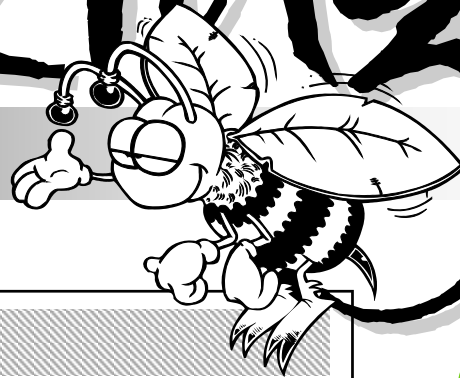


Buzzings

The latest happenings from the family of
Albert & Rena Bakker



GRANDMA BAKKER

Time for the Buzzings again I hear, so I'll have to see what I can come up with.

Oct 1— To Dr. France for eye exam. My eyes are ok so don't need new lenses. Mary took me.

Oct. 8—Went on Mystery trip today. Mary picked me up then to Elaine. Got in her car then north to Alpine and Arla was there so got in her car then North to Big Rapids and had coffee at Karens place. Then all in the car and went North. Then west to Big Jackson School where Karen taught. Then west to Spruce then north to the party place where we had a picnic on 50th wedding anniversary. The big tree where the kids and Lynn climbed up is laying flat across the river. Had our noon meal there. From there went to Baldwin for ice cream. Then to Karen's place then South to Elaine's car back to Elaine's house. Got in Mary's car and then back home.

Oct 15—Had a slide show on the Netherlands.

Oct 20—To a deacons dinner to a restaurant in Caledonia.

Oct 23—A slide show of the Mackinaw Bridge. It was the 50th Anniversary of when the bridge was built.

Oct 26—Had my picture taken. This is for the church directory. Our church will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary next April.

Oct 18—Cal & Lisa came. Went to farm. Cal found a few raspberries. Then for ride to Silver Creek. No campers there.

Nov 5—Karen came at 10:30. Went to farm. From there took a bunch of paper to Moline Christian School for the paper gater. No more paper drives.

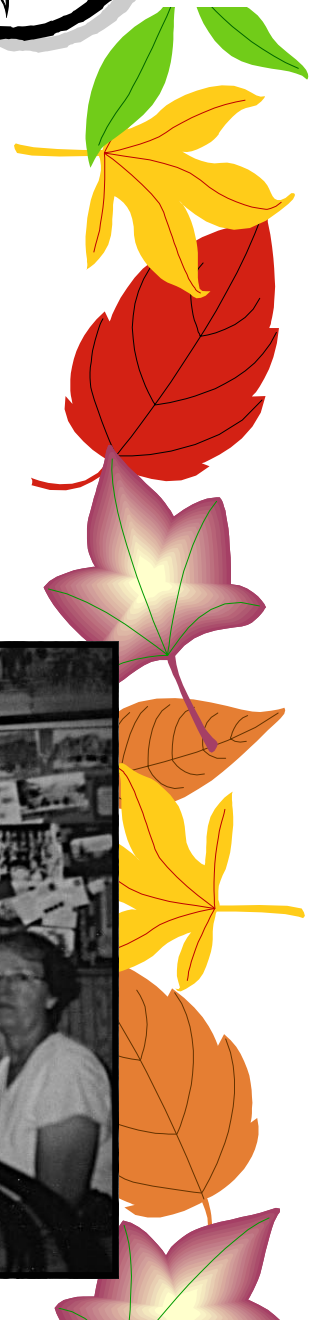
Nov 7—Alan came. He brought apples, so brought some to the fridge at the farm.

This is about all. God bless you all.

Love, Grandma



Enjoying ice cream at Jones in Newwaygo—Oct. 8, 2007



OSCAR & ELAINE

Summer was spent mostly at home. Elaine has a new digital camera and often had it in hand trying to get a perfect shot of butterflies, flowers, frogs, moths, turkeys, and deer. The six pointer didn't get "shot". He was seen through the window for about 10 minutes munching on myrtle between us and the neighbor's house. He is captured in memory! Elaine's butterfly group came for a tour of the yard and stayed for their lunches on the patio before going to the next place. No butterflies came that cool and cloudy day but she served butterfly cookies made with pretzels and candies.

Oscar and Elaine spent some time on the road too. Day trips were to Ludington and Hamlin Lake, catching a fish fry at Bortello's on the way back. Another jaunt was to the Rockford Dam, a great place to sit and eat ice cream. Another was to Bailey to eat Hilltop Bakery donuts by Half Moon Lake. (It is said that whenever Oscar and Elaine go some place they eat! Why not?) Another day they were in Lansing and had a nice tour of the Capitol. Lately TV often gives a glimpse of it now on the news, and they can visualize the legislators sleeping in their cushiony seats due to the budget battles here in Michigan. They go into overtime now but there were no politicians to be seen in the summer. An overnigher saw Oscar and Elaine in Traverse City and Leland. They found a "new" park in Empire which seems to be a treasure to visit again. Then there was a 5 day trip in October to Niagara Falls, Letchworth State Park in New York state, and Holmes county in Ohio which is an Amish settlement.

And the newest grandma and grandpa must mention their grandson, Todd Joseph. He was baptized on August 26. He is a healthy growing boy. This week he even came overnight while his parents went to Traverse City for a meeting and to celebrate their anniversary. It's been a loong time since playing with the old colorful Fisher Price toys and the Tupperware shape ball. Todd brought some of his new-toys too so Grandma could learn her ABC's. Grandma loved having him over!!! Otherwise she sees kids just for a few minutes once a week for testing or reading and then they are back to their classrooms.

Lots of leaves from the yard have been carried to the woods 'hobo' style. This year a sheet is used rather than a heavy tarp for hauling the leaves. It works very well but the leaves keep teasing as there have been just a few at a time. There are a lot of them on the trees yet at this date of November 10. Anyone want more exercise? It's great to be outside enjoying God's wonders in Creation any season.

Oscar and Elaine

SCOTT & SHELLY

The Boerman's are doing well...getting ready for the Christmas season and the girls' birthdays in December. Whitney is having a "Princess Tea" with 8 of her friends for her birthday and is very excited!! Shelly is working full time now for Tendercare and travels to up north a couple times a month to visit nursing facilities in Traverse City and Sault Ste Marie! It has made our life a little more hectic, but the girls have excellent day care, and the consultant work is right up Shelly's alley! Scott is still at Fifth Third and just returned last week from a 3 day conference in Cincinnati. Cameryn is growing by leaps and bounds and learning many new words every day. She knows her colors and loves puzzles!! That's about all for now.....



Whitney and Leah ready for Halloween.

RICK & MEL

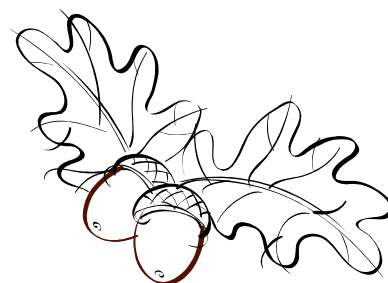
What an exciting fall we've had! Noah is in preschool and loving every second of it. He can't seem to get enough of school! Nathan is in 1st grade and Ashley in 4th. We haven't done a lot of traveling this fall, however in August (I can't remember when the last newsletter was) we did tag along with Rick up north and visited Mackinac Island and surrounding areas. The kids had a great time and learned a lot about Michigan and the Mackinac Bridge!

Ashley is continuing her volunteering at the Equest Ctr for Therapeutic Riding here in Rockford. She LOVES horses and this is a great way for her to learn everything that goes with owning one. Noah played basketball at the YMCA for a few weeks and had a fantastic time (so did we!). Nathan played two different leagues of flag football - Rocket for 4 weeks and YMCA for 6. He is amazing! He scored 5 touchdowns with the YMCA league and had several awesome runs! So much for being a soccer mom! It was so much fun to watch and he had an awesome time. He is already looking forward to next year. Nathan has also lost 3 teeth in less than two months - he has quite a smile right now! He turned 7 on the 7th of November of 2007...we think that's pretty special! (he was even born on a 7 - 7:35a.m.)

As for wildlife, not much new around here. The coyotes are howling again after almost a year long hiatus. I can do without that sound...it wakes me in the middle of the night...they "congregate" in the field behind our house. Eerie. Several deer sightings within a mile of our home. Lots of birds - too many varieties to mention! Mollie (our 14 pound dog) "got" another rabbit a few weeks ago - this time we didn't find it (half buried under the deck stairs) until it was infested with flies, etc. Not a pleasant discovery.

That's about it from this part of Michigan. Enjoy the fall and winter!

Mel, Rick, and gang



BOB & ARLA

Hello family;

So what does a person do after 5 years of retirement? The answer is get a job.

While Arla took mom grocery shopping at Family Fare in Byron, there was a demonstrator passing out samples of trail mix. Arla said NO to the samples, but instead was interested in the demonstrator's job. Long story short, Arla is now a demonstrator working part time for Intro Marketing at the Spartan Stores. Arla has worked 19 demo's so far and Bob is enjoying the extra leftovers she takes home.

Bob also continues to work part time picking up cars & trucks and drives to Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin. We still have time for volunteer work and vacations.

In September we went to Shipshewana, Indiana with friends and in October we went up north on a color tour and visited Mackinac Island, and Sugar Island near the Soo.

Mom, Elaine, Arla, Mary and Karen also went on a color tour up north, and enjoyed a picnic lunch at the River near Bitely, and icecream at Jone's in Newaygo.

That's all for now. Wishing you all a Blessed Thanksgiving.—Bob & Arla

ALAN & LYNN

Hi Joleen and everybody,

Hope I didn't miss another deadline. It is still Nov 10, even if it is 11 pm

Things are finally calming down here. maybe. Today, Nov 10 was the first day that all 5 of us have been home since April. It was nice to be at a slightly quieter pace. We have spent the last few months busy with:

*Farm Market- all summer we went to several markets a week. We also had our fruit delivered to another market and sent a friend to Traverse City Market. A few weeks ago we were asked to have a market in Leland School. Was very educational for the kids. Andy could show all his friends where apples come from.

*Harvesting fruit: Alan has just finished the apple harvest, and our barn is FULL of apples. Unlike lots of other areas, we had a prolific crop. Ben worked all summer driving the forklift for the cherry harvest. which was also a good crop.

*Building bigger barns- actually, tearing barns down. The 100+ year old barn that fell down in 1998- the year Andy was born- has finally been cleaned up and seeded over. We also found the well that was under the barn, and moved some of the big rocks around.

*Wood stove- our outdoor wood boiler burned up last April. The company repaired it, and Alan just got the water running through it again. Good thing, because it's been chilly-we had three inches of snow on Thursday morning. It was mostly gone as we made cider in the rain that evening. Our gas- fired indoor wood stove downstairs has not been available for heat, because it's been wrapped in newspaper, waiting for the painting to get done in the basement. That's just about done this weekend.

*Sports, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts- Soccer games kept us busy all fall. Ben and Josiah just finished selling popcorn for the Boy Scout fundraiser. Their troop will be taking some water samples in the local creeks to study water quality. They also have some campouts planned. Ben went backpacking on Isle Royale with the troop this summer. It's in Lake Superior, and closer to Minn than Mich. All the boys enjoy TaeQuonDo, and Ben won the "Warrior Challenge" last month, a timed obstacle course.

*Various people in our family have been in the newspaper, talking about fruit. The boys were featured in farm market articles all summer long, and the local paper had a photo of them climbing the chestnut trees recently.

*Animals- Alan and Ben plan on doing some hunting next week. Our dog Murphy keeps chasing the turkeys, deer, and squirrels out of the yard. The squirrels thought our fruit stand by the barn was their personal fruit salad. We've spotted red squirrels, black squirrels, grey squirrels, fox squirrels, and flying squirrels helping themselves to the apples, and to the pumpkins in the yard- they make jack-o-lanterns in moments, and run off with the seeds., Ben tried to discourage them by setting traps, but each time he got one, many more came to the funeral.

Hope we will see you all soon. Warm hugs from up north.

Joy, Lynn



DON & MARY

Summer is past. It was a busy and hot one here in Michigan. We had at least 20 days with 90 degrees plus! Fall came late and now we had a bit of snow on our deck yesterday which means winter is coming.

Our pet population has been up and down. Don sold 3 peacocks, then bought 7 baby guinea hens to take their place. Well, Lily (our border collie) and Meow (barn cat) got into the cage and took care of all 7 of the new fowl. Lily has also been chasing deer so Glenn helped Don put a dog fence around our property. There are plenty of deer around here so I'm not sure why Don has to go to the U.P. next week. He tells me it's for the food (especially bacon for breakfast) and fellowship.

I sprained my ankle pretty good in August. It happened by our friends cottage at Lake MI. We were invited there for dinner with our Bible Study group. Somehow I slipped off their sidewalk. So now Don and I both have bum ankles.

That's about all from Caledonia. Have a good winter!

Don & Mary

TOM & DENISE

Hi once again from the Heartland.

We're doing well here in Minnesota and we are almost ready to face another Minnesota winter. Tom has been busy cutting wood for our wood burner. We like having a cozy fire and it really cuts down on our fuel usage.

We had a nice summer here but it was quite hot and dry. Even so, the farmers were quite pleased with their crops which yielded well and the prices are good too. There are now huge piles of sugar beets and yellow corn around here.

We stay busy with work and play. We've had a couple of outings this summer and fall. In October, Tom & Denise, Janine and Daniel flew (first time flying for Janine) to Hebron, Kentucky and visited the new Creation Museum. It was a great trip and the museum was really nice. We learned more about dinosaurs and Noah's ark. We



would highly recommend it. Our faith was strengthened. You can check out the web sites at www.creationmuseum.org and www.answersingenesis.org. On our way home we spent a night in the cities at a motel where all our kids joined us except Trevor :(! We had a fun time together and then all walked the Down's Syndrome Buddy Walk the next day. The Buddy walk is a fund raiser and picnic with good family fun. We walked almost two miles with the temp in the high 80's!



Tom & Denise attended a conference in the twin cities called "Understanding the Times". We had several very interesting speakers and were joined by about 4,000 others. One of the speakers said we are living on borrowed time - are you ready? Our favorite speaker was author Joel Rosenberg. He has written several books including EpiCenter which we found to be an interesting read.

The boys all went to South Dakota west of the river to go prairie dog hunting & 4 wheeling. They had a great time even though they didn't get a lot of dogs and the mosquitoes were really bad. They camped out in the middle of no where - where even cell phones don't work well!

Katrina and Trevor are attending college in Willmar and Trevor recently moved to Willmar. Janine just finished the volleyball season which was fun. She has named all our cats; Garfield, Vera, Coda, Brody, Cleo, and Sally - I think there might be an extra one for you if you need one. Tom gave her permission to get a couple of more barn cats but unless our house is now a barn I don't think they are all barn cats. Daniel is busy with school and went pheasant hunting with Tom and is doing a little gopher trapping.

DAN & BONNIE

Hi Everyone, - We wanted to send a quick HELLO.

We are staying busy with volleyball, working and playing as usual, but looking forward to a little time off too. School is going well, I am enjoying a little break and happy to be able to visit my sister in Phoenix (ahhh, warm weather!).

We are really starting to work on the basement, we hung the drywall and are ready for the next inspection. Hopefully it will be done by the new year, hint, hint... ready for company this winter!!! We look forward to seeing a few of you during the holidays as we are heading back to Grand Rapids this year.

Until then, get cracking on those Christmas cards as it will be here before we know it!!!

Dan and Bonnie



**Winter is
the season in
which people
try to keep the
house as warm
as it was in
the summer,
when they
complained
about
the heat.**

Author Unknown



RYAN & JAYNE

Hi Bakkers!

What a beautiful autumn we've been having! (well, okay, today was sunny anyways). Jake and Darcie were actually playing in the kiddie pool in October. We've been doing lots of bike riding and walks this year. Since I'm usually pushing Natalie in a stroller, they're usually way ahead of me! Ryan has been plugging away at his classes this fall, and has also been quite busy heading up the GTFD Apparatus Committee. This means he's in charge of specking (sp?) out, ordering, and overseeing every little aspect of ordering a new heavy rescue fire engine for his station in Georgetown. For a firefighter, it's a really big deal. They are now accepting bids, and once they figure out which one to expect, he'll be flown out to whatever state it's coming from a few times. I wish he'd just sit still sometimes!

I've been busier than usual with 3 weddings this fall. I really enjoy the work, but it's nice to get it all out of the house and sweep the floor! I've been trying to get the gardens cleaned up somewhat before winter Jake and Darcie love to work with me, but they also have to keep EVERY single seed they find and put it in a baggie. Jake has started preschool, and seems to be enjoying meeting new kids. Darcie just turned 3 and is always 2 steps behind Jake. Natalie spends most of her awake time smiling and giggling. We celebrated her baptism in October (Jake practiced by baptizing Darcie in the tub the week before.) Oh, and Jake also found out what happens when he leaves Daddy's good Estwing hammer in the grass, and Daddy finds it with the John Deere . . . you can imagine the sound!

Natalie was baptized on Oct 14, wearing the same dress Grandma Bakker made for me 29 years ago! Darcie wore it also, who would have known it would have gotten so much use?

Love, Jayne and Family



CAL & LISA

We now have high-speed internet, so we can receive the Buzzings on-line now.

We hauled the camping trailer to Munising for Labor day weekend, and spent a week camped on the shore of Lake Superior. A real mixture of weather – some real nice (Cal managed to swim a few times in the 60 degree water) and some rain and storms. Cal even managed to canoe over to Grand Island. He also managed to catch a salmon. Tasted good! With the ban on taking firewood across the bridge, Cal scrounged the state forest trails to find dead trees. Kind of like Dad used to do.

Back at home, did some more camping at Big Bear lake on the other side of the county. Brian Lydia and Casey joined us there for one weekend in early September.

Then we parked the trailer at Otsego Lake, and left it there most of the time until the end of October. With the beautiful weather we had this fall, Lisa got a lot of chances to enjoy a campfire by the lake. (But not as much as she would like—work and bowling tend to get in the way.)

The Vander Goots came up to visit. Lisa got Abi fitted with a new bowling ball, and they joined us at the campfire at the lake.

We also took a ride down to Byron Center to visit Mom. We took her to the farm, and out to Silver Creek.

Cal went bow hunting a few times. Hasn't seen a deer close enough to shoot, though. He did see a nice buck behind the house last week, in rifle range. Maybe he'll get lucky and see him again next week when rifle season is open.

JASON & JOLEEN

Happy Fall—although lately the weather feels more like Summer! We've been enjoying some very nice weather here in Michigan the past couple of weeks and we've used it to our advantage (especially since we don't quite have enough wood cut for the really cold weather, yet!)

We are doing really well here in Hopkins. Jason has been busy setting up the new business, Logcraft Industrial Systems. He's also been quoting and working on jobs too. He occasionally finds a chance to go flying, but he has not been flying as much as he'd like to! He was able to change his pace today and go to a trade show in Chicago (Nov. 14), yes, it was too windy for him to fly so he had to drive.

The kids have been busy blowing the leaves off the lawn, soccer on Thursdays and of course, their schoolwork. Alex turned 12 on Nov. 8. One more year and we'll have our first teenager.....that sounds really strange.....a teenager. David will turn 6 on Dec. 28 and Sam will be 9 on Jan 3. We also just celebrated our 15th Anniversary on Nov. 13.

We did find a chance to head up to the UP in August after Jason was finished at his "old" job. We camped at Indian Lake and visited Escanaba, The Big Spring (Kitch-iti--kipi), Piers Gorge Trail, Sturgeon Dam and Fayette. We had some nice weather and it was a great chance to get out and stretch for a few days before figuring out how to start a new business again.

As for me, well, I've been busy taking pictures, working on the accounting for Logcraft, planning a b-day party for my brother's 30th B-day, taking the kids to soccer, meeting with my Homeschool Helpmeets friends and trying to keep up with Jas and the scalley-wags.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Christmas! - Joleen

DAVE & KAREN

Here is the Buzz from the VanderGoots.

We have had an interesting few months. Dave began a new job a week before school started as the assistant principal of the elementary school (grades K-5) in Reed City. There are about 750 kids in that building, so he is very busy. He is also the Curriculum Director for the entire Reed City School District. He is enjoying the job although it is quite a bit different from his duties as high school principal and superintendent at his previous job. He does like the fact that he doesn't have so many evening meetings. And we are very thankful that he found employment only 15 miles from home. God is good.

Abi is a senior this year at Crossroads Charter Academy. She takes her morning classes there and in the afternoon goes to the Career Center to continue classes in Allied Health. She is investigating continuing studies to become a surgical technician and has looked at Baker College as a place to do that. She is also looking forward to Bowling on the school varsity bowling team again, and is very eager to use her new bowling ball that Aunt Lisa drilled for her. We enjoyed our time with Cal and Lisa and other family members that day. Abi also enjoyed having her senior pictures taken by Joleen at the Apol Gardens. The pictures turned out great! She will be graduating from high school on June 1.

Zac is a junior this year at Crossroads Charter Academy and just finished up soccer season and is looking forward to basketball season and possibly bowling also. He is right now on a weekend retreat to Chicago with a local church youth group. He and Abi also play their instruments in church sometimes, with Abi on flute and Zac on bass guitar. Zac also helps run the sound and video system at church.

Both Abi and Zac are in band again this year. Zac was invited to be part of the local Tuba Bach concert. That required extra practices and a performance with students from several area high schools. They also both just participated in a concert in Pentwater with kids from several other high schools. This, of course, was held on a night with the worst weather of the season. Traditionally the last few years it seems if there is a band concert near the lakeshore we will have interesting weather that day!



throughout the next few months. We have been trying to rake leaves, but most of them are still on the trees, so next spring will be yard cleanup. Hopefully at least some of the 100 tulips we planted will blossom then, too!

Looking forward to hearing news from all the other Bakkers.....

Dave, Karen, Abi & Zac

Karen has been busy with real estate. Yes, even in the lousy economy we are having in Michigan, there are still people who are buying and selling houses. So, if you know anyone who needs some help with that, let her know! She also continues to work on marketing the farm. She also worked for the first time as an election official for a local election. If there is a primary in January in Michigan she will hopefully work at that as well. It was very interesting - but a very long day. We are hoping that the insulation that was blown into our attics (they discovered five of them!) will keep us warm



A Fall Song

by Ellen Robena Field

Golden and red trees
Nod to the soft breeze,
As it whispers, "Winter is near;"
And the brown nuts fall
At the wind's loud call,
For this is the Fall of the year.

Good-by, sweet flowers!
Through bright Summer hours
You have filled our hearts with cheer
We shall miss you so,
And yet you must go,
For this is the Fall of the year.

Now the days grow cold,
As the year grows old,
And the meadows are brown and sere;
Brave robin redbreast
Has gone from his nest,
For this is the Fall of the year.

I do softly pray
At the close of day,
That the little children, so dear,
May as purely grow
As the fleecy snow
That follows the Fall of the year.

