yourself much of a sewer, I'm pretty sure they could still use you (or teach you)!

Finally, here is the article I mentioned about their April meeting (without the pictures, sorry):

It was a special day for the Mennonite Women's group—our day to share with the South Union group. So, some additional projects were available. A group iced cut-out Easter cookies which would be given to Adriel, Bethel Homework Help, and Mac-O-Chee. (Thanks to Jan Smucker, the cookies were baked and ready to be iced!) Also, envelopes were addressed and stamped for Adriel, blocks were cut out, and comforters and quilts needed stitches! At noon we gathered in the children's department for lunch. The tables were decorated with sewing memorabilia, and in the kitchen the serving counter was “loaded” with potluck goodies. Before eating, Mary Psolla greeted our visitors, and “Happy Birthday” was sung to a visitor, Florence Bucher—age 90! (*That's Ryan's grandmother*).

After the meal, Mary gave a little resume of the meeting that was held at Jubilee the previous Saturday. The day's focus was on our responsibility to be a hospitable people. The mission focus was on Adriel, Sunshine Home and Camp Luz.

For “Show and Tell,” Rudelle Matthews had a “Tell”; her grandson, Lyle Blaker will be performing with the “Blue Man Group” in Las Vegas. Elaine Newcomer showed a doll—a BIG doll!--which she recently crocheted together from blocks which had been donated to Bethel.

Books read: AnnaBelle recommended “Same Kind of Different Me”--about a black man and a white man corresponding back and forth. (Bethel library).

In our continuing "Life is a Journey" devotional time, Ellen Steiner shared her testimony. She was born near Kitchener, Ontario. Her father left a factory job to pursue ministry; so Ellen grew up as a preacher's kid, so she was greatly influenced by church people in her life. A traumatic time was when he changed pastorates in her school years. She well remembers an older lady in one of the churches who was a good influence in displaying her reliance on God as a widow raising 5 children. In attending college at Goshen, Ellen met her future husband, Doug Steiner, and is mother to now a 13 and 15 year old. Lately, she has been having devotional times reading "The Message" translation, and she shared some verses from Proverbs 31, "An excellent wife who can find?" The verses were a challenge for us all. (\*\* June Seymour)

- 33 in attendance
- Work completed: 3 comforters, 2 newborn bundles, 11 dozen cookies iced!
- Janice, Kyle and Donna were hostesses. Thanks to Bob Rabenstein and Joe Lehman for setting up/taking down the tables between the classrooms.

## Happy Birthday to . . .

- 1 Valerie Kauffman
- 3 Penny Hawke
- 5 Isaiah Reminder
- 6 Kendall Nichols
- 8 Tony Clasen
- 8 Miriam Headings
- 10 Earl Hawke
- 13 Clara Kauffman
- 16 Tony King
- 18 John Overholt
- 18 Isla Leichty
- 19 Emma Newman
- 19 Jake Leichty
- 20 Ruby Paul
- 20 Andrew Kimball
- 23 Heather Yoder
- 24 Braden Hershberger
- 26 Zane Magrew
- 26 Darrin Leichty
- 28 Jason Steider
- 29 Jon Leichty
- 30 Jarrod Shoemaker
- 31 Jason Yoder

## PSALM 118:22-24

|          |            |       |         |
|----------|------------|-------|---------|
| THE      | OF         | IN    | HATH    |
| STONE    | THE        | OUR   | MADE;   |
| WHICH    | CORNER.    | EYES, | WE      |
| THE      | THIS       | THIS  | WILL    |
| BUILDERS | IS         | IS    | REJOICE |
| REFUSED  | THE        | THE   | AND     |
| IS       | LORD'S     | DAY   | BE      |
| BECOME   | DOING;     | WHICH | GLAD    |
| THE      | IT         | THE   | IN      |
| HEAD     | IS         | LORD  | IT.     |
| STONE    | MARVELLOUS |       |         |

M A D E S U F E R M O F  
 Q A N D I S M W E K L J  
 L O R D X O E J N O Q W  
 I N E V C P H S R T H E  
 I T H E E H T D O I N G  
 T C B N E L S T C B E L  
 H H O U R M L H H I S A  
 I T E K E C I O J E R D  
 S H S R E D L I U B J A  
 W I L L K A E Y E S Q Y  
 E S T O N E H T I S I T  
 I N I S W H I C H A T H

## Happy Anniversary to . . .

- 7 Rod and Billie Yoder
- 8 Darren and Kate Turner
- 13 Stan and Geneva Thoman
- 22 Steve and Surena Neer
- 30 Joe and Julie Hartsel



Remember, Bible school is July 17-22, 6-8:30 pm!  
Invite your friends (and be sure to register!)  
Enjoy singing, games, crafts and more!  
Don't miss it!

## Green Jeans

*Turning old clothes into blankets. . .article from Beyond Ourselves publication*

Harold and Elaine Yoder were serving as first-time SOOP volunteers in Mashulaville, Miss., when Elaine had the idea to turn used clothing into blankets. While sorting clothing for the ministry's thrift store, Elaine saw a growing pile of donated clothing that was unacceptable for resale. She recognized the pile of cast-off jeans as a source of raw materials. "We can turn these clothes into blankets!" Elaine told Harold. Each night they would tote clothes back to the dormitory where Elaine would wash, dry and bag the clothing, preparing to take it back home to Middlebury, Ind. Back in Indiana, Elaine enlisted friends and strangers to help with her blanket project. From casual acquaintances at the post office to parents of her grandson's soccer teammates, Elaine soon acquired a core group of five sewing volunteers. The quilts have gone to the Mashulaville Dormitory and to American Red Cross offices in Elkhart, Ind., and New Orleans, where they are distributed to families who have lost their homes in fires.

*Serve with SOOP: [www.Service.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.Service.MennoniteMission.net)*

## A few ideas for summer when the children get BORED!

- Pan for gold. Bury pennies in the sand box. Your kids can search for the pennies using plastic sieves or colanders.
- Conduct a neighborhood tricycle wash.
- Write secret messages to each other using white crayon on white paper. To decipher the message, tell the person to paint the paper with watercolors, and the message will appear.
- Bake brownies with your children and send the goodies to a friend they met at camp or to one who moved away.
- Make superhero capes for stuffed animals with scraps of fabric. When your kids see them, they'll want capes, too!
- Have a progressive dinner with two other families. Eat salad at one home, the main course at the next, and have dessert at the last, along with a big game of hide-and-seek, kick ball, or volleyball.
- Let the kids plan menus and shop for groceries with a budgeted amount of money.

--Excerpt from *The Family Manager's Guide to Summer Survival* by Kathy Peel

## April 17, 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT. John's hand fell limply against the postcard lying on top of the mail he had just pulled from his father's post office box. WAR DEPARTMENT. The stark black wording on the return address shattered all hope of a miraculous delivery. There was no question; he was being called into military duty. With sinking heart, he turned the card over and read the words in bold print.

--Excerpt from *Report for Duty* by Lily A. Bear (see What is New in the Library?)

**Genesis 8:22** While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

We SO much appreciate each person who contributes to Oak Leaves. The more contributions we receive, the more fun it is to read! So, we hope to hear from you again soon! If you have ideas for future content, let us know! **The deadline for the August issue is July 24.** Put things in the Oak Leaves mailbox, or email them to [rv@kauffmanfamily.net](mailto:rv@kauffmanfamily.net) or [oakleaves@oakgrovemennonite.org](mailto:oakleaves@oakgrovemennonite.org) Thank you. Lisa, Esther & Valerie