

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

March 2009 Volume 6 Issue 7

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

## God's Garden

*Correspondent: Twila Ranck*

In this season of Spring, may the singing of the birds  
remind us of how valuable we are to God,  
how tenderly He cares for us,  
how He longs for us to trust Him with daily life.



Psalm 104:28  
You give to them,  
they gather it up,  
You open Your hand,  
they are satisfied with good.

Job 35:11  
Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth  
And makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?

Psalm 104:27  
They all wait for You  
To give them their food in due season.

## If a Bird Can Cling

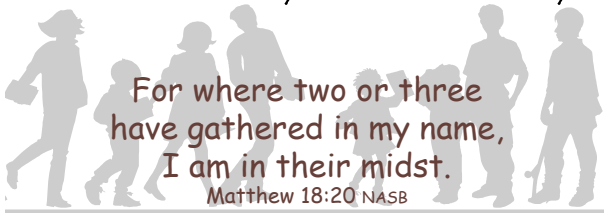
If a bird can cling  
To a spray aswing  
In a mad spring wind,  
And sing and sing  
As if he'd burst for joy;

Surely I can,  
Contented lie  
In His strong arms  
Beneath His sky  
Unmoved by earth's annoy?



Luke 12:24  
"Consider the ravens, for  
they neither sow nor reap;  
they have no storeroom  
nor barn,  
and yet God feeds them;  
how much more valuable  
you are than the birds!

# 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 Dienner 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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Evening of the Month at Church

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



Dave and Dale  
THANKS!!



Savoring the benefits  
of a successful bid.

# SR Youth and

After a deli  
ment of pie  
Cheese dip  
pies, bread  
whoopie pi  
Lots of ban  
ects and ac

Thanks to a

# Church Serves Spaghetti Supper and hosts it's annual auction.

A delicious supper of Meatballs and Spaghetti, rolls, tossed salad and an assortment of desserts and cake with ice cream, Steve Petersheim served as auctioneer for the night. Items for sale included bread and pretzels, cabin sitting, dinner coupons, yard work, baby-sitting, cleaning, quilts, wheat weavings, birdhouses, household items, scrapbooks, homemade cards, and more. Desserts like sticky buns, roses, cupcakes, supper leftovers and more were up for sale. Cheers and laughter accompanied the lively bidding. All proceeds benefit the projects and activities of the SR Youth Group.

Thank you to all! both the Youth Group and those who attended. It was a fun filled evening.



BIG brother,  
little sister



*extra*  
*Special thanks*  
to  
Verna and Renee  
for the  
behind-the-scenes  
work they did  
to allow the evening  
to proceed with  
such success.



photos and article submitted by Twila and girls

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Submissions should be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceeding publication

## Do you Know... the Smucker's?

Correspondent: Christina Kurtz submitted by Loretta



When I was five years old, my parents moved from Lancaster Co. to a hog farm in Schuylkill Co. I grew up in a family with 5 brothers, so it shouldn't surprise you that I was a tomboy. I loved all kinds of sports, but softball was my favorite. In fact, Gene's first memory of me was one Sunday when his family came to visit mine (our parents were friends). We were playing softball out in our pig pasture and Gene was impressed with this girl who could play ball like a boy. When I was twelve years old, my family moved back to Lancaster Co. and I attended Linville Hill Mennonite School.

Gene lived with his family on a dairy farm near White Horse. He has one brother and 3 sisters. He attended Weavertown Mennonite School. Back in the early 70's, there was quite a rivalry going on between Linville Hill and Weavertown—each school determined to have the better softball team. At one such game, I was impressed with this quiet, good looking guy who played catcher for Weavertown. He could really hit and then get around the bases faster than anyone I had ever seen!

First impressions set a good stage for our romance. Toward the end of our senior year at LMH, we started eating lunch together. On our graduation night, he invited me and a friend to go with him on a full moon horse back ride—and the rest is history! During our dating years, I taught Kindergarten at Linville Hill and Gene worked with a carpenter crew.

We got married on February 3, 1979. Our first home was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away from the farm where Gene was born and raised. After our wedding, he started working for his dad on the home farm. Almost 2 years later, we built a dairy barn on our property and started milking cows.

Over the next 12 years we welcomed 4 boys into our home: Craig, Eric, Jordan and Grant. As our boys grew, we enjoyed the 4 ring circus that was now part of our lives—at least most of the time! Working together as a family on the farm and homeschooling our kids were the days of our lives. There were plenty of "hold your breath" moments when they tried out some new stunts on the dirt bike or 4-wheeler and all the other things boys are good at inventing! There were some "pray fervently" moments when we dealt with some serious accidents. There were also many moments of Mom being totally outnumbered by all the men in her life! That's why we welcomed with much pleasure two wonderful daughter-in-laws into our family last summer. Jordan and Dana got married on May 17, 2008 and Craig and Becky got married less than a month later on June 14, 2008. Now Mom finally has some allies! Eric bought a house in New Holland and moved into it in 2006, so now Grant is our only son still living at home. He is currently a junior in high school and works part time at Gap Power.

We sold our cows in 2002 when Gene became the associate pastor at Rockville, but continued with the crop farming. When Gene became the fulltime pastor in 2004, Jordan continued with the crop farming and Gene helps out as his schedule permits.

Gene relaxes by keeping up with the latest news and politics and by riding his 4 wheeler around the farm. I enjoy reading and playing in my flower gardens.

Our lives are quite different than we could ever have imagined 30 years ago but we continue to be amazed at God's direction and faithfulness in our lives.