

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

September 2010 Volume 8 Issue 1

God's Garden Unfolding the Rose

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing all any petals. The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry.

But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...



*It is only a tiny rosebud -
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.*

*The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I -
The flower God opens so sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.*

*If I cannot unfold a rosebud
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?*

*So I'll trust Him for His leading
Each moment of every day,
And I'll look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.*

*For the pathway that lies before me
My Heavenly Father knows -
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose.*

-Unknown

Correspondent: Twila Ranch Photo Submission by: Catherine Ranch

your journey

from mourning to joy



If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now.

That's the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar for people grieving the loss of someone close. This group is sponsored by people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time.

GriefShare is not a seminar to 'bandaid' the pain. We offer GriefShare as a 'vessel of salve', a touch of healing as you need it, in your time.

Each GriefShare session includes a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos also include on-location video and the real-life stories of people who have experienced losses like yours.

After viewing the video, you'll have opportunity to interact with others who have experienced a recent loss, learn about their experiences and have the opportunity to share your own. You may or may not choose to share your own experience. This is yours to decide how much and when. As you participate in the group either by sharing or listening you will experience the miracle of caring when the body of Christ bears one another's burdens.

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 sessions you have not seen.

The Fall Session is starting up:
Wednesday evening ~ Session from 7 to 9 pm
September 15 thru December 15, 2010
(no meeting Thanksgiving week, 11/24)

Sessions held at
Paul and Twila Ranck's/F.A.M.I.L.I.E.S.

5001 W. Lincoln Highway, Parkesburg, PA 19365

Facilitators:

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

9/15 Living With Grief

Grief is disruptive and disorienting. This session will answer questions about the progression of healing.

9/22 The Journey of Grief

This session prepares you for what to expect along the journey of grief. At the same time, it emphasizes that everyone's journey is unique and warns against comparing grief experiences.

9/29 The Effects of Grief

You're probably surprised at how debilitating grief is. This session explains that this is normal and suggests practical ways to find comfort.

10/06 When Your Spouse Dies

If you've lost your spouse, this session helps you think through the critical issues involved in your healing. It also begins preparing you to face the difficult transition into a new reality without your spouse.

10/13 Your Family and Grief

This session shares how to keep your family afloat when its members are drowning in grief. It also presents some of the unique issues involved if you're grieving the death of a child.

10/20 Why?

Just because God doesn't answer all of your questions doesn't mean He won't answer any of them. This session answers the "Why" questions and encourages you to begin asking other questions as well.

10/27 The Uniqueness of Grief Part One

This session explores how the causes of, and your responses to, your loved one's death affect your grief. Topics addressed include suicide, long-term illness, murder and false guilt.

11/03 The Uniqueness of Grief Part Two

Relationships, past and present, affect your grief. This session helps you address insensitive comforters and unresolved conflict with a deceased loved one.

11/10 God's Prescription for Grief

The bereaved are often overwhelmed by the advice they receive from others. And often, what goes unnoticed is what God says about healing. This session tells you how to position yourself to experience God's healing.

11/17 Stuck in Grief

It's easy to get stuck along the journey of grief. This session explains how to keep moving on the path to healing.

11/24 Thanksgiving - No Meeting

12/1 Top Twenty Lessons of Grief Part One

In this session, those who have walked the journey of grief will share what they've learned and how they've grown from their grief experience.

12/8 Top Twenty Lessons of Grief Part Two

In this session you'll hear the most significant lessons that can be learned during grief.

12/15 Heaven

This session gives practical advice on how to tap into, and hold on to, the source of hope in this disappointing world.

Rockville Reflections

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Submissions should be received by the 20th of the month preceeding publication

Just Thinking

Submission as Available

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



This past summer I've had the privilege of working with kids from the Honey Brook Youth Center through several canoe trips, and also day camps.

In June, a group of six staff and six girls spent a week on the Susquehanna River, ending our week at a cabin for the night.

We are currently planning a trip in August, where we will spend several days on the river and then several days in New York City for a work project.

One of the things I love about these activities is the spirit of team unity that you feel at the end of the week. It always challenges me to view the Christian life in this way, as part of a team fighting for the same goal.

This challenge leaves little room for noticing other's faults and shortcomings, and reminds me again of our true purpose here.

submitted by Abby Stoltzfus

A Day of Learning a Life Skillwith Friends

At the last youth auction Loretta, Ruby and I bought an opportunity to learn how to make bread from Wilma.

We got together on July 26 at Wilma's home.

Wilma ground all the wheat and had all the ingredients supplied for us. She helped each one of us use her Bosch mixer and had lots of patience with all the questions we asked.

We each made six loaves of bread, two dozen rolls and a pan of cinnamon rolls or sticky buns.



When we finished, we enjoyed a delicious lunch together, including some of the rolls we had made.

We left with all of our hot baked goodies in hand and memories of a fun day spent with friends.

Thank you Wilma!

submitted by Christina Kurtz





A written account of

Our Verbal Commitment

spoken to the church
at Rockville
in the Installation Service
August 1, 2010

Henrietta ~ "I stand amazed in God's presence today for His sovereign plan for our lives.

I thank you for your prayers and for your welcoming spirit. I felt connected from the very first Sunday. You have been so kind in reaching out to us.

I stand here to commit to you my prayers for you and my support for my pastor at Rockville, my husband.

I want you to know our door is always open for conversation. I thank the Lord for the blessing that you have been in the past and I know that you will continue to be.

My heart is quieted before the Lord knowing that He is the joy of my life and He will be my strength.

I feel so blessed to be a part of this congregation. I have a verse from Ephesians...that we can trust God to do great and mighty things as we love each other and as we reach out to the community here and in your places of influence.

We're challenged by Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church (and here at Rockville) and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen"

So together we are going to help each other get home safely and to make a godly witness known in a dark world that needs Jesus.

Leon ~ "Jonathan, I would like to thank you for that message and challenge to my own heart. I appreciate that very much.

Eugene and Loretta, thank you for being here today. Eugene thank you for your prayer and for both of you being part of our lives. You have honored us with your presence.

I hear that some of the Jr. High Youth came back from Woodcrest because they did not want to miss this service and I want to thank you as well for honoring your Pastor in that way.

Thank you too to the Bethany friends that are here today and for helping us in our transition. Transitions are never easy. This one was particularly painful for Henrietta and me to bring 34 years to closure but you did a swell job.

Thank you and I commend the RMC family for their reception and the encouragement you have been to us during this time. You are on the receiving end of the transition and you have done well.



People ask me sometimes what is your philosophy of ministry? What changes will you make here at RMC? Well, I don't know what is my vision? I'm not even sure I have a vision but through the years there are five things that have developed in my life that you'll hear coming out in my ministry. You will see in my personal life and also in my philosophy of ministry.

As I am guided by the biblical mandates, the principles of God's Word, the precepts of God's Word, and the promises of God's Word, I have 5 goals and desires for myself and for the RMC family.

1. To cherish Christ above all things. That is really a desire of mine and my ministry will go in that direction and that has to do with priorities. To make sure you cherish Christ more than anything else in this world...above all the material things that you have and I have.

2. To embrace the whole counsel of God and Jonathan you drove that home today and I want to do that in my personal piety also in my public preaching. Embracing the whole counsel of God, I'm called to be faithful. It is God who is effective. I must be faithful in embracing and preaching the whole counsel of God.

3. In my life and in your life that we seek to glorify God in all things. It has to do with our choices in life and to glorify God has to do with obedience, service and worship. Those three things are our response to the grace of God in our lives. God hasn't saved us just to warm a pew. He has saved us to glorify Him and we need to do that in all areas of our life.

4. My desire is to help you to honor God's sovereign grace in your heart. Not to bow to freewill but to bow to God's awesome sovereign grace. Years ago during the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment, man/humanity drifted from God. God was no longer spelled with a capital "G". Man was spelled with a capital "M" and some of that shift has drifted into our theology and into the church. Much of it sounds so humanistic today and we must remember that we are dead in our trespasses in sin and that it is by the mercy of God and by the grace of God that we fall to His cross and worship Him on His throne of grace.

5. Finally, it is my passion and my desire to help all of you passionately share the Gospel. To share Christ and the love of God with the lost.

So, I need your prayers. We need your prayers. We need your patience because we are not perfect. We need your encouragement because sometimes ministry is discouraging. We need your love and your acceptance. We really do.

The Bethany people know how I am going to end. Romans 11:36, which is my ministry verse and also my life verse.

***"For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things.
To Him be the glory forever. Amen"***

Thank you all for coming today.

Excerpt from the....

**SERVICE OF INSTALLATION
OF A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL
AS PASTOR OF A LOCAL CONGREGATION.**



The Work of God teaches clearly that the office of Pastor as a Minister of the Gospel was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul declares that our Lord 'gave some to be apostles; and some prophets;

and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry unto the building up of the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4.

The man who fills this office is designated in Scripture by different names, expressive of his various duties.

As he has oversight of the flock, he is termed an *episkopos*, from which led to the English work 'bishop', more commonly translated today as OVERSEER.

As he feeds the flock with spiritual food, guiding, guarding and caring for the flock, he is called PASTOR which means shepherd.

As he serves Christ in His church he is termed MINISTER which means 'servant', Paul used the term 'bond-servant' to indicate his commitment to both Christ's Lordship and rightful ownership.

As it is his duty to be serious and prudent, and an example to the flock, and to govern well in the house of God, he is termed *presbyter* or ELDER.

As he is sent to declare the Will of God to sinners and to beseech them to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, he is termed AMBASSADOR.

As he announces the authorized Good News of the Gospel by his preaching he is termed a HERALD.

As he is commanded to warn the Household of Faith against the enemies of God and His Word, he is termed a WATCHMAN.

As he dispenses the manifold Grace of God in preaching and through the ordinances instituted by Christ, he is called an STEWARD of the Gospel and of mysteries of God. part of the charge given by Dr. Bob Gerhart. 5

Jr Youth Activities

THE JR YOUTH RETREAT

This was my first year as a member of the Junior Youth.

I was really excited for the retreat but, then in the spring I learned that it wouldn't be at Shoup's lodge (as before). Instead, it would be at Woodcrest Retreat Center. Bummer.

Well, there we were in late July. We got settled in, then explored our camp. After that we played some really fun games (some of which caused A LOT of laughs). We got to sleep about 1:30 am.

We got up at 6:30 am and played carpet ball, gogo, and card games till breakfast. After break-

fast, some of us played wiffleball while others did volleyball.

Then at 10:00 am, we split into two groups and went on the challenge course. My group went on the tree climb and flying squirrel first. Now I know you are wondering what in the world those two things are, so I'll explain.

The tree climb was pretty simple, you climb a tree, stand on a platform up there, and get pulled down (pretty simple huh). The flying squirrel's a bit more complicated. Seven people pull a rope that runs through several pulleys and lifts the person hooked to the other end off the ground.

After that we went back to our pavilion for lunch. A big thank you goes to Pastor Leon and Henrietta for the soup and sandwiches!



When we were done eating, Aden told us what we were going to be doing in our lessons on Gideon. He divided us into groups to act out the story.

After that, we went back to finish the challenge course. That afternoon we played a variation of tag (a maze that you go thru blindfolded and your partner tells you where to go), and a few other quick games. The challenge course was supposed to show trust in your partners.

Then when we got back we spent some time getting our act ready. My group was doing the scene where the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon in the winepress.

After supper (Thanks so much Nate and Sherilyn for the awesome supper!), we had some free time, then we did our skits. I was the angel of the Lord in my group's scene.

After all the scenes were done, we played carpet ball for a while. There was a possibility of a campfire however, we only had one match to light it with, so we were going on a hope and a prayer; in the end we did get it lit. We sat around the campfire for a little while then went to bed.

Sunday morning, we did not wake up till 8:15 am. Wilma's breakfast was great to wake up to. Soon after breakfast, Kevin Esh arrived. He talked about perseverance and achieving goals. We also sang a couple of hymns.

When he was done we had some free time. Then there was lunch (thanks Rose!) After lunch we went on the water-slide for a while. Before long it was time to pack up and leave.



**All in all it was a lot more fun
than I expected it to be!**

submitted by Nolan Weaver

PERSECUTION

submitted by Ellie Weaver

Generally, when you hear the word persecution, you think of Peter, Paul, or some saint from the Bible that was beheaded, burnt at the stake, or sent to death by other gruesome tactics. That was kind of what happened at Aden and Wilma's on Friday, August 13th, but it was slightly less violent.

Persecution is a game that Aden and Wilma host every year, to give the Jr. Youth members a faint idea of what it would be like to live in a place where your religious freedom is non-existent. The Jr. Youth members are split into groups of 3-5 people. Then this group must sneak around to the different stations (churches) without the secret police getting you. If you get caught, you must sit in the playhouse (prison) until one of your team members come to get you. (at one point, a few of the prisoners in the playhouse started to sing quite loudly and obnoxiously, hoping annoy the police into releasing them. Unfortunately, the only thing it got them was some dirty looks and orders to shut up, which were blissfully ignored.)

This year, the police were Peter Stoltzfus, Gabe Stoltzfus, Josiah Stoltzfus and Allison Welsh. Some of the older members of the Jr. Youth also took turns being police. Once one group had been to all the stations, the game is over.

The game got rather intense at times, as the police targeted certain of the older members. But as I was sneaking around to free my captured comrades, I stopped to think. What if we had to live this way all the time? What if we had to creep around corners, never knowing when someone might jump out of a bush and attack you? I sat in the playhouse, waiting for someone to come, a scary thought came to me. Would I have the courage to keep professing my faith if I really did live like this? It was quite the sobering thought.

My only wounds from the night were a few cuts on my foot and a banged up knee and shin, but I know that there are others going through much worse pain for their faith- not only physical pain, but mental and emotional pain as well. So as I was racing around bushes and corners, being pursued by some very adamant police, I prayed for those who live like that. I prayed that they would keep up their courage and that God would comfort them. And as I go through my life, free to worship as I wish, I will continue to pray for those who are not so privileged.

***"And pray in the Spirit
on all occasions
with all kinds of
prayers
and requests.***

***With this in mind,
be alert
and always
keep on praying
for all the saints."***

Ephesians 6:18

JONI AND FRIENDS FAMILY CAMP



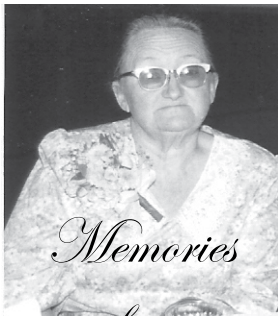
Michele and I had the privilege of going up to a Christian Family Retreat called 'Joni and Friends' at Spruce Lake in the Pocono Mountains. It's a special place where families with 'special needs' members can relax, join in different activities, and everybody is looked on and treated the same.

One of the things I like best about it is that it has helped Michele grow more in Christ. Michele liked doing crafts, going on the slide, and singing hymns. She also got points for reciting Bible verses. On the last day, she was able to pick out gifts according to how many points she accumulated.

I give Mary and Laura Howe credit for telling us about it. We enjoy the company of the Howe Family during this fantastic time.
submitted by Margaret Garman



On May 12, 2010 our dear Mother, Leah Stoltzfus, departed this life.



of my Beloved Mother

Submitted by Joyce Horning

I'm grateful that I could be by her side in the final moments, along with three of my sisters. That will always be a precious memory. It was so peaceful.

We all miss her a lot but are glad for her freedom from the frustrations of not being able to express herself anymore. She always loved to read and often read aloud to us children. And writing was something also she enjoyed and faithfully wrote letters to her sister or us when we were away from home.

Another wonderful thing to remember is that she was married to the same man, our Dad, for one day short of 70 years. Wow! that's a lot of living and serving to accomplish that and raise 10 children.

I'm thankful for the memories. They are much more special now.

It's really great to know the hope of heaven and that Mom is safe. Praise God!

Missions Update

Correspondent: Rhoda Seader

Dear Church Family,

Greetings to all. May the grace of God abound! I know I owe some church folks letters. Please be calm. I will write.



We have leased a plot of land in June, just at the beginning of the dry season. It is 1 1/2 acres and near a river that runs all year. It is some 7 miles from the church so finding help to manage it won't be a problem.

I am seeking advice from experts on how to come out with the best results.

The first thing we did was prepare a garden of melons. The irrigation system is working beautifully! We are now adding some greens that the African people like. They are only grown by irrigation during the dry season. Then

we will also put in a type of tomatoes not common in the US.

When the crop is ready I will inform you. Thanks for all the great work you did for us. Blessings, Pastor Patrick Lwekamwa 8