

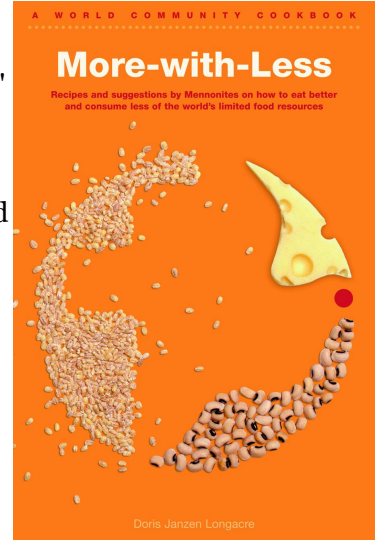
Oak Leaves

Oak Grove Mennonite Church
Monthly Newsletter

West Liberty, Ohio
June 2010

Resisting "Hostess with the Mostest"

On a recent vacation I browsed through several copies of Martha Stewart's Living magazine from the library. Each issue was a feast of gorgeous photographs and spectacular ideas. Martha's magazines are seductive. As I flipped through them, I dreamt of my friends' accolades as I placed perfectly plated and garnished meals before them, the reputation I would earn for being "the hostess with the mostest." But then there were the haunting, darker thoughts: What if the Layered Spring Omelet didn't stack up as prettily as in the picture? Would people notice if I used plain old table salt instead of the coarse sea salt listed in the recipe? Reading Martha's magazine, you start to think it's not simply welcoming friends into your home that matters. It's the effort and expense you incur to host them, and the impression you make with very tricky recipes that really counts. I found an antidote for my Martha-induced anxiety in Doris Janzen Longacre's gracious and lucid introduction to the More-with-Less Cookbook. Could Doris have foreseen how Martha Stewart would influence us when she said: "... the fact that in North America we tend to feast nonstop can dull our festive joy ... We require more and more trimming to turn any celebration into a meal distinguishable from our daily diet." Or when she said: "Serving guests becomes an ego trip, rather than a relaxed meeting of friends around that most common everyday experience of sharing food. Gathering around the table in fellowship turns into entertaining." Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia wouldn't be the vast empire it is today if everyone heeded Doris' timeless advice of 35 years ago: "Hold in clear perspective the reason for celebrating. Don't expect food to be the total experience. More with less means affirming faith and relationships as the basis for celebrating, and letting food play a complementary role." If the world had a little more Doris Janzen Longacre, and a little less Martha Stewart, we might all be enjoying our gatherings with friends a lot more with a lot less. The next time you're fretting over those fussy garnishes and mismatched table settings, put that Martha Stewart magazine away and go back to your copy of More-with-Less. Doris has some really, really good advice for you.



Pam Peters-Pries is a writer from Blumenort, Manitoba. Reprinted from the April, 2010 issue of Purpose, a monthly publication from Mennonite Publishing Network that offers inspiration for daily Christian life. Go to www.mpn.net/purpose for more information.

Spicy Nut Triangles

- 1 c. soft butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg separated
- 2 c. flour
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1 c. chopped nuts

Lightly grease jelly roll pan. Cream butter and sugar. Add egg yolk, beat well. Add flour, nuts and cinnamon, stirring well. Spread in jelly roll pan. Beat egg white slightly and brush over top. Bake at 275 for 1 hour. Cut into triangles.

-from Nancy Hostetler, served at Alyse Regier's shower and got lots of requests for the recipe

Happy Father's Day!

May you celebrate the many ways
that fathers have affected your
life in a positive way.

Psalm 103:13

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the
LORD has compassion on those who fear him.*

Dick's Dialogue

Finding God in the Journey

This week I begin my three month sabbatical. I graciously accept it as a gift both from God and from you, the congregation. It is not something that I take lightly. I see it as a time for rest, refreshment, and renewal. Before Jesus began his ministry he went into the wilderness to be alone with God for a period of 40 days. Many times throughout the gospels we find Jesus going off to be alone with God to rest, renew, re-focus and to make sure his will was aligned with God's will. He then returned to continue on in his ministry for which God had called him.

One of the primary focuses of my sabbatical will be to spend much time alone with God. I have several weeks scheduled, dispersed throughout the three months, to do just that. My desire is also to spend considerable time with family. Mary & I have planned for a week alone in Amish country of Holmes County. I also have several shorter trips planned to visit family in New York and North Carolina.

I also see my sabbatical as a time of study. While my primary focus will be trying to experience God's presence, I want to take time to look at our past, our present, and our future, not just at Oak Grove but also as the bigger Mennonite church from its beginnings in the 1500's. What are the core beliefs that our faith was founded upon and how do they still apply to us today in the 21st century? How do we continue to live them out in the 21st century?

That which I am looking most forward to is a delegation assignment with a Christian Peacemakers Team in Israel/Palestine from July 20th - August 2nd.

Jesus says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). Peace and non-violence has traditionally been one of the core elements of our faith as Christians and especially as Mennonites. It seems to me that we cannot really call ourselves "peacemakers" unless we are willing to put ourselves in circumstances that cause us to be "peacemakers." Christian Peacemakers Teams motto is "Getting in the Way," with its focus statement "What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to non-violent peacemaking that armies devote to war?" The delegation will be meeting with both sides of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, spending time in Old City Jerusalem, time with Palestinian families, and actively patrolling the streets with current Peacemaker Teams on assignment in Hebron. If you would like to learn more, you can check on Christian Peacemakers Team web-site at www.cpt.org

Not knowing whether I will ever again have the opportunity to tour the Middle East, at the completion of my CPT delegation assignment my tentative plan is to remain in Jerusalem for a few days and to tour the Holy Land. It is my hope and prayer that I will experience God's presence, not only in the area where Christ was born and carried out his ministry, but throughout my entire sabbatical, whether at home or away. It is also my hope and prayer that each and every one may experience God during my three months away, as I look forward to my return with new energy and a renewed sense of God's will for Oak Grove in the years that lie ahead.

"Sharing the Love of Christ in our community and around the world,"

Pastor Dick

An excerpt of a thank you letter from Ohio Conference:

"...20 pastoral transitions were highlighted at Annual Conference Assembly. The regional pastors and conference minister are hard at work helping make effective matches between congregations and pastoral candidates. We are both able to attract new pastoral candidates to our conference (50% of the 20) as well as retain pastors who are open to new assignments within the conference (the other 50%)..."

An excerpt from a letter from Mennonite Education Agency:

"...Mennonite Education Agency thanks the congregation for its generous support of MEA and its schools. We are devoted to working with you in passing on the faith to the next generation as mentioned in Psalm 78. We would welcome receiving any additional contributions by our June 30 year end..."

In Memory of Ronald James Headings

May 9, 1952 - August 18, 2009

"What moves through us is a silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch. We may not understand why you left this earth so soon, or why you left before we were ready to say good-bye, but little by little, we begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived, and that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget. --SMSgt Andrew Nadzan, PopeAFB, NC

Some of Ron's wisdom, shared by his daughter Holiday

"You get a flat tire, you can scream, swear, fight or be mad at the world. Regardless, you still have a flat tire."

"It is what it is."

"If you don't have time to do something right, when will you have time to do it over?"

"No one can make me upset without my permission."

"If you just tell the truth, then you don't have to remember anything."

"Family is the cure for depression, loneliness and disease, so why do we avoid the family in hard times?"

"If you sign up for it, you finish it."

"I had to be a great student before I could become a great teacher. Teaching is not about telling you what to do; it's being that way, and showing you how to do it."

-Miriam Headings

Did you know. . .

Oak Grove will be serving at the West Liberty Cares food pantry in June? We need volunteers to sign up to work any of the 5 Wednesdays from 11 AM until 2 PM. Monetary donations can be made through the offering and donated food may be placed in the narthex cabinet. No home-canned food can be distributed and all non-perishable food must not be past the shelf-life date. Used Christian books will be offered to pantry visitors as a way to extend our love and to reinforce the scripture that "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 There is a box beneath the mailboxes for your unwanted books. Used children's books are needed for the Mercy Hospital Well Child Clinic, too.

-Anita Bartlett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3-Jeneane Overholt
6-Addy Hartsel
7-Emma Childs
8-Dave Kuhl
11-Jacob Regier
Danielle King
14-Renee Neer
18-Rod Hager
24-Roxanne Kauffman
25-Jack Overholt
28-Mary Esh
29-Susan Hawke
30-June Hostetler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

4-Mary & Rachel Nichols
5-Patrick & Michelle Neer
7-Jake & Grace Leichty
Zane & Myrna Magrew
11-Jim & Anita Bartlett
John & June Seymour
12-Andy & Lisa Hershberger
Arlis & Marilyn Gascho
13-Mike & Shelly King
16-Steve & Christine Yoder
17-Steve & Vicki Park
18-Jon & Kim Leichty
20-Jon & Erica Alspaugh
23-Jason & Amy Steider
Todd & Barbara Buschur
24-Reed & LeAnn Jones
26-Alan & Kari Regier
Darrin & Sarah Leichty
28-Joel & Andrea Kauffman
Tony & Mary Classen

Find the books of the Bible by reading the clues and filling in the blanks.

1. The border or an edge of a garment.

NE _____ IAH

2. Charitable gift to relieve poor.

PS _____

3. Antonym of "profit"

CO _____ IANS

4. Plural of "man".

LA _____ TATIONS

5. Great body of salt water.

HO _____

6. We spread it on the floor.

_____ THEW

7. A grand celebration of festivals.

_____ TIANS

Work Wanted:

Childcare in Your Home

I am available M-F 6:30 PM-midnight, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon and evening. I am comfortable with children of all ages, and am comfortable watching up to 5 children at once.



Please contact me (Beth Yoder)
at 937 465 8180

or 937 844 9175
or email bethany@goshen.edu

I am looking for either a steady
job
or occasional as you need it.

*I have a job application pending
but if that falls through I will be
available during the day M-F as
well.

Congratulations to our high school graduates!

Josh Kauffman-Bellefontaine-I will be attending Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio where I will be playing baseball. I will be majoring in Education.

Ashley Hager-WL-after graduation I will be attending Hesston College with a major in Visual Arts.

Ashley Overholt-WL-attending Ohio University and is majoring in Journalism. Also I am considering minoring in French. I will move in on Sept 2nd and classes start on Sept. 7th.

Jenna Hostetler-WL- is attending Wright State University and majoring in accounting. I am moving in Sept 1st and classes start Sept 7th.

Sean King-WL-I am attending Columbus State to major in business administration.

Shelby Siegenthaler-WL-after graduation I will be attending the Ohio State University. I plan to major in accounting and minor in French. This summer I will be working at Fat Boys Pizza and Wishwell Farms as a means to pay for my college education. While in school I plan to work on campus.

Grace Yoder-WL-This summer I will be working at Blue Jacket Dairy and Crown Gymnastics Studios. This fall I will be attending Hesston College with a major in accounting. After Hesston I will be transferring to EMU. Thanks for all your support and please keep me in your prayers as I start this new chapter in my life.

Hannah Hartsel-WL-next year I plan to attend the University of Findlay. There I am majoring in pre-physical therapy. Also while there I will be participating in the marching band and hopefully the concert band as well.

Dad

Since Father's Day is in June I wanted to share some memories I have from growing up working with my Dad. I am blessed to have grown up on a farm and being able to spend time with my Dad working alongside of him. I suppose I probably got in the way sometimes when I was a little boy but I never remember Dad losing his patience with me. He would always let me help him if there were things for me to help him with.

We raised turkeys until I was nine years old and some of my fondest memories are helping Dad with the turkeys. We got the turkeys delivered to us when they were one day old and I remember helping fill the waters and feeders. We had to trim their beaks so they didn't peck each other. There was a specific way to trim the beak and I remember Dad teaching me. I know I did some of them wrong and Dad said they probably wouldn't make it but he never got upset. Later on it was time to clean out the turkey barn. It was before we had a skid loader and the roof line was low so the loader tractor could not reach everything. Dad would use a pitch fork and a shovel to clean about half the barn. I think it took him a week to do but I never heard him complain. After the turkeys were bigger they got moved from the turkey barn to the outside. Outside the turkeys were easy prey for foxes and dogs. I remember Dad spending many nights sleeping in his pickup truck keeping watch over the turkeys.

My Dad and Uncle Jack shared a hay baler together. We baled hay and straw all summer long. When I was seven it was time for me to help and my Dad would load all the hay on the wagon while I drove the tractor pulling the hay baler. I was a really small boy and could not push the clutch in on the

tractor so my Dad would drive the tractor to the field get the tractor going in the correct direction on the right windrow. Then he would jump off and go back and load the wagon while I steered the tractor. When the wagon got full then he would run up and jump on the tractor to stop it.

We would freeze many dozen of sweet corn each summer. I remember my Dad would always pick the corn. He could tell when it was ready for picking by feeling the outside of the husk. He would pick it very early in the morning when there was heavy dew. Dad would use twine string to tie an old feed bag to the front of him so he didn't get all wet from the dew. Dad would let me drive the pickup truck beside the rows to put the corn in. I was still many years away from having my license. I thought that was awesome.

We had some beef cows and

calves on pasture and the cows would reach over the fence to get at the field corn. This made extra wear on the fence so we would trim back the first couple of rows of corn by hand with a corn knife and throw it over the fence for the cows to eat. We called this "cutting the corn". Dad always did this in the evenings. Dad would always ask if anyone wanted to go cut the corn with him and we would jump in the back of the pickup truck and ride out to the field. Dad would cut the corn and let my older brother and I throw it over the fence to the cows.

There are probably many more stories I could share but we'll save them for another time. I just want to thank my Dad for being such a good influence on me. You taught us so much in so many ways. Just by you being yourself we learned what a Dad should be. Thank you for providing for your family and raising us in a Christian home. I LOVE YOU DAD. *Your son, Jeff (Yoder)*

The Top 10 Laws of Being a Toddler:

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hands, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a week ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If you think it's mine, it's mine.
9. If it's near me, it's mine.
10. If it's broccoli, it's yours!

From *Ohio Country Journal Magazine*

NEW EMAIL!

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 on the first Sunday of the 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!!

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS:
JUNE 20**

“Building the Future Together”

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is hoping to build a new facility in Lititz, PA which will include:

- An office and multipurpose room for group of up to 165 volunteers to meet for leadership trainings and debriefings
- Flexible space to enable volunteers to efficiently coordinate response to major disasters
- Sufficient office space and work stations for staff
- 6000 square foot warehouse to be used to build panel houses, store vehicles, Rvs, tool trailers, tools and emergency supplies for major disasters

They have 1.7 million of the 2.5 million needed to start the project and they hope to have it all raised within 3 years. While Oak Grove will not be giving to this project due to other fundraising commitments, if you as an individual would be interested in supporting this project financially, you can write a check to Oak Grove Mennonite Church and indicate that it is for MDS.

The Lunch Bag

It was Molly's job to hand her father his brown paper lunch bag each morning before he headed off to work. One morning, in addition to his usual lunch bag, Molly handed him a second paper bag. This one was worn and held together with duct tape, staples, and paper clips. "Why two bags" Fulghum asked. "The other is something else," Molly answered. "What's in it?" "Just some stuff. Take it with you." Not wanting to hold court over the matter, Fulghum stuffed both sacks into his briefcase, kissed Molly and rushed off. At midday, while hurriedly scarfing down his real lunch, he tore open Molly's bag and shook out the contents: two hair ribbons, three small stones, a plastic dinosaur, a pencil stub, a tiny sea shell, two animal crackers, a marble, a used lipstick, a small doll, two chocolate kisses, and 13 pennies. Fulghum smiled, finished eating, and swept the desk clean -- into the wastebasket -- leftover lunch, Molly's junk and all. That evening, Molly ran up behind him as he read the newspaper. "Where's my bag?" "What bag?" "You know, the one I gave you this morning." "I left it at the office. Why?" "I forgot to put this note in it," she said. "And, besides, those are my things in the sack, Daddy, the ones I really like - I thought you might like to play with them, but now I want them back. You didn't lose the bag, did you, Daddy?" "Oh, no," he said, lying. "I just forgot to bring it home. I'll bring it tomorrow." While Molly hugged her father's neck, he unfolded the note that had not made it into the sack: "I love you, Daddy." Molly had given him her treasures. All that a 7-year-old held dear. Love in a paper sack, and he missed it -- not only missed it, but had thrown it in the wastebasket. So back he went to the office. Just ahead of the night janitor, he picked up the wastebasket and poured the contents on his desk. After washing the mustard off the dinosaurs and spraying the whole thing with breath-freshener to kill the smell of onions, he carefully smoothed out the wadded ball of brown paper, put the treasures inside and carried it home gingerly, like an injured kitten. The bag didn't look so good, but the stuff was all there and that's what counted. After dinner, he asked Molly to tell him about the stuff in the sack. It took a long time to tell. Everything had a story or a memory or was attached to dreams and imaginary friends. Fairies had brought some of the things. He had given her the chocolate kisses, and she had kept them for when she needed them. "Sometimes I think of all the times in this sweet life," Fulghum concludes the story, "when I must have missed the affection I was being given. A friend calls this 'standing knee deep in the river and dying of thirst'."

We should all remember that it's not the destination that counts in life -- it's the journey.

Our best wishes to
Andrew Gascho and Erika
Martin, who will be married
June 19. Congratulations!



Remember the ice cream
social on Sunday, June 27
at 6:00 here
at Oak Grove!

