



Oak Leaves

The newsletter of Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty, OH

October 2011

Psalm 1

King James Version (KJV)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



“WHO AM I?”

Answer found in OL marked with an *

Where were you born? I was born in Mercy Hospital in Urbana, where the nuns cared for me in the first days of my life and a priest undoubtedly prayed for the soul of this poor little Mennonite baby.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in West Liberty in a little white house with a big back yard where the neighborhood children played under the warm June sun. I grew up on a rusty red swing set in the back yard, eating popsicles, and trampling the freshly cut grass that was soaked by the sprinkler. I grew up playing outside without fear on dark starry nights until our parents called us home and sent us to bed in our tiny rooms under the eaves with splintered floors and flowered walls.

What is a favorite childhood memory? I remember annual trips to Youth for Christ Conventions at Winona Lake, Indiana where we fed dry breadcrumbs to the ducks and swam with the fish in the lake. I wasn't even five years old, but I remember standing in awe on the sawdust floor of the Billy Sunday Tabernacle while the rafters vibrated from the chorus of *How Great Thou Art*.

What was your first job? When I was 13 I unhappily went to work for my parents in their gift shop. I complained most of the time because I didn't want to be there and I thought up every excuse imaginable so I didn't have to go to work. When I was supposed to be working I could often be found sitting at Dajolees with my friends eating french fries and drinking Pepsi and occasionally having a slice of Rose Emma's pie.

Do you have a favorite book/author, or what are you reading currently? I don't read much anymore, but I grew up with Nancy Drew and spent my childhood days imagining I was Nancy driving around in my blue Roadster and solving mysteries with my friends. This past winter while I was home recovering from surgery, I read “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett, “Crazy in Alabama” by Mark Childress, and a whole stack of books that my sister brought me for entertainment.

What is something no one knows about you/ or a little known fact? I doubt that anyone knows I was afraid of wolves when I was a little girl. There was a small hole in the plaster wall by my bed and I was always afraid a wolf would come out of the hole and eat me while I slept.

What is a place you would love to visit, or a favorite past vacation? I've been to France, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, Austria, and Germany. I've admired the Mona Lisa at the Louvre, viewed the lights of Paris from the Eiffel Tower, and floated down the Seine on a river boat. I've climbed the mountain to the Neuschwanstein Castle, danced around in the gazebo from the Sound of Music, and watched the changing of the guard at the palace of Prince Rainier. I shook hands with the Baron of Liechtenstein and waded in the salty waters of the Mediterranean. But my days of adventure are over and I really don't like to travel much anymore. Two nights in a motel is my limit.

What are your hobbies/pastimes? TV is always good entertainment as far as I'm concerned. I like puzzles—jigsaw and crossword. I like to go to flea markets and antique shops and look for treasures.

How would you spend your day if you had no work/responsibilities? I have way too many days where I have no work or responsibilities. I can sleep in on Saturdays and spend the day with my feet on the coffee table, the kitty on my lap, and a movie on TV. It doesn't matter if the house is a little dusty or the dishes need to be washed because nobody cares except me.

What is a favorite or meaningful verse/passage/book of the Bible? Isaiah 40:28-31

What do you appreciate about Oak Grove? The folks at Oak Grove are nice and caring and no one makes me do things that I don't want to do.

Personal Reflection

*by Doris Enns,
written by request*

I'd like to share an experience from one of our Lent Season weekly prayer times.

Pastor Dick led us in what I called a Reflective Prayer.

He asked us to close our eyes, get comfortable and asked God to guide our thinking as he mentioned different things.

First, he asked us to think of a very special place we've been or a favorite place that we've visited or traveled to.

Next, he said, now bring to that place the people that were with you.

I found my thoughts go to Arkansas. My cousin Loren and Judith and I were in a small boat fishing on Bull Shoals Lake close to the Dam. There were many boats, people fishing, but as it got closer to midnight, boats started leaving and finally it was just us. The fish stopped biting. So we just enjoyed the silence of the night, the moon, the stars, the whip poor will, we talked. There was such a loving, secure feeling of just being together.

Then Dick interrupted those wonderful memories by saying "Now imagine that you're still at that place but the people you were with left. You are all alone." Oh my goodness!

I found my feelings turn to fear. I didn't know how to drive the boat, nor could I swim. I was in this small boat with 100 ft of water underneath. What if the wind would pick up?

Then Dick said, "Now invite Jesus to be with you at this place (in the boat) and start a conversation with Him---what are you talking about?"

Well, first Jesus said to me, "Don't be afraid, trust me."

And I said, "Right I suppose you know how to drive this boat."

Then Jesus went on to say how much he loved me and how he was glad that he died for me because God loves to have me in his family.

And about that time I heard Dick say "AMEN."

As I opened my eyes I was back, sitting in the pew at Oak Grove.

It was a unique experience and when I got home I looked up a few of Max Lucado's inspirational thoughts on God's Love.

I'd like to share them with you.

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Ponder the Love of God

I pray that you. . .will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Ephesians 3:18

There is no way our little minds can comprehend the love of God. But that didn't keep him from coming. . .

From the cradle in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem we've pondered the love of our Father. What can you say to that kind of emotion? Upon learning that God would rather die than live without you, how do you react? How can you begin to explain such passion?

In another devotional he says,

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, he'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and he chose your heart. . .

Face it, friend. He's crazy about you.

He loves you very much.

Doris Enns

Travel Notes

Sept. 2, 2011

Jim, Dan and Anita Bartlett toured the Creation Museum in KY. It only took 2 hours to get there via US 68, I-70, I-675, I-75 and I-275 around Cincinnati. The crowds were small just before Labor Day weekend so we got to spend 6 hours leisurely strolling from room to spectacular room of history beginning with the six days of creation and Garden of Eden through modern science and medicine. We saw both planetarium shows and two 25-minute films, one for new believers and one on dragons in history being evidence of dinosaurs being alive with man. There was proof of the earth being young, only 6,000 years old. The theory of the Big Bang and the earth being billions of years old was shown to be impossible. There were interactive games and robotic Bible characters telling their stories. Some of the rooms had a good deal of reading material but much of it was read with closed-captions accompanied by films that were shown on monitors around the rooms. There were 3 places to buy luncheon fare like sandwiches, pizza, salads, wraps and drinks, but groups can bring their own food to be consumed in large outside pavilions. The botanical gardens were amazing and the hanging and floating bridges were a lot of fun to cross. The petting zoo had llamas, coatimundi, wallabies, a zebra/horse cross called a zorse, goats, a camel and more. The bookstore was well supplied with books, videos, games, toys, gifts and tee shirts. At the very least we recommend that everyone visit the website and take the virtual tour of many of the rooms. Using your cursor you can pan around each room like you're actually there. creationmuseum.org. Hope you get to go and see 70,000 square feet depicting the history of God's creation.

Free Booklet

If you would like a free booklet from Dr. James Dobson about raising adolescents, visit this website to request one:

<http://www.salemoffers.com/campaign/my-family-talk-parenting/rc/directemail>

HUMOR

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation:

"I have good news and bad news. The good news is...

We have enough money to pay for our new building program.

The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...

"Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass.

Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins

This recipe was a favorite of Jacob Regier's from a 2008 issue of Oak Leaves. We thought these muffins were so good, the recipe needed to be shared again.

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 large eggs, slightly beaten
2 cups granulated sugar
1 can pumpkin
1 cup olive oil
2 cups chocolate chips—we favor the mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease thirty-six 2 1/2 inch muffin cups or line with paper bake cups. Combine all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt in medium bowl. Combine eggs and sugar in large bowl. Add pumpkin and oil; mix well. Stir in flour mixture until moistened. Stir in chocolate chips. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched. Cool in pans on wire racks for 5 minutes; remove from pans.

Wanted: Tomatoes

If you have tomatoes left in your garden that you would like to contribute to the food committee to be preserved for Election Day soups, call Judi Steider. She will do all the work!

Thank you

Dear Supporters,

It is my great pleasure to say thank you so much for all you have done for me. With out your support I will not reach this far. I graduated on June 18, 2011 after my graduation I like to take one course with postgraduate so I could not send you an email, now I have finished the course.

By the provision of God caring people (Hansen's and you) and by your cheerful support my dream came to true. Still I have a dream to continue my further study in social work, sociology or counseling. My vision and dream is to do holistic ministry especially to work with women and children it is in me for long time. I would like to equip myself more to give better service, thank you for keeping me in your prayer. Please pass my appreciations and thanks to all who support me, I send some pictures so that you could see me, I hope Hansen's send you my picture before, anyway, I send you single picture so that you could know who I am particularly in addition to the group picture. Please come and visit Ethiopia, Ethiopia is such a beautiful country. There are lots of tourist attractions, the country is growing fast, I believe this is the time to raise up for my country this is what I understand by my spirit, I believe as I prayed God will show me the blessings of my country. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ, Tigist

Oak Grove members helped to support Tigist in her studies at Meserete Kristos Bible College. Her picture (and copy of this letter) are on the bulletin board. If you have more questions about Tigist, see Grace Leichty.

Our Daily Bread

7 cooks and bakers +10 servers + 177 meals
= our God has been glorified at
Our Daily Bread on Friday, August 26

West Liberty Cares

West Liberty Cares will be providing Thanksgiving food for pantry visitors in November and would like Oak Grove's support in collecting sugar, pumpkin pie spice and boxed dessert topping like Dream Whip.

Please place any of these items in the narthex cabinet by Oct. 30.

Certificates to Thoman's will be given out for perishable food items, too, so donations to cover the certificates may be made through the offering to WLC. Ask Anita Bartlett, if you have questions.

October Anniversaries

2 Jason & Robin Kauffman
6 Willard & Lydia King
17 Tony & Cynthia King
20 Dwight & Shirley Hostetler
23 Dave & Gertie Kuhl
24 Joey & Jackie Peraza

October Birthdays

1 Silas King, Samantha King,
Bryant Newman
3 Darrel King, Rosie Neer
4 Kari Regier
5 Larry Steider, Margaret Hager
7 Gertie Kuhl, Isaac Kauffman
8 Joe Smucker, Emily Reminder
9 Davi Stoltzfus
11 Myron Yoder
13 Dick Barrett, Robin Kauffman,
Willie Stoltzfus
16 Katie Scott, Samuel Peraza
18 Billie Yoder
20 Mike King
21 Rebekah Kratz
23 Orlan Clasen
24 Kate Cramer, Jennifer Overholt,
Conner Leichty
25 Shirley Kauffman, Cathryn Seymour
28 Raquel Stoltzfus
29 Barbara Hartzler, Andrea Kauffman,
Sherrie Yoder
31 Abbie Siegenthaler

*Melinda Yoder

A post from Heather Yoder's blog:

<http://newtokansai.blogspot.com/>

August 24, 2011

I went to school all by myself for the first time yesterday. I didn't get lost, but I did mess up twice. Once, in Umeda (large railway station in Osaka), where I was supposed to be following signs to the subway line, except my signs suddenly vanished. It took me awhile to find them again, but I knew as long as I didn't actually go outside, I should be ok. The second time, I stayed on the subway several stops too long, which resulted in a hike of at least 20 minutes (I didn't time it exactly).

To compound the issue, I was in heels at the time. New, not yet broken in heels. They felt amazing when I bought them (I believe the exact words were "they're the most comfortable heels I've ever worn"), but apparently they don't stand up all that well to so much walking.

As the school, I spent time studying my predecessor's lesson plans and getting familiar with things, then a very short meeting where I and another new teacher introduced ourselves. I was surprised at the brevity of the meeting, but apparently everyone else had a long meeting earlier and they wanted to keep this one short.

On the way home, one of my fellow teachers was going the same way as I for a bit and showed me the correct station to go to, etc. Also, it was nice to have someone to talk to for a bit. I got through Umeda quickly and caught the train just before it was leaving. The problem with getting the train as it leaves at rush hour is the lack of seating, so I stood for about half of that ride, still in heels.

Unfortunately, there was no food awaiting me at home, so I got off early and went to the organic grocery (which, by the way, is called "natural house," and not whatever I said it was before). I accidentally gave the cashier the wrong amount of money, failing to carefully count the number of zeros on the bills I was handing her, and then had to walk another 1/2 hr to get home. I probably should have taken the subway, but I didn't know where the nearest station was, and I probably would have spent just as much time looking for it as I did walking home.

To top it all off, when I got home, what I thought was miso soup turned out to be vegetable soup instead. Not that it was bad, I was just tired from my long day and frustrated that I couldn't do simple things like pay for my food properly or find out what kind of food I was buying.

On the plus side, I now have the makings of fried rice for supper! Super excited about that :)

School starts in one week, it's getting kind of close... I'll probably go in a couple days early next week to do some lesson planning and meet the teachers that I'm actually teaching with, etc.

Local temp: 81, and apparently it's raining, but the view from my window is clear (is a bit cloudy)

Did you know. . . ?

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0932453.html>

School:

Schools in Japan are very competitive, and the pressure to score well begins early. Even preschoolers may attend "cram schools" to prepare for exams.

The Japanese school year typically begins in April and lasts until March. There is a summer break of about six weeks, but kids have homework during that time.

Play:

Comic books have been popular in Japan since the 1700s. Comics now account for about 40% of all published material in Japan.

Kite-flying is enjoyed by people of every age. Each year Japan hosts numerous kite festivals that feature giant, spectacular handmade kites.

Family:

Homes in Japan are small—on average, less than 1,000 square feet (compared with 2,400 in the U.S.). The typical family of four lives in five small rooms.

Most fathers in Japan work long hours. As a result, some kids only see their fathers on weekends or holidays

Favorite food:

Fish! Fish may be eaten at breakfast, lunch, or dinner. On average, each person in Japan eats about 68 kg (150 lbs) of fish a year.

Did you know? Japan is an island country. It consists of four main islands—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu and about 3,000 smaller ones.

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, Michelle Neer

Soul Surfer (DVD) – The incredible true story of a teen surfer, Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again through her determination and unwavering faith. Stars AnnaSophia Robb, Helen Hunt, Carrie Underwood and Dennis Quaid. (rated PG)

***Life In Spite of Me* by Kristen Jane Anderson** – She lay down on the cold railroad tracks and waited for a freight train to send her to heaven... and peace. Miraculously, Kristen's story doesn't end there. Read as this young woman shares the miracle of her survival, the aftermath of a failed suicide attempt and the hope that has completely transformed her life and given her a purpose for living.

***Playing With Purpose* by Mike Yorkey** – Inside the lives and faith of the NFL's top new quarterbacks – Sam Bradford, Colt McCoy and Tim Tebow

***The Trauma Zone* by R Dandridge Collins** – Emotional Trauma is tricky and powerful. Just when you think you have loosed yourself from its grip, trauma pulls you back in... but do not despair. God's ability to heal is stronger than trauma's ability to wound.

***Every Woman's Battle* by Shannon Ethridge** - Where does an affair begin? The only way you as a woman can survive the intense struggle for sexual integrity is by guarding not only your body, but your mind and heart as well.

***Disciplines for the Inner Life* by Bob Benson Sr & Michael Benson** – A devotional featuring a sampling of hymns, prayers, scriptures and reading carefully designed for the disciplined, thoughtful, and intensive personal worship and meditation.

***Five-Star Living on a Two-Star Budget* by Margaret Feinberg & Natalie Gillespie** – Discover many fun and surprising ways to fill your dreams of travel, fashion, entertainment and dining without adding debt to your life.

***25 Days 26 Ways to Make This Your Best Christmas Ever* by Ace Collins** – Is Christmas stressing you out/ Detox your holiday and rediscover the joy of the season.

The Heart of Christmas – Prepare your heart for Christmas with these 25 devotionals.

***By This Name* by John R Cross** – Life is full of mystery. Is it possible that there is order in the midst of chaos? Are the answers in the Bible trustworthy? Let this book peel the religion off the sacred book, and let the ancient story speak for itself.

***The Divine Embrace* by Ken Gire** – An invitation to the dance of intimacy with Christ, one exhilarating, ennobling, uncertain step at a time.

Finding Hope in Recovery (DVD) – Families living with addiction – Travel with families through the stages of recovery and setback. Published by Mennonite Media Productions

***Courageous* by Randy Alcorn** – As law enforcement officers, Adam, Nathan and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer. Yet, at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared for: fatherhood. They know that God desires to turn the hearts of fathers to their children. Will they be able to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them? (A Novel from the creators of *Fireproof*. Based on the screenplay by Alex Kendrick & Stephen Kendrick)

***Tender Vow* by Sharlene MacLaren** – Brothers John & Jason Evans took a ski trip to the Rockies, but only one came home a live. In an attempt to ease his guilt and grief, Jason sets out to make amends with his widowed sister-

in-law. Can they accept God's leading and the plan He has for their lives?

***Courting Miss Amsel* by Kim Vogel Sawyer** – Edythe Amsel is delighted with her first teaching assignment: a one room schoolhouse in Nebraska. She is ready to open the world to the students in this tiny community, but is this community ready for her?

***Safely Home* by Randy Alcorn** – “Is this the day I die?”... American Business Exec Ben Fielding has no idea what his old college roommate is facing in China. But when they are reunited in China after 20 years, the men are shocked at what they discover about each other. A wake-up call about the Christian persecution in China.

***Tobias of the Amish* by Ervin Stutzman** – A true story of tangled strands in faith, family and community. Stutzman's father, Tobias, died when he was 3 years old, this story is his quest to know his father, an Amish entrepreneur.

***The Shenandoah Sisters Series* by Michael Phillips** – This Civil War saga traces the efforts of two very different Southern girls—one the daughter of a slave, the other the daughter of a plantation owner—as they fight to stay safe after being orphaned in the war. Soon the plantation they have struggled to maintain becomes a beacon of hope to others in desperate need. (4 books: **Angels Watching Over Me, A Day to Pick Your Own Cotton, The Color of Your Skin Ain't the Color of Your Heart, Together Is All We Need**)

***The Northern Lights Series* by Lisa Tawn Bergren** – From beneath the towering mountains of Norway; to the rocky coast of Main; and across the open sea, experience the saga of perseverance, passion, faith and fidelity (3 books: **The Captain's Bride, Deep Harbor, Midnight Sun**)

***Beyond the Shadows* by Robin Lee Hatcher** – When Deborah discovers she is married to an alcoholic, she is faced with a life she never expected. Somehow she must find courage and hope to step beyond the shadows.

***Kansas Home* by Tracey Bateman** – Alone on the Kansas Prarie with her orphaned niece, Cassidy Sinclair has no means and no choice but do the unthinkable. She meets with Wendell St John – a man with 4 children who has advertised for a wife.

Hallmark Movie Collection – *Thicker than Water, Angel in the Family, Ordinary Miracles and Fielder's Choice* (DVD)

Epecially for pre-teen girls...

Camp Club Girls Series - Elizabeth, Alexis, Bailey, Sydney, Kate, and McKenzie come from different parts of the country and different backgrounds. But when they meet at Camp Discovery, they learn they all share one thing: an aptitude for intrigue! Soon they're embroiled in a search for lost jewels...and that's only the beginning! Whether it's foiling terrorist plots or finding missing millionaires or rescuing sea lions, you'll love joining the adventure with these precocious preteens, as they pitch in their personal skills to solve the mysteries and save the day! The perfect blend of mystery and mayhem—just for you! (18 books – written for pre-teen girls)

Mandie and the Secret Tunnel (DVD) – When Mandie Shaw runs away from her log cabin home in 1899, she convinces Cherokee friends to help her escape into the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Based on the best-selling books by Lois Gladys Leppard. (Dove Family Approved)

Mandie and the Cherokee Treasure (DVD) – The 2nd movie in the Mandie series – Mandie is forbidden by her Uncle John to join him on a dangerous quest to keep an old promise. Based on the best-selling books by Lois Gladys Leppard. (Dove Family Approved)

Menno Media: *Fall 2011*

MennoMedia brings together Mennonite Publishing Network and Third Way Media into one company producing faith-based print, video, radio and web materials.

- **Help shape the next Mennonite song collection!** Use a free study guide and complete the song survey for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.
- **Coming for VBS 2012:** Take Me to the Water: God's Love Flows
- **Orders:** 1-800-245-7894 (USA), www.mennomedia.org
- **With the Word: Psalms** We draw closer to God when we spend time with the Word! This new series offers easy-to-follow Bible study and devotions for adults, from an Anabaptist perspective. Each unit focuses on a specific book of the Bible, with study, discussion, and reflection, followed by brief devotionals. Suitable for groups or individuals, with leader suggestions included. Look for With the Word: Psalms in October, and With the Word: Luke in December. Find information about other devotional and inspirational resources at www.MennoMedia.org/devotionals.
- **Build faith with Kids Can Club:** Kids Can Be Blessed A kids' club or midweek program is a great way to reach out to kids, and build faith. Kids Can Club is a series of flexible, all-in-one studies for grades 1-5, for clubs, midweek programs, Sunday night, camp, and other settings. Each unit includes 10 sessions with Bible story, activities, crafts and more. Look for these new titles: Kids Can Be Blessed invites kids to learn how to put the Beatitudes into practice, Kids Can Build Bridges takes kids on an imaginary trip around the world. As they meet new friends in other places, they'll discover that people everywhere have similarities and differences. \$19.99 USD/\$22.99 CAD each
- **New Close to Home pamphlets:** Close To Home Close to Home pamphlets help Christian caregivers and friends reach out to those dealing with difficult personal issues. New topics include: Dementia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Elder Abuse, Electronic Addiction. Order these to display or share in your church. They may also be used for group study. Purchase one copy per member and find free study guides at www.mennomedia.org/closetohome.
- **Waging Peace: Muslim and Christian Alternatives;** Waging Peace is a new documentary exploring alternatives to war, from Third Way Media. It will air Oct. 23-Dec. 12 on some ABC-TV local stations.
- **MennoMedia Study Shelf:** Classes and groups can save 25% on 5 or more copies of any Herald Press book, at the MennoMedia Study Shelf. Coming soon from Herald Press:
 - Widening the Circle
 - Christian Experiments in Discipleship
 - Stories about Anabaptist-Mennonite intentional communities, edited by Joanna Shenk.
 - Go to Church, Change the World
 - Christian Community as Calling
 - A bold call by Gerald Mast to embrace the church community as intrinsic to Christian faith.
- **Recent titles:**
 - Youth Ministry, Youth Ministry at a Crossroads, Tending to the Faith Formation of Mennonite Youth (Essays by experienced youth workers, edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler and Bob Yoder), Forming Christian Habits in Post Christendom (The Legacy of Alan and Eleanor Kreider)

- **Recommended resources:**

Purpose (Stories of Faith and Promise); Every month's issue of Purpose features inspirational stories, columns, and verse, and regular features on food, peace, humor, and resources for faithful living.

Rejoice! (Daily Devotional Readings)l Each day, Rejoice! provides a Bible reading with a brief inspirational message and a prayer of response. Also included are inspirational stories and poems, and prayer requests representing Mennonite mission workers, schools, and church agencies. Published quarterly.

Wee Wonder: Sharing God's Love with Twos; Fifty-two engaging sessions introduce two- and three-year-olds to a loving God through song, action rhymes, Bible stories and responsive play. Boxed set: \$159.99 USD/\$189.99 CAD

Body & Soul (Healthy Sexuality and the People of God); If the Bible can celebrate the body, sex, and sexuality, Christians can too. These resources guide a four-part congregational focus on sexuality through worship and interactive Bible study, with separate guides for coordinator, worship leader, adult study leader, and youth study leader. Also included are a parents' book, a book of essays, and a Christian education book for families to use at home. Boxed set. Items also available separately. Special pricing: \$49.99 USD/\$ 57.49 CAD

Shaping Families: radio/web/podcast

Shaping Families Weekend of October 1, 2011 – Living with Bipolar

Risdon Slate, a professor in criminology who lives with bipolar illness, helps police officers and medical workers know how to respond to those with a mental health crisis.

Shaping Families Weekend of October 8, 2011 – Child Abuse

Jeannette Harder, author of a new book especially for churches on protecting children, *Let the Children Come: Preparing Faith Communities to End Child Abuse and Neglect*, is the featured guest on *Shaping Families* this week.

Shaping Families Weekend of October 15, 2011 – Understanding Other Faiths

Lynne Hybels, an author from Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, Ill, had her world view change as she encountered men, women and children in some of the world's trouble spots.

Shaping Families Weekend of October 22, 2011 – Aging: Options

Stella Henry, a nurse who founded a long-term care facility, shares good information to consider in thinking about caring for aging parents or other loved ones.

Shaping Families Weekend of October 29, 2011 – Families Under Construction

Gareth Brandt, the author of a new Herald Press book: *Under Construction: Framing Men's Spirituality* is the guest on *Shaping Families* this week. He discusses men's issues and shares some of his own experiences as a father of four.

Acorn Treat

Spread a little melted chocolate on the flat side of a Hershey's kiss and immediately attach a Nutter Butter Bites cookie. Cut a small hole in the corner of a plastic bag. Fill with additional melted chocolate and pipe a stem onto the acorn. A fun fall treat!

Shan Neer