

Rockville

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

Reflections

November 2009 Volume 7 Issue 3

Thoughts for your **THANKS**giving

THANKS

Did I forget to thank Thee, Lord,
For things that may seem small;
A flower by the wayside path,
A wild bird's lonely call,
For all the daily happenings
That we call commonplace,
For sunrise and for sunset glow,
My neighbor's smiling face?

Since life is made of little things,
Oh, let me not forget
To count my smallest blessings all
Before the sun is set.
I thank Thee, Lord, for every one
Who adds a note of cheer,
And for the blessings multiplied
To me from year to year.

I Thessalonians 5: 12 - 28 in the NASB is titled

Christian Conduct

and tucked within these verses we find
the admonition to give thanks in everything.

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

16 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit;

20 do not despise prophetic utterances.

21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

JR Youth Bike Hike

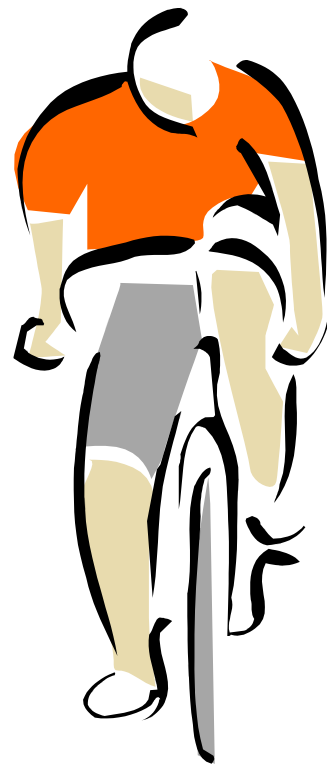
On October 11, 2009 God provided a wonderful day to admire His beautiful creation. On this day the Jr. Youth went on a bike hike. The trip consisted of eating our lunch at church and leaving for the trail in Downingtown. Everybody unloaded their bikes which were hauled on Vernon Stoltzfus' trailer. From the starting point, it was an 8 mile ride to our destination of Dairy Queen. We all ate some delicious ice cream! Along the trail were some beautiful woodlands and also the Downingtown suburbs.

On our way back, everyone stopped at a beautiful park in the woods. So many fun things were going on such as football and beach volleyball. We stayed at the park for 30 to 45 minutes and then biked back to the parking lot. We drove back to the church where everybody went their separate ways.

Overall, it was a great day of enjoying God's handiwork and beautiful creation!

p.s. An unusual fellow thought he could outrun us on our bikes but we won!

Submitted by Jordan Zimmerman



Just Thinking

Correspondent: Janae Lapp

Let no man look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity,

show yourself an example to those who believe

I Timothy 4: 12 NASB

The Rockville Youth Group was on our annual mission's trip to West Virginia this past summer, and God did awesome things while we were there. Our prayers for the trip were group unity, safety at the jobsites and that God would leave an impact on the people that we were serving. Every morning at 5:30 AM a group of us had a prayer meeting, asking God to use us for His glory that day. Wow, it is truly amazing how God answers prayers.

However, after the trip home I felt as if I left that prayer behind in WV. I didn't wake up early to spend time with God. I didn't ask God to soften the hearts of those I would come into contact with. I didn't even ask God to use me for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

It took a Youth Group Bible Study shortly after WV for me to change my perspective on life. God showed me that night that day-to-day living is just as important as a mission's trip. God placed a burden on my heart that night to live life as if I were on a missions trip every day; to live life prayerfully asking God to work in the lives of those I am to come into contact with; and to live day-to-day for God's glory.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5,6

submitted by Grant Smucker

Do you Know... the Ranch's?

Correspondent: Christina Kurtz

My grandparents, Milton and Marie Howe, were among the early families to attend Rockville in the mid-1950's. I am the firstborn of eleven children born to Lamar and Mary Howe. In 1969, when I was five, they were commissioned for a two-year term of mission work along with another couple. My parents, to Red Lake, Ontario and the other couple to Somalia, Africa. While in the North my parents ministered to the abandoned children of the streets, and provided staffing in a residential school. They added two brothers to our family by adoption. After eleven years of service I returned with them to Rockville in 1980.

In 1984 Paul and I were married. He is a farm boy from Cochranville, the fourth child of six, son of a pastor. We worked on the family dairy farm the first two years, pioneered a House of Ministry in the city of Thunder Bay, Ontario the next two, moving back to Pennsylvania in 1988. Paul was employed as a dairy hand in Elverson.

We moved to Parkesburg, New Years Day 1993, where we assumed the ownership of an existing Outdoor Furniture and Playset business. Trying to embrace all that it meant to have a home business we desired to call our business by a name which would remind us daily to focus on the relationships of life. We started with the word FAMILIES and with the help of the dictionary wrangled out the acronym - Fathers And Mothers Illustrating Love In Everyday Situations. (FamiliesCatalog.com) We have whispered this amidst our daily responsibilities in business, social and family life.

Paul is a businessman, GriefShare leader, and board member of Steeple to People Ministries. Yet he is most often found surrounded by his children as he tackles his daily responsibilities. I am humbly grateful for his involved presence in our lives.

Twila facilitates GriefShare, helps out in the business, and teaches Women's Bible Studies. Most days I find myself dividing me between the kitchen and laundry, conversing in turn with those who pass through, 'Glad to see you. Can I help you anything? Where are you going next? When will you be home?', basking in the richness of my family. Granted though there are days when I am almost dizzy with the activity.



We delight in the children in our lives, now ages 23 through 11. Sorrowfully we've buried two stillborn sons who would be 13 and 8 this year.

Jason's days are occupied with managing an Outdoor Products Sales Lot in Dillsburg for FAMILIES, working as a plumber, and spending time with the love of his life, Angie. We are counting the days till he brings her in our family circle as his wife on November 14th but he beats us all in his enthusiasm.

Marla cleans for hire, volunteers and stirs up good things. At the Honey Brook Youth Center she coordinates Craft Nights and helps with Youth Group Activities. Her great accomplishment this fall is a first place ribbon at a local fair for her chocolate cake. Finally after 3 cakes, 3 fairs, and 3 recipe variations! She is eagerly anticipating entering the state level competition at the PA Farm Show.

Barbara is the Housekeeper at Tel Hai Camp. She is also employed by Little Barn Noodles. In her 'free' time she loves to sew and to reupholster furniture. Tuesday evenings find her at the Youth Center helping with Bible Study. I look forward to the Thursday nights she cooks supper.

Elizabeth can be found playing music at her every opportunity, filling my house with songs. Her gracious spirit is quick to impart her knowledge of music to others. She bags noodles at the Noodle Barn, helps out at the Youth

Center, and aims to be where the people are.

Martha cheerfully does the menial tasks of the house, while airing her candid outlook on life. Her opinions count, solicited or unsolicited! As a Junior this year she has plenty to keep her occupied. She manages to work at Little Barn Noodles a day or so a week.

Daniel is Daddy and Jason's right hand man and my man of the hour. His sophomore school assignments keep him focused this time of year, yet he is always on the lookout for someone to join him in any game involving a ball. Oh Yeah! and he entered a challenge against Marla in the Hershey's Chocolate Cake competition and got a 3rd place ribbon. Impressive for this was his first ever 3-layered chocolate cake!

Catherine continually finds herself scrambling to keep up to them all! Learning, chores, fun and games all combine to make up her days. She delights in having company over. Sewing and reading are her hobbies.

We stand in awe as we review these precious years and contemplate His firm grip on us, for we see that our lives are etched with the obvious goodness of the Lord.

We want to express deep gratefulness to you as the Body of Christ for the intricate ways you invest in our lives.

We are truly Blest to be a part of you!

submitted by Twila ³



Volunteering at the Material Aid Center

A small group of Rockville homeschoolers can do a lot in a few hours. We, (myself, my mom, James, and Mrs. Weaver, Ellie, Mindy, Nolan, and Jewel, Josiah, Jessie, Jefferson, and Jenna Stoltzfus, and Mrs. Lerch and Jenna, and Hadassah Stoltzfus) arrived at the Material Resource Center at around nine o'clock on September 28.

We got our briefing and split into two groups (the guys and the girls). While the boys were checking school kits; the girls were checking health kits. Checking means taking everything out of the kit and making sure there are no extra or missing items. For example, in health kits there are a toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste, nail clippers, soap and a hand towel. If the toothbrush is not in a box or if there is hole in its packaging it must be placed in the reject pile. If the soap is 3.5 ounces instead of 4-5 ounces it must be replaced. For the school kits if someone places a piece of candy or an extra notebook or pencil it must be removed. How would you feel if your neighbor got something extra and you didn't? Anyway, after everything is in order we must place it back into the bag properly otherwise we can't fit as many in a shopping barrel.

At ten o'clock, we all took a break from checking kits and went to the break room for snacks. After break, we learned a bit about the recycling that MCC does. We saw a rug made of old neckties, and a loom that wove rugs out of strips of old jeans. Squares cut from old t-shirts are sold to companies for grease rags, especially over the winter when vehicle maintenance is done. We learned that MCC earned \$200,000 from recycling last year.

Then, we went back to work. This time we ripped covers off books, and the pages into small sections. Do not try this at home, kids! The pages of books can be recycled and made into new paper. The covers, however, cannot be recycled and are placed in local landfills. Thousands of pages later it was time to go.

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of the month preceeding publication

*It was a very great experience
and I do hope to do it again soon.*

article submitted by Hannah McKim photos by Ruby Lerch