

Rockville

Reflections

As we, who with unveiled
faces all reflect the
Lord's glory,
are being transformed
into his likeness with ever
increasing glory,
which comes from the
Lord, who is the Spirit."
2 Corinthians 3:18

January 2009 Volume 6 Issue 5

Photo Credit: Barbara Ranck, Virginia Coast of Atlantic Ocean at Sunrise

Psalm 15

Description of a Citizen of Zion.

Description of a citizen of _____ (the place where you now live)

A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?
 - 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,
And speaks truth in his heart.
 - 3 He does not slander with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
 - 4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised,
But who honors those who fear the LORD;
He swears to his own hurt and does not change;
 - 5 He does not put out his money at interest,
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent
- He who does these things will never be shaken.

As the year comes to a close, I find myself remembering the events of the past. My thoughts turn to Psalm 15 and the story of how it got into my memory bank at the crossroad of the years.

Some 30 years ago I spent eleven of my childhood years as a MK (missionary kid) living with my family in the backwoods of Northern Ontario. For seven years my dad was Dorm Supervisor for 50 some First Nations students in a residential school setting, beyond the end of the road 45 minutes by float plane. During school breaks our family might get 'out of the bush' to the town for a few days, to do a bit of shopping, rummage through the missionary barrel for 'new' outfits, (no kidding! the used clothes were truly in a cardboard barrel), see the doctor or dentist, and connect with colleagues. On one of these outings we were in town for the New Year's Eve service at the mission church. I remember where I was sitting in that midnight prayer meeting. I remember the companionship I felt as I sat on that church bench with the other young people. I remember that Dave Burkholder had the devotional. He encouraged us to take Psalm 15 as a guide for the coming year. It spoke into my heart significantly and I made notations in my Bible. I literally hung on every word of that scripture as I faced the new year.

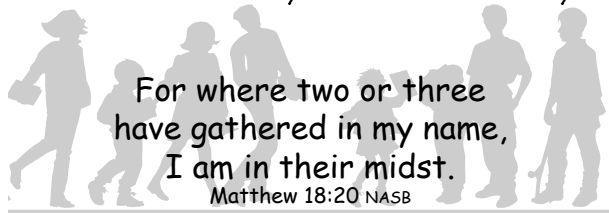
Through the years since I've gone back to Psalm 15 and re-read it at intersection of the years. I ponder how the principles in this psalm have governed my choices in the past year. I invite the Spirit to set my focus for the coming year. And more recently I marvel at twists and turns in the road of my life... how I was a MK teenager needing a word from the Lord to govern my life in my situation, how Dave was the pastor in that mission church, far from the familiarities of home, being faithful in sharing the Word of God, and how we, the teenager and the pastor, now the mother of teens and church secretary, sit together in another church, in a vastly different culture, continuing to find hope in the same Word of God.

I shake my head with the wonder of it all...how the Scriptures and the Body of Christ transcend the times and culture.

In the New Year as you ponder how you have been impacted by His Word, both the written Word, the Bible and the Living WORD, Christ, may you be awed when you see how it has been just what you need...today....in your unique life circumstances among the people with whom you live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

submitted by Twila

Small Group Fellowships



For where two or three
have gathered in my name,
I am in their midst.
Matthew 18:20 NASB

JR High Youth Group In His STEPS

Following the school calendar,
upon entering 6th grade youth are invited
to attend Jr High events until they enter ninth grade

Advisors:

Dave and Rose Myers 610.286.7870

SR High Youth Group

Following the school calendar,
upon entering ninth grade youth are invited
to attend SR High events.
There is no cut off age for the SR High Group.

Advisors:

Dave and Verna Diener 717.354.2424
Dale and Renee Horning 717.445.0598

Officers:

Jon Lapp, Austin Stoltzfus,
Emily Stoltzfus, Andrea Stoltzfus

Young Adults Group

Upon graduating from high school,
young adults are invited to join YAG.

Advisors:

Fred and Joanne Good 717.354.9376

Group Bible Studies

To participate contact lead couple for group details

Mike and Cindy Shoup
610.286.0821

Leon and Gloria Lapp
610.593.5889

Gene and Loretta Smucker
717.354.9923

GriefShare

Seminar meets weekly as announced in bulletin

Mary Howe 610.656.2855
Paul and Twila Ranck 717.442.1287

Congregational Prayer Meeting

1st Sunday Evening of the Month at Church

Facilitated by the Elders
Fred Haldeman, Paul Ranck, Cliff Stoltzfus,
Marv Stoltzfus, Nate Stoltzfus

Weekend to Remember

FAMILYLIFE™ a division of Campus Crusade for Christ, presents
a marriage seminar entitled **WEEKEND TO REMEMBER™**.



Life experiences impact relationships.

Paul and I live in a rough and tumble world, with seven children, ages 23 - 10, with varied business, social, ministry and church commitments. We see circumstances differently because we are different people. Yet we are in the same marriage.

We've attended this conference each year since 2003 and every time our marriage has been washed with the water of the Word, literally! We are reminded that every marriage experiences challenges and God's Word is full of hope. Biblical teaching on marriage, peppered with real life experiences is the sole content of the seminar. We discover that we are not alone. We come away cleansed, renewed, and equipped to face the cares of this life with hope.

You are not the only one with difficult times in your marriage. Yes, you have your own set of life experiences that impact your marriage, however focusing on the promises of God's Word for your marriage, seeing His heart for marriage, can spur you on to keeping on through it all. We found that as we tune into the stories and experiences that are shared at the conferences we are better able to tell our own story with hope. We pray this will be your experience also.

For more Details and to Register go to
www.familylife.com/groups/families
use Group Name: FAMILIES
for the \$80. discount/per couple
Call with your questions 717.442.1287



We will be praying that God will open the wells of his healing grace in your marriage. He is skilled to do major surgery or patch a smarting brush-burn. He is the Healer of Marriages. He is continuing to heal ours daily. *Twila with Paul*

Seminars Nearby

Hershey - Hershey Lodge, February 13 - 15, 2009

Baltimore - Hyatt Regency Baltimore, February 27 - March 1, 2009
Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley, March 20 - 22, 2009

Poconos - Skytop Lodge, April 4 - 5, 2009

King Of Prussia -

Crowne Plaza Valley Forge, Nov. 20 - 22, 2009 also Dec. 4 - 6, 2009

LIBRARY LINES



Librarian Correspondent:
Ruby Lerch



DO HARD THINGS

by Alex and Brett Harris

A growing movement of young people is rebelling against the low expectations of today's culture by choosing to "do hard things" for the glory of God-- and Alex and Brett Harris are leading the charge. (Alex and Brett are the sons of homeschool author Greg Harris.) Combating the idea of adolescence as a vacation from responsibility, Alex and Brett weave together biblical insights, history, and modern examples to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life. Teens will enjoy this book and will be challenged to step out and "do hard things" for God.



Photo of Martha and Barbara Ranck taken at the **GriefShare Christmas Banquet** held in our home December 18, 2008. We hosted GriefShare participants and family members at a sit down dinner.

FIND HELP DISCOVER HOPE EXPERIENCE HEALING

GriefShare

your journey from

mourning to joy

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

January 21st - April 15th, 2009

**Sessions held in The Paul Ranck home
5001 W. Lincoln Hwy. Parkesburg, 19365**

Leaders:

**Mrs. Mary Howe 610.656.2855
Paul and Twila Ranck 717.442.1287**

You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is 'self-contained,' so that you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next 13-week session and to view any of the videos you have not seen.

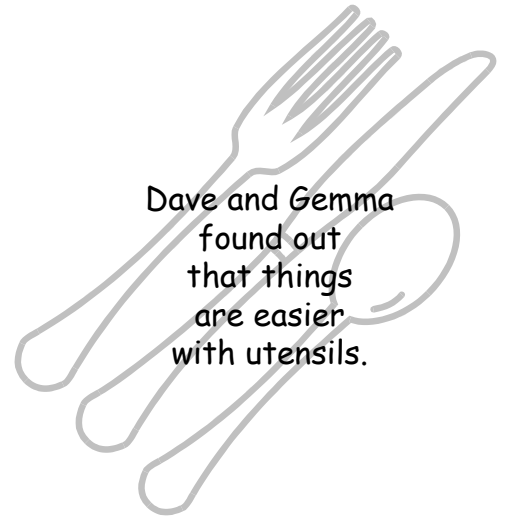


JR Youth Christmas Party



Menu:

- Which Came First**
(chicken)
- Underground Apple**
(mashed potatoes)
- Rock &**
(roll)
- Old Teeth**
(corn)
- Worm's Home**
(dirt pudding)
- Summer & Fall Meet**
(jello applesauce)
- Steamed Glacier**
(water)
- Farmer's Friend**
(fork)
- Oar**
(spoon)
- Mother's Friend**
(napkin)
- Sword**
(knife)



Dave and Gemma
found out
that things
are easier
with utensils.





Our comfort level increased as we observed their appreciation.

The junior youth had the opportunity to serve and be served during our recent Christmas party hosted by the McKim family. Spirits were bright as we laughed at ourselves, but we were also reminded of our blessings as we interacted with those who are less fortunate than us.

Our festivities began with a mystery meal, and we were given a list of descriptive phrases or words whose meanings we attempted to interpret correctly. After listing the menu items in the order in which we wanted them served, Sarah and Jesse McKim and Elizabeth Ranck proceeded to accomodate us. They relished serving us our food especially when no utensils accompanied the course. Such good sports we were, though, as we embraced the novelty of eating dirt pudding for an appetizer, made more interesting by needing to use our fingers. Some of us, however, thought we were

set to go when we received the necessary utensils right away, only to realize that everything was taken away to make room for the next course.

After the meal we were escorted by Donna to the VA Hospital in Coatesville to carol for some of the residents. We sang to groups of people who were in activity rooms and to individuals in their rooms. One man's face beamed as Natalie played a song on her flute especially for him. Afterward we asked the residents to select a gift from a basket that we had brought along which encouraged interaction among the youth and the adults. When we left about an hour later, our hearts were full of cheer.

Upon dashing back to the McKims' house, we enjoyed a "now you have it, now you don't" gift exchange. However, after our experience at the hospital, I believe we all realized that we already had received a gift by giving to others.



article and photos submitted by Rose Myers



Donna especially wanted us to meet James, a patient she cares for.



Do you Know... the Mast's?

Correspondent: Christina Kartz
submitted by Patti

Steve is the youngest of David and Miriam's three children. We live within a mile of the home he was born in along Telegraph Road, Coatesville, PA. He went to school at Coatesville Area Schools and Lancaster Mennonite High. He grew up attending Rockville Mennonite Church.

Patti is the fourth child of Joe and Miriam Kennel's six children. She was born in Chester Springs and moved to the Honey Brook area when she was 11. She attended Owen J. Roberts Elementary Schools and Honey Brook Elementary before going to Twin Valley High School. Patti attended West Chester Mennonite Church until she married Steve and joined him in attending Rockville Mennonite.

Although Steve and Patti grew up across the hill from each other, they did not meet until they were in the 20's. When Patti worked at an insurance company, a co-worker started inviting her to Bible Study. Since she was already attending a youth group Bible Study with Bart Mennonite, she did not take her up on her offer. However, her co-worker had other ideas. Very coincidentally, the co-worker needed a ride to work on a Bible Study night and suggested Patti just stay for supper and Bible Study when we arrived home from work. I'm sure you've guessed by now who else was at the Bible Study.

Patti continued attending that Bible Study as well as going to Bart's Youth Group. This left little time for catching her at home, but with persistence Steve did finally manage to ask her out. After several years of dating, they were married by Patti's father in 1985, choosing an outdoor wedding at West Chester Mennonite.

Steve is currently employed in the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration field at Villanova University. He has taken classes in his trade at Delaware Community College as well as taking advantage of education offered through various manufacturers and organizations related to the HVAC trade.

Patti left the insurance company in 1979 and went to work for Farmer Brown's Market in Morgantown. The store was purchased by Martin's Country Market in 1991 and she worked there since with the exception of a short leave in 2001 - 2002.

Steve and Patti have been involved in various responsibilities at Rockville over the years. Most recently, Steve is a trustee as well as helping out in the sound room. Patti is helping with power point and is the renowned 'gum lady'. :)

Steve and Patti and a dog named Beau reside at 146 Davis Road, Coatesville.