

-NAZARETH NEWS-

ISSUE NO. 4

FALL 1997

AUTUMN REFLECTIONS

by Jennifer Jackman

I have been out today, driving into Salem to do some errands and wondering what I was going to write about in this newsletter. I could tell you all how beautiful it is here... trees all shades of green, gold, orange and red... an incredible sight to see the kaleidoscope of colors on the hills! Each day more colors appear and just when you think it's perfect, it seems to get even prettier.

When I arrived home from town, four carloads of visitors arrived in our driveway! The dogs were going crazy so I knew something was going on. Two of the ladies in the caravan had grown up here on our property years ago and were back in the area with their family. They wanted to show their children and grandchildren their homestead. It was a delightful and historical visit with Glenda and Evelyn (whose family name is Allen) as they shared stories of all their family members who lived in this holler and of the sawmill that use to stand where our volleyball court is and how they would get lumber from the hills and haul it down with horses. I often think about what happened here on Little Battle Run prior to Nazareth Farm - it was wonderful to meet people that have called this home for years. I was asking them if they had ever imagined that someday there would be thousands of people across the country who also thought of this as home- they had not, but were delighted!

Or, I could tell you about my visit to Ralph and Mary Sandora, our neighbors down the road. Mary was busy cutting up a huge 15 1/2 pound mushroom (yes, one mushroom!) and Ralph was visiting with a friend. Mary was telling me about the early days of the Farm and stories of living with Ralph (by the way, this week they celebrate their 57th Wedding

Anniversary!!) Their generosity and constant support of Nazareth Farm never ends!

Or I could tell you about Community Night and all the gifts our friends bring to us each week and what they do for us because they are grateful to be part of the Farm. For instance, this week Alice was here spreading seeds for flowers all around our property. Almost every week, she brings something from her flower garden to share with us and to help beautify our yard. We also had some new friends stop in for the first time. Pete Smith has lived on Route 23 for years and he had some company in from Ohio. They had heard about us and had been invited to stop in sometime- so they did!! Always fun to meet people from the area and make new friends. Then, there's Dallas. The staff went to the Doddridge County High School Homecoming Game with him last Friday-always good to see his smiling face! Last night Dallas wanted to make a donation to the Farm as thanks for having him here for dinner on Wednesdays. So, he reached into his pocket, took out all his change and smiled as he handed it to me. Of course, our other friends: Gail, Hazel, Grover, Laurie, Danny, Bill, Travis, Suz, and Buck were also here to bring joy and laughter to our dinner and evening together. Everyone bringing something of themselves to share with others!

So, what should I write about in our Fall newsletter? The holidays are coming and I should probably write something about the upcoming activities that all of us will soon be preparing for... celebrating and enjoying with family and friends, sharing a meal together, thanking God for all our many blessings, celebrating the gift of Jesus in our lives. Oh, I guess I've already shared these things with you. At least how these celebrations happen every day here at the Farm and, I hope and pray, in your daily lives as well. As the holidays approach may we all take time to notice and celebrate all the experiences of Eucharist in our lives... not just on holidays but, every day.



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**Home Cookin'**

by Michael Dahlheimer

Fresh baked biscuits, turkey gravy, and some home made apple butter for dessert. These delights are all in a day's work when the site happens to be the home of Mrs. Goodman or Miss Davis.

I had only been on staff for two weeks, when the opportunity came to put in a new kitchen and dining room floor at Mrs. Goodman's. I jumped at the chance. After all, Chris Faust was visiting for two weeks and leading the site at Mrs. Goodman's due to the staff being short-handed at the time and Chris' willingness to work. Leading a work crew was vacation enough for "Frauleine Faust." I thought it would be ideal learning from someone as gifted and experienced as Chris.

So we went to work and Chris definitely gave me an earful. The amazing thing was not that I kept misplacing pencils in my ear, but that Mrs. Goodman was able to prepare a hot meal for the crew each day even with her kitchen appliances scattered about the house. According to Mrs. Goodman, she would not let the Farm come out and work until she was well enough to cook for the kids. Nobody works on her house and goes without a meal. Not only did Mrs. Goodman invite us to eat with her and hear her stories, but she taught a lot of volunteers that week the true meaning of hospitality.

After the group weeks had ended, it was time to see if the staff could work together after months of leading their own sites. Like last year, the fall brought the staff to Miss Davis' home. She has a way of bonding the staff together to function as a single unit—probably because there is no question who the boss is. When Miss Davis says to sit down for coffee, there is no way to refuse such gentle charm.

The staff spent a week there replacing her kitchen roof and sharing in lively conversation and delicious coffee. During a snack on Wednesday afternoon, I mentioned that the graham crackers reminded me of dipping them into apple sauce as a kid. The next day, Miss Davis calls us down for lunch and, sure enough, there was fresh apple butter on the table. Miss Davis thought I might enjoy some once again. It's easy to feel right at home at the Farm when working for people as kind and hospitable as Mrs. Goodman and Miss Davis.

***** **WANTED** *****

Do you remember your experience(s) of spending a week here at Nazareth Farm?? So often I talk with people as they're heading home or as they reminisce of their time here and they want to come back again. Some leave considering being a staff member in the future. Well, for many of you the future is here!! If you've had thoughts of being on staff, perhaps it's time to revisit that idea. Please take time to seriously consider this option for your life. Staff commitment is only for a year and that year will fly by! If you're over 21 years of age and ready to explore this possibility or would like additional information about becoming a staff member, please call Jen at 304-782-2742. It's an experience of a lifetime!

Christmas Party Appeal 1997



Dear Friends,

As the seasons begin to change, we know that Christmas is upon us. We are beginning to plan our annual Nazareth Farm Christmas party. This is a community wide party in which gifts will be distributed to the children of Doddridge County. In addition, we will deliver gifts to all the families we have served this year.

We will need your help in order to make this year's celebration a success. Your donation of money or gifts will enable us to make a special Christmas for our friends while keeping the true meaning of the season. If you have a special family or child you would like to sponsor, please indicate that on the form below.

The Christmas party will be held at the Doddridge County Park on Sunday, December 14. We would appreciate your response to this appeal by Tuesday, November 25. Thank you for your continued support. May your family have a blessed Christmas season.

God Bless,

Bridget and Mike



Nazareth Farm / Doddridge County Christmas Party 1997

I want to help Nazareth Farm and Doddridge County celebrate Christmas this year by sending gifts or monetary donation or both!



- I (We) would like to sponsor a family or part of a family
 I (We) would like to sponsor children at the Farm's Christmas Party

Amount \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100

Offered I would like to offer the following amount \$ _____

Parish/Group: _____

Name(or contact person): _____

Address: _____

Phone Daytime: (_____) _____





Life On The Appalachian Trail



by Amy and Alicia

A typical day on the trail began with rising out of slumber with the sun and the birds, getting breakfast (usually a Pop-Tart), packing up all our belongings, making sure camp or the shelter is the same as we found it, and then finally, get hiking! Of course, everyone had their own itinerary and each person's day differed with their personalities. Some people didn't start their day until ten in the morning. For the first two weeks, we hiked 8 to 10 miles a day. Our feet needed to get conditioned to the constant use and the extra 40 pounds we were carrying on our backs. The worst thing that could happen to a hiker is pushing yourself too hard and too long in the beginning. You find yourself very susceptible to injuries that will take you off your hike. Then again, unfortunately, no matter how careful you are, injuries can still happen. At the start of the hike, everything is fresh and new. I particularly enjoyed the silence of the woods, the sun peeking through the trees, the melody of the birds, the scampering of a chipmunk and each breathtaking overlook, one after another.

As time went on, we increased our miles as our body conditioned itself to the hard travel. Now, we are the proud hikers of 15 to 22 miles a day. They say that the first two weeks are 90% physical and 10% mental and after that it's the reverse. I'm not so sure that those percentages are correct, but I do know the challenge is without a doubt a combination of both. Really, after the honeymoon wore off and our feet were hurting and we were tired and still had ten miles to go that day, we could get on each other's nerves pretty fast. But, I always found it very easy to remember why I came out. I would stumble on a beautiful sight, catch a glimpse of a flower, meet a special stranger, find some delicious berries or just breathe in the air and I could easily succumb to the bliss of the trail. It wasn't all peaches and cream, but it was definitely worth every bit of life I put into it. The trail was a wonderful cathedral to explore. How can you explain a dream come true.

Amy Hudacko

It's hard to put into words the experiences encountered during a 500 mile hike across seven states. As I reflect back now it seems like a dream—a world so far away from the one I currently live in. While the sweat and pains are almost forgotten (the feet still send reminders), the memories of the people and places that crossed our paths remain in my thoughts daily.

I was continually amazed at the vast beauty of our country. Even though we only hiked a portion of the trail (the entire trail is 2,200 miles) there always seemed to be something new around every corner. From the swamp lands in New Jersey (yes, there are actually beautiful things in New Jersey!) to the vast, cool ravines of Connecticut, and even the wheat fields of Pennsylvania, each mile brought continuous appreciation and respect for our country. The favorite farm phrase, "live for the moment," was intensified, for I discovered how to truly live in the moment. (continued on back page)

HALLOWEEN

STAFF UPDATE

Over the summer the staff took a triple hit. Megan Kennedy, Dorothy McKee, and Gina Fosco all ended their terms. Dorothy is well, but needs our prayers for her sick mother. Megan is studying religious education at the University of Loyola in Chicago. Gina teaches computers to grade schoolers in Omaha, and finds the night life much improved over Center Point's. Now the movie theater is down the block.

Joining us recently are Michael Dahlheimer (August) and Bridget Lavey (September). Dahlheimer is a native of Minnesota, likes working closely with volunteers, and has had great success marketing our Farm bandannas.

Bridget, of Hingham Mass., left the working world to become a farmer. She is the new Volunteer Coordinator so take it easy on her all you youth ministers.



Nezareth Farm now has a
Phone line for our FAX machine.

You can FAX us anytime at:

304 782 4358



Letters accepted & encouraged!

THANK YOU!

There are so many of you who make contributions to Nazareth Farm. Saying thanks doesn't seem adequate, as it is because of your donations that we are able to continue our ministry in Doddridge County and the surrounding area. We are grateful for all the prayers and donations that keep us going!

Thanks to all individuals and the following programs that have funded for us: St. Pius Youth Ministry, Indianapolis; St. Ignatius High School, Chicago; St. Louis deMontfort, Fishers, IN (tithe); Our Lady of the Presentation, Lee's Summit, MO (tithe); St. Alphonsus, Zionsville, IN; St. Mary Parish, Baldwinsville, NY (tithe); Fordham Prep, Bronx, NY; St. Joseph Youth Ministry, Keyport, NJ; St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carmel, IN.

We've also had some volunteers who work for corporations that give grants to nonprofit organizations that their employees are involved with. We have received \$1000 from Polaroid and are hoping to get a few more. Check out this option with your employer!

Retreat at the Beach

The end of September is the inception of Fall. Summer's heat and sun have not yet given over to frost. The grass is still growing, the deer are still very annoying, and few leaves have turned to their autumn colors. It is still summer enough for a trip to the beach.

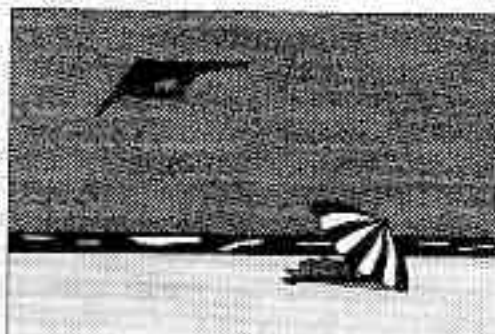
In that spirit the Naz Farm staff made a retreat to Lavalette, New Jersey--right on the shore thanks to our new patrons. The intent for the week was to give time for personal and group prayer, while strengthening our staff community. Our Lavalette home offered a fine setting for reflection: prayer on the beach, at sunset, under the stars, together.

While on the coast, we visited with many of our New Jersey and New York area Farm friends. Huge thanks go to the gracious Hudacko family for the voyage to Long Beach Island and a hearty picnic. The fresh mozzarella and peppers were great. Amy, Sean Waters generously drove us from the Bronx to Newark. Also, Mike Greco came over and brought us a quart of milk! Thanks Mike; special people like you are the reason we stay in the business.

Encouraged by our success in Wisconsin over the summer, the Farm decided a special missionary trip to Manhattan was necessary. While we were not able to convert anyone at St. Patrick's Cathedral, at least Dahlheimer and Scott's hackey sack game on Broadway brought us into close contact with some locals.

Our travels did bring us to the Ed Sullivan theater for our biggest media exposure yet: an appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman. You might have seen us as they panned the audience before the commercial. We managed to broadcast a subliminal message across the U.S. We expect to receive more gifts of doughnuts and chocolate syrup than ever. All in all, it was a good break after a long summer of hard work.

by Scott Michalman



----- WISH LIST -----



- ? funding for Christmas Party (see p. 3)
- ? prayer resources
- ? commercial vacuum
- ? portable CD/cassette boombox for wakeups
- ? staple guns
- ? ladders
- ? votive candles & holders
- ? Santa's reindeer to replace red trucks

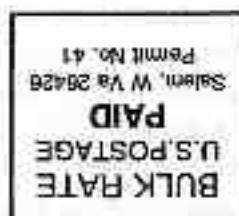


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PRAYER

SIMPLICITY

COMMUNITY



Non-Profit Organization

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SALEM, WV 26426

-NAZARETH FARM-

(continued *Life On The Appalachian Trail* from page 4)

The trail was not just all about nature's beauty, but also the beauty of the people we met. To my surprise the trail was very social. Every day we ran into new faces trying to accomplish the same goal: finishing. Granted, most of the hikers we ran into were going the entire 2200 miles, it didn't matter because we were all out there together, all of us needed water, shelter and food. Beyond that we shared stories, fears, dreams and above all, one of the most incredible experiences of our lives. While we may never see our trail friends again, our triumphs will remain in our hearts forever.

I thought the people in West Virginia were friendly but the community in the trail towns we went through had the same open arms. It was called "Trail Magic" and wherever we went it found us. We got rides into town, tours of wineries, peanuts, small wooden plaques and strangers carrying our packs. The generosity of the people was amazing. Every day kindness restored my faith in the future of the human race.

I just wanted to personally thank everyone for their pledges and prayers of support. Every step was made easier knowing so many of you were right behind us. Thank you so much and if anyone wants more detailed stories just get in touch with any of us and we'll be happy to give the "deetz." And if you ever want to plan a trip...

Alicia Soszynski

Thank You Pledgers:

Adlers	Michelle Ryan
Amy Hudacko	K. Ormberg
Anonymous	Pat Jasinkiewicz
Beau Stebbins	Paul Ruggerio
Bill & Eunice Hennessy	Peggy McLeish
Billy Giblin	Ron & Betty Krupp
Bobby O'Connor	Russell Gartz
Brian Spellacy	Ruth Carr
Dave & Denise Brunnel	Sally Mecklenburg
Dotty Wasik	Sr. Kathleen King
Gene & Dee Siding	St. Anne Young Adults
Janet Roth	St. Bartholomew Parish
Jeanette Dunn	St. Bronislava Parish
Jen Vail	St. Mary Parish
Joan Gierden	St. Stanislaus Parish
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Katio Haubert	Tim Mitchell
Leah Sokolofski	Terry Murrell
Libby Whalen	Tom Ruggaber
Maura Burnell	Tom Licata
Megan Sweeny	Tony Lenne
	Tvlers