

Oak Leaves





Heather Yoder and Bia Stoltzfus

will graduate from

Eastern Mennonite University

Harrisonburg, VA

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Heather is an English major/ (TESOL-
Teaching English as a Second Language) minor
and Bia is a nursing major.

Heather plans to travel to Japan later this
year to teach English.

To our Oak Grove Family:
You are invited to a Graduation Open House
for **Davi Stoltzfus**
Friday, May 27th from 7-10 PM
Please stop by and celebrate with us!!

**A Celebration Potluck
for our High School Graduates:**
Garrett King, Katie Scott, Davi Stoltzfus, Carrie
Shoemaker, Eric Albright and Derrick Overholt
will be enjoyed
on
Sunday, May 22

Graduates: Please send us news about your
future plans so we can list it in Oak Leaves.

West Liberty Garage Sale/ youth group fundraiser, May 21, starting at 9 am

Sam Park says you can start bringing stuff to his house starting the first week of May. If you are just bringing a box or two, you can leave it on his porch, otherwise, call ahead. No junk please. . .see Sam or Alex if you have questions. Thanks!!!

West Liberty Cares Food Pantry. There is a sheet on the narthex table with slots for volunteers that are needed every Wednesday and the third Saturday of June when Oak Grove serves again. Activities can include stocking shelves, answering the phone, taking orders, greeting visitors, giving out New Testaments and used Christian books, delivering to shut-ins, packing bags of food, giving out vouchers for free clothing from Global Crafts and certificates for fresh, perishable food from Thoman's IGA. Bring your sack lunch to South Union Mennonite Church and enjoy some fellowship time with other volunteers, too. There's a job for you!

CDs of Oak Grove's worship services are available in the library, for both 1st and 2nd services. The most recent CDs are located on the library desk and older ones are located on the CD rack to the right of the desk organized by month. If you miss a service or would just like to hear the sermon or music again, feel free to borrow a CD, then return for someone else to borrow.

Here is a fun recipe to try with kids who can read. I think that all of the ingredients are ones that you would typically have around the house. So, it's great for a rainy day or lazy Sunday afternoon. We made it this past winter during one of our many snow days! -Tisha Kauffman

Bible Honey Cake

4-1/2 cups I Kings 4:22

2 cups Jeremiah 6:20

2 pinches Leviticus 2:13

2 teaspoons Amos 4:5

2 teaspoons II Chronicles 9:9

1 cup Judges 5:25 (last clause)

2 cups I Samuel 14:25

1/2 cup Judges 4:19

6 whole Jeremiah 17:11

2 cups I Samuel 30:12

Sift together in large bowl first 5 ingredients. Make a well and add Judges 5:25, I Samuel 14:25 and Judges 4:19. Beat until smooth, then add Jeremiah 17:11. Beat 5 minutes by hand. Add I Samuel 30:12. Pour into greased 9"x13" baking pan and bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour.



Albert Einstein's mother: "But it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Gel, mousse, something?"

Lois Miller's faith story

Lois is Christine Miller's mother, who passed away recently. This was read at her funeral on March 28, 2011. Christine writes, "In a way Mom's faith story is partly my faith story because I was shaped into who I am today because of her faith. This was written by my brother, Rod Miller and read by my brother-in-law, Steve Nolt."

Faith in God and a commitment to the church shaped our mother's life, from childhood onward. And, in turn, her life reflected her own faith and commitment. As a nine year old girl she left her home and extended family in northern Indiana to move to the Upper Peninsula, as her parents responded to God's call to be part of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference's rural church planting work. As a teen and young adult she embraced her parents' call and commitment to the establishment of Wildwood Mennonite Church. She was a Sunday school teacher and spent her summers teaching Summer Bible School in communities across the U.P.—in Naubinway, Dafer, and other places, such as Soo Hill and the Keweenaw Peninsula.

She reaffirmed her commitment to the church in the U.P. when she married Richard Miller, from northern Indiana, and convinced him to make their home in Engadine, where they have been active in the Wildwood congregation. In their early years of marriage Mom and Dad were youth group leaders and they helped with the summer youth camping program at Piat Lake.

Mom's faith extended beyond the local church. She was interested in the church around the world, reading church periodicals, praying for missionaries, and hosting Mennonite Central Committee-connected folks from Poland and Kenya. Her interest in church denominational and conference life included her desire for peace and her concern over division. In 1999, for example, when the Mennonite Church was facing a potentially divisive decision, she counseled a conference delegate to seek compromise for the sake of unity and keeping the church together. She was not threatened by change—in fact she enjoyed trying new things – learning new songs, trying new foods, thinking about new ideas. And she encouraged her children to branch out and try new things.

While her commitment to the Mennonite Church in the Upper Peninsula was a guiding force in her life, Mom was also dedicated to her family. As she raised eight children, she worked to pass on her faith and values to her children. Mom ensured that we had family devotions and often led family prayers and nighttime prayers. She also devoted

much time working with Dad in partnership as they developed Richlo Dairy Farm.

Music filled Mom's life. She often sang while working. She enjoyed playing the piano and the autoharp, and listened to music on records and the radio. She encouraged us to develop an appreciation for music by teaching us the basics of piano and supporting participation in high school band. Mom also used her musical talents in the mission of the church, where she often led singing on Sunday mornings. She helped organize musical groups at Wildwood and organized and participated in ecumenical cantata choirs at Easter and other times.

Education was important for Mom. She attended Goshen College and became an elementary teacher, teaching in this community for a number of years before and after marriage and then again for a few years in the mid-1960s. She expected that her children would attend college and that they would attend a Mennonite college for at least part of their education. She worked to instill in her children a love of learning by reading to them. It was not unusual for her to sit and read to us as children even when there was other housework or chores to do. She read books of hope and faith, such as *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, *A Tree for Peter*, and more. In recent years when we would stop by or call, Mom was often reading a book.

Mom did a lot of sewing, both because she needed to and because she enjoyed it. She made dresses for her daughters and mended clothes for the boys. She used her love of quilting, knitting, and sewing for the church as part of the women's sewing group, making quilts and comforters for people in the community and world relief efforts. In recent years she had also been active in knitting prayer shawls for people in the church and community.

Life was not always easy for Mom. As a young person she carried adult responsibilities when her parents' were called away for revival meetings, Winter Bible School teaching, and other church



work. When her own children were small she often had to make do with the little she had. She lost a son in an auto accident and experienced a number of health issues in later years. Throughout all of this

she remained faithful to God and the church, leaving a legacy for her children and grandchildren to continue.

Jonah's mother: "That's a nice story. Now tell me where you've really been for the last three days."

WHO AM I??

*(Answer can be found in this issue of the Oak Leaves marked with an *)*

I was born at Mary Rutan Hospital and grew up on a little gravel road not far from Oak Grove, called "Lover's Lane".

A favorite childhood memory is riding bikes and playing with cousins and neighbors on Sunday afternoons, including June & Joyce Hostetler.

My first job was babysitting, including the Dwight Hostetler children.

I enjoy reading. I just read the books, "Born Amish" and "Crossing Over: One Woman's Escape from Amish Life".

I will celebrate my 50th high school class reunion this spring.

A favorite past vacation was taking our family in 1987 to the Black Hills, Yellowstone, Glacier National Park and all the extra stops out and back through all the states. I also am looking forward to a visit to Alaska this coming August.



For fun I enjoy traveling and riding bike, especially finding new bike paths to ride.

If I had no work or responsibilities for the whole day, I would enjoy spending time sitting in the recliner in my sunroom.

A meaningful passage of the Bible to me is Psalm 23.

I appreciate the variety of our music and the worship services at Oak Grove, as well as the way our congregation rallies around those who have needs.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

-compiled by Lisa Hershberger

Moms, don't worry if you're not here; these were collected quickly and some children may have been missed, weren't there or just weren't in a talking/writing mood! The children were asked to answer one or more questions such as: what do you love about your mom or like doing with her?

Thanks for letting me have my horses! Love you Mom! *-Bekah Kratz*

Thanks for being you and amazing! I love how you make me clothes! I love you!! *-Becca Hager*

My mom is creative. I take walks in the park with my mom. *-Katie Hartsel*

I talk with my mom. I love that my mom is so funny. *-Leah Kauffman*

My mommy calms me down and help me whenever I am stressed. I know she loves and cares about

me.

I love to cook with my mom.

I like to go to DQ. She helps me. She is always helping me or somebody. She always helps me when I need help. She is my mom. -*Josiah Kratz*

She cooks great meals and cookies. -*Isaac Kauffman*

My mom is special because she hangs out with me and plays game with me. -*Lily Yoder*

My mom is hilarious in an annoying sort of way. My mom is special because we think alike. I could finish her sentences if I wanted to. -*Jacob Regier*

I love my mom because she cares for me, plays with me, and tucks me in at night. -*Rachel Larson*

Mom and me sometimes go shopping with each other and I know she has to put up with me when I don't want to try on clothes but she still loves me anyway. -*Grace Buschur*

I like to ride horses with my mom. I love my mom because she's my mom and I love her. She's fun to be with. She works hard to make me happy. -*Christy Kauffman*

Me and Mom go shopping. Even though we have the twins it is always fun! I love that she is always there and knows what it is like to go through most things. I appreciate her always working to make us happy. My mom is special because she's my mom and I love her! -*Kayla King*

Because you can play with her. -*Neil Kauffman*

Play tickle monster with my mom. -*Renee Neer*

I like to help her in the kitchen. -*Emma Kauffman*

I can play with her. -*Lena Kauffman*

I like to help my mom in the kitchen. -*Anna Kratz*

I like to make cookies with my mom. -*DJ Yoder*

I like to help my mom cook. -*Drayton Cox*

My mom makes awesome food! -*Josh Kratz*

Well, believe it or not, I am fond of my mom. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be around. -*Christopher Buschur*



I love my mom because she's always there for me. -*Abbey Siegenthaler*
She helps me with anything. -*Addy Hartsel*

All the good times we have at late night studying. -*Rose Yoder*

Thanks for taking me everywhere I need to be and the help with everything else you do.
-*Alyssa Kauffman*

I like to bake in the kitchen with Mommy. -*Caleb Hershberger*

My mommy picks me up. -*Caleb Larson*

I like reading stories with Mommy. -*Braden Hershberger*

My Mommy uses the washer. -*Brady Kauffman*

My mom is special because she loves me. -*Evan Kauffman*



Neil Armstrong's mother: "You've been walking where?"

Getting to know the Junior Youth

(continued from previous issue)

Isaac Kauffman

Parents: Robin and Jason Kauffman

Sister: Alyssa

Grandparents: Don and Sharon Kauffman



- I am 12 years old.
- I am in 6th grade at West Liberty-Salem.
- My favorite subject is Science.
- My least favorite subject is Social Studies.
- I play many sports (baseball, basketball, football). I take guitar lessons from Reed Jones.
- My favorite food is cereal like Waffle Crisp, Fruity Pebbles, and Wheaties-Fuel.
- I enjoy drawing and riding my bike. I sometimes read books too.
- My family likes to watch movies together and play games.
- If I could travel anywhere, I would go to Australia for a safari.
- My favorite past vacation was going to Panama City Beach, Florida with extended family. It was great!
- If I had free time for a whole day, I would play with everything I have and invite several friends over.
- This year I am looking forward to baseball, my favorite sport. Also to play around with friends more this summer.
- At Oak Grove I like that all the people are really nice to you whoever you are. JYF is fun!
- My favorite memory from Oak Grove is playing a huge game of hide n' seek with friend and littler kids.
- My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:4 NIV: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. *Tenneva Jordan*

Field notes: Mission Indy Trip

-compiled by Lisa Hershberger

On Saturday April 16 we took 12 youth and 6 adults (*Sam Park, Erin and Alex Dye, Rod and Margaret Hager, Sam Park and Larry Steider*) on a mini mission trip to Indianapolis through Mission Indy. We arrived at the church at 5:30AM during a torrential down pour to gather to head out to Indianapolis. It was fun to watch everyone run in through the sideways rain into the church. After a quick prayer and some paperwork we all ran back out to our vehicles and got on the road. The kids in my van immediately fell back asleep, very unfair.

After the devotional time we got back in the vans and headed to the work site. We had a large group so we were split into two smaller groups at two different sites. Our group was taken to a house owned by a young couple that had moved into the neighborhood. The house needed a lot of work, but they wanted to be part of the neighborhood and help from the inside. Mission Indy was helping them do some of the work on their house by providing groups to do labor and repairs.

One of the projects was to scrape all the loose paint off of the garage to prepare it for repainting. The other project was to install a new privacy fence along the ally running beside the house. There were already posts there from the old fence and about 20' was ready to install the new boards. After the kids, Larry and I completed that we had to tear down the old fence and straighten the posts. Tearing down the old fence was harder than putting up the new fence. I know I was sore after carrying away all the old lumber. But at the end of the day we had completely replaced the old fence, about 70' feet long, scraped the garage, and had time to clean up trash around the house and in the alley.

It was a good day, the kids (and adults) all did a great job working hard the whole day to complete the work. It was really nice to be able to take the kids on a trip and let them see that a little hard work can really help someone else. *-Sam Park*

I was glad to be a part of the mission trip. It felt really nice to be able to help out others who do not have as much as we do. You could tell by their faces that they really enjoyed having us there. It was a lot of fun. *-Josh Childs*



The trip to Indy was very fun and rewarding. I really love working with my hands so gardening was right up my alley. What my group did was ate breakfast with some of the community at the LYN (Love Your Neighbor) house. It was actually really cool because we got to meet the people that we were going to spend all day with. We went to a community garden beside Pastor Greg's, the lead pastor at a local church, house. We built 6 boxes that we then filled with manure and dirt. I discovered that manure steams which I only thought happened in cartoons but it happens in real life also. It was hard work but very rewarding! We even met some of the people who bought the plots we were building. After that some of us cleaned up the LYN house, like cleaning bathrooms and some of us washed all the toys in the nursery because they were disgusting and sticky. Then some of us even got to fold bulletins for the next days church service which was cool. We met two of the pastors, there are four but two are a husband and wife and were in Kentucky that day. We work most of the day with Pastor Greg's wife who is in charge of the community garden. It was really cool talking to the people in the community and also talking to the pastors because I think it's fun to learn how other churches do things. It was also super cool because as a youth group we got to know one another better and working as a group for the better is always such a cool thing. *-Becca Hager*

Mission Indy was a lot of hard work, the jobs that I were involved in were scraping paint off a garage to be painted and putting up a brand new fence. It was hard work but it made me realize how much we have and we shouldn't take things for granted. *-Erin Barrett*

I had a great experience on this recent trip. It was fun to spend time with my friends and the youth group. The weather wasn't great, but the activities and experiences were great. The people we worked with in the Indianapolis community were nice and cared for their neighborhood. *-Alyssa Kauffman*

Michelangelo's mother: "Can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you know how hard it will be to get that off the ceiling?"

BISHOP'S MANTLE

Something New, Fresh Personifies This Joyful Eastertide

by Jim Bishop, retired radio host, information officer at EMU and newspaper columnist

It was one of those too rare early spring days that unexpectedly emerge out of the blue.

The sky remains clear, the air fresh, temperatures slowly rise and hover in the low 70s and the distant haze dissipates, revealing the purple majesty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I could only be outside a short time, but I savored every moment as a sense of rejuvenation flooded my being.

"I enjoy putting this exhilarating, artistic spin on my Creation," Jehovah God thinks aloud. "Behold, that's good. Why don't I do this more often?"

Indeed, if these kind of magical days did appear more frequently, I suspect we'd soon take them for granted, like so many other undeserved gifts and blessings regularly bestowed.

Easter is such a gift. The day itself skips around the calendar each year, arriving as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

Whatever the date, when it comes, I accept it gladly and unwrap it eagerly.

There's nothing wrong with celebrating the season by hiding and hunting colored eggs, dressing up, enjoying a special meal or singing "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" (who remembers that Gene Autry rendition?). In fact, the Energizer Bunny makes sure this aging boomer still gets a basket of carbohydrate delights. But that shouldn't be the primary focus.

The events surrounding that first Easter were dark, confusing, tragic and, yes, violent. There was trepidation and mystery, cowardice, betrayal and denial. But, there was also the introduction of a new access to the divine initiated at that Last Supper, as Our Lord broke bread, shared the cup and washed the feet of his bewildered disciples in that Upper Room.

"Do these things 'til I come again," he admonished,

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Christopher Columbus' mother: "I don't care what you've discovered. You could have written!"



as the shadow of the cross loomed ever larger.

Waiting on the other side of this turbulent train of events were prophecies and promises kept, miraculous appearances and disbelief turned to belief and certainty. A stone blocking an empty tomb was rolled away and with it, the sins of humankind -- a new day had arrived.

These extraordinary events re-echo in this Scripture passage, full of blessed assurance:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities;
Who heals all your diseases.
Who redeems your life from the pit;
Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle."
- Psalm 103:2-3 NASB

Whatever age or life stage, I must continually ask: what is that new thing seething in my innermost being that is itching to come to full flower? If we don't respond to that seed of newness and cultivate and water it regularly, it will wither and die. What a misfortune. In Easter are sown the seeds of freedom, forgiveness, grace **Grace Leichty* and reconciliation and peace, individually and corporately.

God quietly and patiently whispers to each of us, "Come, accept this gift of renewal, of new life," and surely tires of hearing the response, "Thanks, but I'm content (or just indifferent) with things as they are."

Why would we spurn a gift so rich and free, when acceptance allows us to go forth boldly into the bright and shining new day, living in the power of the resurrection?

-contributed by *Esther Witmer*

Interesting websites:

togetherville.com – If you're tired of your younger kids asking why they can't join Facebook, you'll love this site. It's a social networking site especially for children. Recently purchased by Disney, it creates a safe place for "kids and their grownups" to play online. While the social component features Facebook-like interactions, it's perfectly safe since you have control over the people your kids interact with.

supercook.com – You know the situation: It's time for dinner, and about all you have in your refrigerator are some chicken, a bell pepper, parsley, and a piece of cheese. What to do? Go to this site, type in your ingredients, and get ideas for recipes that use those ingredients (and maybe a few staples from your cupboard). When you find a recipe you want to try, click on it to get instructions and reviews.

The new **Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship** (formed from the phase out of Mennonite Medical and Mennonite Nurses Association) will be meeting for their annual convention on June 23-26, 2011 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA. See the bulletin board for the brochure of check it out online.

Through **MCC's job creation program** in Bangladesh, workers are turning pineapple and banana into fabric. This slide show gives a glimpse into the creative, useful products Bengali workers are developing to sell. See: <http://mcc.org/stories/Galleries/bangladesh-developing-new-products-and-jobs>

Prayer for Ohio Conference. Are you interested in supporting the ministry of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA through prayer? You can find a detailed "Prayer Prompter" on their website at www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. Go to Resource Teams and select Prayer Ministry or see Grace Leichty for a copy if you don't have access.

Free seed. As you're getting ready to plant your gardens, remember that Jim and Anita have some free seeds left, such as salvia, marigold, 4 o'clocks, impatiens, honeyrock melon, pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn.

Medicine of the Month campaign. Remember, every contribution means more people in Haiti can receive help. During May, they are collecting Acet/Ibu liquid, Antacid (chewable), and Zantac (Tagamet).

Shaping Families: listen on the radio, online, by podcast or read the transcript (available the week it is aired). Visit shapingfamilies.com for info.

Weekend of May 7 – For Better and For Worse

May is mental illness awareness month which is the focus all month on Shaping Families. Susan Gregg Schroeder, the guest this week, was an associate pastor who kept her depression a secret from her congregation for over two years because she feared losing her job. Later she founded a ministry to help congregations with these issues.

Weekend of week of May 14 – Artist with Schizophrenia

Jerome Lawrence is a painter in Atlanta, Georgia whose artwork has fetched up to \$20,000 at charity auctions for mental health. He also lives with schizophrenia. Listen to our interview with Jerome this week. A study guide is available to use in small groups or classes.

Weekend of May 21 – Cutting and Burning

Do you know anyone who has cut or burned themselves to deal with depression or sadness? Our guest on Shaping Families this week is Kari, a young woman who shares intimately from her own experience.

Weekend of May 28 – Obsessive Compulsive

To conclude May as mental health awareness month, Shaping Families interviews a woman from a Mennonite congregation who shares her journey with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Hosted by Burton Buller and produced by Melodie Davis. Third Way Media has decades of experience broadcasting and developing original media productions. Based in Harrisonburg, Va., it is associated with Mennonite Church, USA. Third Way Media has received awards from Clio, Telly, Gabriel, Gracies, Angel, Industrial Film Festival, National Religious Broadcasters, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and others.

Mona Lisa's mother: "After all the money we've spent on braces, that's the biggest and best smile you can give?"

Recipes!

*If you are like me, it's easy to get into a "rut" with cooking/meal ideas. I get tired of thinking up ideas of what to have for supper (just ask Andy – I'm always asking him for ideas!) So we are asking for some of YOUR favorite recipes to share with other cooks in the congregation who need a new idea to throw into their meal rotation. **So dig through your recipe box/cookbook and send us a recipe or two and we will print them up in future issues of the Oak Leaves. You can email them to rv@kauffmanfamily.net or put them in the Oak Leaves mailbox.** These are a couple of favorites at our house. My boys will gobble up their veggies when I make them into stir fry. And these strawberry crepes are very easy to make but look like you spent a lot of time on dessert. -Lisa Hershberger*

MOM'S CHICKEN STIR FRY

Combine all in small bowl and set aside:

- 1 1/2 c water with 2 tsp chicken bouillon added
- 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3-4 Tbsp cornstarch (depending how thick you like your sauce)

Cut up chicken breasts or tenders into small strips and brown in skillet, remove and keep warm. (I usually use 1-2 chicken breasts for our family)

Add cut up veggies to skillet and sauté ~ we use any variety of veggies including: onions, garlic, sliced carrots, fresh mushrooms, broccoli, red/green/yellow pepper slices, snow peas, mini corn-on-the-cob, fresh or canned bean sprouts etc.

When veggies are almost tender, add chicken back into skillet, pour in the sauce and heat until sauce is thickened.

Serve over rice.

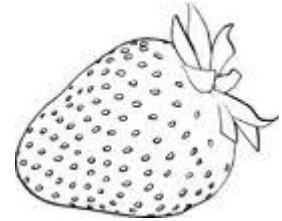
STRAWBERRY CREPES

(You can cook these crepes and refrigerate them with waxed paper between, then fill them whenever you want to serve. Filling keeps well in refrigerator, crepes are best eaten in 2-3 days.)

Crepes:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp white sugar

- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 eggs



In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, milk and eggs: mix well with wire whisk. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

In an 8-in non-stick skillet, melt 1/2 tsp butter or margarine (I often just a run a little bit of the stick of margarine over my hot pan to coat it lightly), Stir batter: pour about 1/4 c batter into center of the skillet. Lift and tilt pan to evenly coat bottom. Cook until top appears dry: turn and cook 15-20 seconds longer. Remove to wire rack.

Repeat with remaining batter, buttering skillet as needed. After they are somewhat cool, stack crepes with waxed paper in between. Refrigerate until using.

Filling:

- 1 8oz package reduced-fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 8oz container (light) whipped topping, thawed
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

In small mixing bowl, combine cream cheese and powdered sugar, then fold in whipped topping. Spread approx 2 Tbsp filling on each crepe and roll up.

Top crepes with strawberries mixed with a little sugar. (any fruit topping can be used – strawberry & bananas, peaches, blueberries etc.)

Makes approx 12 crepes.

Paul Revere's mother: "I don't care where you think you have to go, young man, midnight is past curfew."

Westward Ho!

After several years of setbacks, in March we were able to head west to Idaho again to visit our daughter, Jenny, and her family. We had a wonderful trip. We prefer to drive the almost 2000 miles as there are many things and places we enjoy along the way. Some of the interesting things for us this time were: listening to Tony Dungee's book "Quiet Strength" on tape from Cracker Barrel, the sandhill cranes in Nebraska, the constant wind- 25-55 mph (Rawlins, Wyoming lost power the day before we arrived from the high winds), 75 mph speed limits, cattle everywhere, baby calves, BIG dairies(feed bunks almost a mile long), sundogs, rainbows, Nebraska sunrises and sunsets, Kalona, Iowa, antelope, tumbleweeds and sagebrush, the Oregon Trail, W I D E-O P E N-S P A C E S, mineral mining, watching "Tangled" in 3-D, runzas in Nebraska, western scones (deep-fried dough with honey butter) in Utah, antique shops in small towns, trains, trains and more trains, windmills(Amish and modern-hundreds of wind turbines marring the landscape), scrapbooking, playing dominoes, The Birds of Prey Center, building a storage shed and lots and lots of time to play and visit. We are looking forward to going again next year.

Phil and Shan Neer

Happy Birthday!

on May. . .

- 2 Todd Buschur
Brady Kauffman
- 3 Roselle Kauffman
- 6 June Seymour
- 8 Shan Neer
- 9 Eric Albright
- 12 Darrin Turner
- 14 Matthew Childs
- 15 Nancy Hostetler
Evelyn Hostetler
- 16 Judi Steider
- 17 Vicki Park
- 18 Carla Stoltzfus
Nicholas Childs
- 19 Barbara Buschur
- 20 Jacob Alspaugh
Marce Leichty
- 22 Paul Kauffman
Everett Yoder
- 23 Rachel Nichols
- 24 Zach Taylor
- 25 Annie Kauffman
Marilyn Gascho
- 26 Kate Turner
- 27 Brittany Neer
- 29 Anita Bartlett
- 31 Shelbi Kauffman



The 12 MCC thrift shops throughout the Great Lakes region continue to thrive and play a vital role in income generation for MCC. Although the shops are similar in their offerings of inexpensive clothing and household items for purchase, each shop plays a unique role in its community.

Global Crafts, a small combination thrift shop and Ten Thousand Villages store located in West Liberty, Ohio, has been a fixture in the community for over 28 years. The three local Mennonite churches – South Union, Bethel and Oak Grove – played a key role in founding and supporting the thrift shop.

According to **Kathy Lowry**, who has served as the store's manager for 12 and a half years, the interaction with the community has been great. "There are regulars that always come into shop, so if they don't come, you want to call and check on them," said Lowry. And the shop has no trouble getting enough donations; in fact, the storage rooms are full of neatly labeled egg boxes holding items ready to be put out on the floor.

The upper room of the store showcases a unique "bargain room" where customers can fill a plastic bag with any clothing on those racks for only \$4. The thrift shop also has a unique partnership with a local food pantry, where people can receive vouchers for free bags of clothing from the thrift shop, particularly during the Christmas season.

Lowry smiled as she spoke about one elderly woman who participates in the store's silent auctions, which close at 1 p.m. after two weeks. "She comes in early and writes down the numbers of the items she wants," said Lowry. "Then she comes back at quarter til one on the final day and puts in her bids."

In 2010, West Liberty's Global Crafts store contributed \$2,500 to MCC.

From the 2011 MCC Great Lakes annual report. Also available online: <http://greatlakes.mcc.org/about/annualreport>

Happy Anniversary!

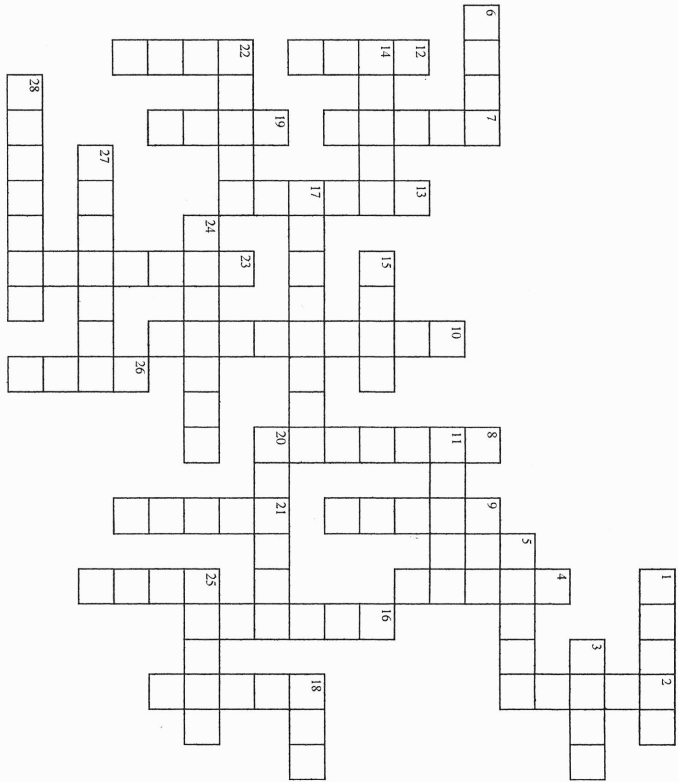
on May. . .

- 5 Jack and Jennifer Overholt
- 6 Chuck and Trish Kratz
- 8 Ryan and Valerie Kauffman
- 28 Mike and Nancy Hostetler
- 29 Jeff and Roberta Yoder

Ohio Mennonite Women

Plans are in the works to build a wall near the prayer labyrinth at Camp Luz to honor men or women who have been a blessing. For \$25, you can sponsor a plaque with someone's name to go on the wall. See *paper on bulletin board about this and other Mennonite Women news.*

Oak Grove Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Supplies Coordinator
- 3 In Voluntary Service
- 5 On Food Committee & Outreach
- 6 Received 100% affirmation vote
- 11 WLC Representative
- 14 She's a JHF youth sponsor
- 15 He's on Student Grant Committee
- 17 Truthseekers Class Rep.
- 18 Planted 3 Oak trees at Oak Grove
- 20 She's an elder
- 22 MMA Advocate
- 24 Children's Church Director
- 25 Has played trumpet for special music
- 27 Helps with Media Ministry
- 28 Event at Camp Coubie

DOWN

- 2 Medical Mission trip to...
- 4 Twin of Samantha
- 7 H.S. senior on Outreach Committee
- 8 Plays guitar in church, Bible quizzier
- 9 Drama Actress
- 10 A Time for Prayer day
- 12 2nd service usher
- 13 Congregational Chairperson
- 16 Worship Director
- 18 2nd service Audio Tech.
- 19 Drama coach & Adriel Chaplain
- 21 Newest Trustee
- 22 Collects S.S. Attendance books
- 23 Council Secretary
- 25 Church Historian
- 26 Audio Tech. & Jr./Intermediate Supt.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across: 1. Tisha, 3. Jill, 5. Vicki, 6. Dick, 11. Anita, 14. Erica, 15. Andy, 17. Michelle, 18. Jim, 20. Willie, 22. Myron, 24. Roxanne, 25. Jacob, 27. Everett, 28. Retreat

Down: 2. Haiti, 4. Silas, 7. Katie, 8. Matthew, 9. Dixie, 10. Wednesday, 12. Neva, 13. Harmon, 16. Geneva, 18. Jason, 19. Erin, 21. Larry, 22. Mary, 23. Roberta, 25. June, 26. Stan

I Heard it at My House. . .

- "I'm really growing, I'm going to be old for 43 years!"
- Seeing snow on trees: "The trees look like they have their winter coats on, don't they look handsome like that?"
- Hearing the food processor chopping vegetables: "It sounded like a lot of grumble!"
- "Why did you clean up? For a group?"
- "Bear wants to do something with you."
- "In just a jippy!"
- "The mailman clicked on the doorbell!"
- "He mixed two kinds of milk together (whole and skim). Eww!"
- After opening his instant oatmeal packet: "I saw steam (powder) come out!"
- Dr. _ is a good friend. He is always careful for me!"
- "I want to always live with you. We could have one purse or piggybank and I could put money in it and we could both use it."

-Valerie Kauffman

Congratulations!

. . .to expectant parents
Darrin and Kate Turner!
They are having a boy
and he is due August 16.

. . .to Darrin, Sarah
and Isla Leichty
Who will be welcoming
a new baby
In October.



We hope you enjoyed this issue of Oak Leaves. Thank you to everyone who contributed. If you have something for the June issue, just put it in our mailbox or email it to rv@kauffmanfamily.net. **The deadline will be May 22.** Esther W., Lisa H. and Valerie K.