



Oak Leaves

Oak Grove Mennonite Church, 1525 Mennonite Church Rd., West Liberty, OH 43357
Monthly Newsletter May 2010

"The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their possessions. No one said, 'That is mine, you can't have it.' They shared everything. . . And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy." Acts 4:33 and 34
(The Message)



Oak Leaves would like to recognize the many gifts that are present in our congregation, shared through preaching, teaching, children's stories and church, administration, committee work, building upkeep, music, worship leading, behind-the-scenes jobs, library, encouragement, prayer, finances, Bible Bonanza, youth group, nursery, hospitality, nurturing, cooking, cleaning, and SO MUCH MORE! Each one of us has a special "shiny scale"! Thank you for sharing YOUR gift!

(the above verse and picture was part of Tisha Kauffman's children's story recently)

WHAT IS NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

We have had many recent donations to the library! Stop by and check them out!

ADULT FICTION

Prairie Legacy Series by Janette Oke – A final series featuring the characters in Janette Oke’s series “Love Comes Softly”... Follow Virginia Simpson, grand-daughter of Clark and Marty Davis as she decides whether the faith that has always surrounded her will become her own. Titles: *The Tender Years, Searching Heart, Quiet Strength, Like Gold Refined*

One Shenandoah Winter by T. Davis Bunn – Dr Nathan Reynolds has arrived in the isolated town of Hillsboro, Virginia in 1961. An angry man, he immediately clashes with the assistant mayor Connie Wilkes, and about everyone else. Though the townsfolk desperately need a doctor, Connie wonders if he will stay any longer than he has to, and wishes she didn’t care one way or the other – a story of sacrifice, courage and redemption.

Could I Have This Dance by Harry Kraus, MD – Claire McCall is used to fighting back against all odds. Her hard work and determination have helped her rise from adverse circumstances to an internship in one of the nation’s most competitive surgical residencies. But nothing could prepare her for the discovery that is to come. There is more than one person who doesn’t want Claire to probe too deeply into the “Stoney Creek Curse” and they want Claire out of the picture permanently. Somewhere in the course of pursuing her career as a surgeon, Claire lost touch with the God who called her to it. Can she reclaim a faith strong enough to get her through this deadly dance of circumstances?

For the Rest of My Life by Harry Kraus, MD – (Sequel to *Could I Have This Dance*) – Dr Claire McCall encourages her patients to trust in God’s perfect love, but lately, she isn’t sure she can trust Him herself. Genetic testing can reveal whether the disease of her father resides in her as well, and if so, she could lose everything. To avoid her personal turmoil, Claire pours her energy into her patients, women who have been abused, which leaves Claire with dangerous discoveries.

Dawns Prelude by Tracie Peterson – Married at a tender age to a harsh, older widower, Lydia Gray can’t help but feel a measure of relief when an accident claims his life. Then she finds herself the sole recipient of her late husband’s fortune, leaving her adult stepchildren battling her for the inheritance. Lydia longs to wash her hands of the situation and join her aunt in Alaska. While enjoying the quite, serene life in Sitka, Alaska, a new discovery in Lydia’s life forces her to rethink her future.

ADULT NON-FICTION

If God is Good, Faith in the Midst of Suffering & Evil by Randy Alcorn – How can we reconcile a good and all-powerful God with the terrible evil and suffering we see in this world? Alcorn challenges the logic of disbelief and brings a fresh, biblical perspective to this issue. Audio CD ready by the author (approx 6 ½ h)

God’s Answers to Tough Questions, Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask – this book takes a look at many of the most frequently asked questions about the Christian faith and provides faith-based answers

Calm My Anxious Heart, a Woman’s Guide to Finding Contentment by Linda Dillow – Women worry a lot – about our children, our friends, our careers, our families, our spouses... we want to be content and trust God with our worries, but it’s a struggle to let go. Learn how to let go of your anxiety and experience the contentment that comes from trusting God.

Where's Momma? A Family's Walk with Alzheimer's, The Story of Mabel (Smucker) Yoder by daughter Marion Delagrange - a note from the author – “ My hope in writing this book is that it may bring smiles and hope to someone else who is facing the illness of Alzheimer's of a loved one.”

Camp Luz, Another Place God Is – Follow the history of Camp Luz from 1953-2003

Thank you to all who donate to the library! We always appreciate recent items in good condition. As always, if you have any suggestions or items you'd like to see purchased, talk to a committee member ~ Lisa Hershberger, Sarah Leichty, Gretchen Christopher, Janet Schlabach

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2-Todd Buschur
Brady Kauffman
- 3-Roselle Kauffman
- 6-June Seymour
Myrna Magrew
- 7-Emily Peraza
- 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 Buscher
- 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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 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

“If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.”

“If you sign up for it, you finish it.”

“No one can make me upset without my permission.”

New Outreach for Food Pantry

Oak Grove will serve at the food pantry again in June so consider how you can help with donations, food, or volunteering. In addition, we'd like to offer pantry visitors some Christian books so if you find some used books that you no longer want, you may place them in the box labeled “Pantry Books” under the mailboxes.

Thanks, *Anita Bartlett for the Outreach Committee*

Thinking about going to camp? Remember to register.
www.camppluz.com

Oak Grove will once again provide financial support. For those camps with a fee of \$185, support of \$100 will be given, for the fee of \$142, \$80 will be given, and for the fee of \$160, \$90 will be given.

May 6

6:30 pm-8:00 pm

**Open House Shower
for the Regiers
to welcome Alyse**

REMEMBER!

**Combined summer services begin on
May 30.**

Sunday school: 9:30
Worship service: 10:30

“We have all departed from God's total plan in different ways, and each wants out his/her own modification of the original plan as the plan itself. You will find this again and again about anything that is really Christian; every one is attracted to bits of it and wants to pick out those bits and leave the rest. That is why we do not get much further: and that is why people who are fighting for quite opposite things can both say they are fighting for Christianity.”

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

What Mom Taught Me from *Grace for the Race: Meditations for Busy Moms* by Dena Dyer
(available in church library)

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

RUDYARD KIPLING

Bless her heart, my mom really tried to teach me the domestic necessities of life. After all, she was an interior designer in college. She must be so ashamed—I can't even sew the simplest thing. (All hail the Buttoneer!)

And as hard as she tried to teach me to cook, just last night I messed up again in the kitchen. My darling hubby Carey (who usually makes meals for us—PTL!) was gone to the store for a couple of items. When he came back in and looked at the stove, he sighed. “Sweetheart,” he said with just a tinge of frustration, “you're supposed to brown the meat and *then* put the taco seasoning in it.”
Oops!

Other goofs I've made in the culinary department are legendary. Don't even think of asking my brother about the oatmeal bricks—ahem, cookies—I made when we were teenagers. I thought it said three cups of flour instead of one—honest mistake! And then there was “Quichegate,” when I embarrassed my spouse at a party we threw for fellow youth workers. After we cooked the quiche, Carey discovered I had poured the liquid egg and cheese mixture over the ready-made crust without taking the crust's paper liner off first.

But all is not lost—my mom did teach me a lot.

Mom never ran a marathon—but she ran to the store at midnight for medicine for me. She never held public office—but she knocked on doors so Dad could win his race as county judge.

Mom gave up her dream of writing when she bore two children within eighteen months, but she's the first person to squeal when I report good news about my freelance career. She never climbed the corporate ladder—but she climbed into the tree house with me for teddy bear picnics.

Mom never worked outside the home, but she always worked at making the inside of our home an oasis.

These are the things she *has* done: dried hundreds of my tears when I had boy troubles, slept on the foot of my twin bed when I had nightmares, traveled to nearly all of my singing performances, and prayed thousands of prayers for me. (I laugh about it, but it's true—when I want a prayer answered quickly, I tell Mom. She seems to have a red phone to the Great Throne.)

Since I've been an adult, Mom has become more of a friend and a confidant to me than ever before. I've told her many times that she is my hero—especially since I had my son, and I realize the heartache and sleepless nights I put her through!

So, Mom—I didn't learn to cook or sew, as hard as you tried to teach me. But I did learn from your example that children are a gift from God, and time with them is worth sacrificing for.

And thanks for praying for a husband for me—who can cook!

NOTES FROM THE COACH:

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Prov. 31:28 (NIV)
The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle his mother taught him. . . Prov. 31:1 (NIV)
That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! II Tim. 1:5 (MSG)

Undivided Heart

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. --Psalm 86:11

Read: Psalm 86:8-13

Reflect: In David's declaration in verse 8, he expresses the heart of Israel's monotheistic faith: "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord." Israel's God is God alone. It is to the one true God that David pledges his allegiance. His prayer is for an undivided heart. David's desire is that as ruler of the people of Israel, his life would glorify God. As king, he longed for the strength of character to walk in God's ways.

David's prayer for an undivided heart is a model prayer for all Christians. There is so much in our individualistic, materialistic North American culture that pulls our hearts away from full allegiance to the Lord.

Consider the ways our hearts can be divided: While it is godly to have a good work ethic, being a workaholic can keep us from family and church commitments that honor God. There is nothing wrong in owning a nice home, but if it becomes our castle rather than a place of fellowship for family and friends, it takes away God's rightful first place in our lives. Being frugal and laying aside money for the future may be wise, but if it becomes the source of our security, our god, then our heart is no longer focused on God. Reading and recreational pursuits are healthy, but they are not a replacement for spending time with the Lord in prayer and reading his Word.

May we learn to walk in God's truth. May God grant us an undivided heart to fear his name.

-Michael Dick

Respond: God, I acknowledge you as the one true God. Teach me your way.

--from Rejoice! Daily Devotional Readings (Several copies of this three-month devotional guide are generally available near the mailboxes. Talk to Lydia King if more are needed).

I found it at. . .the Habitat Restore!

Have you ever been to the Habitat for Humanity Restore? Anyway, it recently relocated to the old Rath building just south of Bellefontaine on 68. We have been cleaning out four years of leftover project materials from our basement and taking it to the Restore. Not only are you benefiting Habitat for Humanity, but as a bonus you can get a tax deduction for things donated—anything from windows to flooring to furniture. In their new building, they also have a thrift-store type of area. Just the other day, I found that they had several large bolts of upholstery material—most were \$5 for the entire bolt, one was \$10. It just so happened that my sister-in-law wanted one of them to recover her family room furniture—for \$5! The other bolt went to Ryan's grandmother, who lives here in town, to be used for sewing school kit bags.

On a related note, if you are looking for a place to "get rid" of objects you no longer want, but may have some possible use, have you tried "Freecycle"? Many of you are familiar with it, but for those who aren't, it is an email group that you can join and either give things away or ask for things you may need. We were able to find someone who was happy for some curtains and carpet. A couple of years ago, we were even able to pass along our non-working washer (and later dryer) to someone who had knowledge about repairing them. -VK

Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God.

I'm listening. . .talk to me. GOD

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying "I will try again tomorrow."

Do not follow where the path may lead. . .go instead where there is no trail and leave a path.

The best way out is always through.

New MMA representative in Plain City

Clete Schrock recently joined MMA's Plain City office as counselor. He, his wife and three children come to Plain City from Goshen, Indiana where he has worked with MMA since 2002. Clete offers a uniquely Christian perspective to his work and specializes in helping people integrate their faith with their finances. You may contact him at 873-7773 or toll free (866) 220-3900 or clete.schrock@mmapartners.org

This past Sunday, during the first church service we were asked who could remember various people, early in our lives, who have had a big spiritual affect in our lives. Immediately my mind brought my old eighth grade science teacher to mind. In 1951 I sat in Charlie Markle's General Science class and being a typical kid had very little exposure to Christian teaching. My family attended a "social church" where the fundamental doctrines of the Faith were not heard, at least by me! Mr. Markle spoke freely about his faith and occasionally would invite some of his students to his "farm" out in the country. There we would hear occasionally of his Faith and what the Lord meant to him. Those student who went with him for these weekend adventures were given a King James edition of the Bible.

Later in the same year I attended an Evangelical Revival Service with Mr. Markle, and I believe it was the first time that I heard the young evangelist named Billy Graham. It took some time before I, as a young twenty five year old adult, took the step of Faith and asked the Lord into my heart, and secondly, asked my sweetheart to become my bride. Gertie and I began our growth in the Lord and probably twenty years later I began to reflect what Mr. Markle meant to me and wished we could meet him to personally thank him for his mentoring my life. I contacted the school where he taught, and learned he had moved to Georgia in his retirement.

Our family used to travel visiting Gertie's mother in Florida over Christmas. I planned to stop in and visit my old science teacher and express my thanks to him for all he did for his students and especially for me. He was still alive, but on his death bed. Needless to say, visiting him was a highlight of that Florida trip and I look forward to sitting down with 'ol Charlie Markle in heaven and reminiscing together about our time together. *Dave Kuhl*

Mother's Day Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with Mom's special day.

A	G	F	F	U	S	E	I	R	O	M	E	M	Q	C	J	V	G	BRUNCH
K	H	G	L	I	S	O	U	R	E	P	P	Q	A	P	F	U	H	CANDY
J	U	Y	R	O	Y	F	O	B	E	G	H	R	G	E	N	I	J	CARDS
Q	G	H	C	A	W	T	T	F	M	N	D	G	N	I	R	A	C	CARING
S	S	M	O	R	N	E	D	H	V	S	N	N	K	W	N	D	U	CHILDREN
E	C	J	I	J	D	R	A	J	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	S	DAUGHTERS	
S	P	P	K	M	K	Z	M	S	U	Y	F	V	D	A	A	D	O	DEVOTED
O	I	N	C	A	P	I	G	O	I	G	H	O	D	X	B	A	L	DINNER
R	U	B	H	Y	B	D	F	L	T	C	H	L	B	S	B	A	K	FAMILY
H	G	O	I	K	I	S	S	E	S	H	X	T	C	M	U	I	Q	FLOWERS
Z	R	W	L	D	N	M	U	I	C	H	E	T	E	G	M	J	O	FRIEND
O	A	U	D	L	S	Y	A	N	O	M	I	R	H	R	G	F	A	GIFTS
U	Y	X	R	T	T	D	J	N	D	H	N	T	S	E	S	R	Z	GIVING
X	D	W	E	D	E	J	O	T	C	A	E	R	T	G	G	I	E	GRANDMOTHERS
I	N	U	N	T	T	R	U	N	L	R	Y	U	I	N	S	E	D	HOME
V	A	G	O	Q	A	K	U	T	O	T	B	F	I	N	Z	N	N	HONOR
H	C	V	R	G	I	R	F	J	V	I	T	V	O	Q	G	D	E	HUGS
Q	E	B	K	W	B	W	Q	J	R	S	I	S	E	M	O	H	H	KISSES
D	G	H	N	W	Q	Y	E	T	B	G	W	J	T	J	U	B	B	LAUGHTER
																		LOVING
																		MAY
																		MEMORIES
																		MOTHERS
																		ROSES
																		SUNDAY
																		SONS
																		TRIBUTE

All About Puzzles
puzzles.about.com

Do you have something you could share in the next issue of Oak Leaves?

Submissions for next month are due by May 23. Thanks!

Happy Mother's Day!

May you celebrate the many ways mothers have impacted your life in a positive way.

