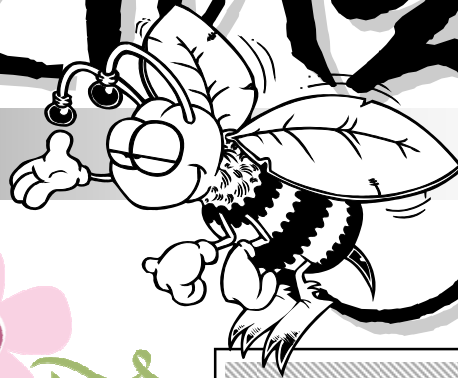


Buzzings

The latest happenings from the family of
Albert & Rena Bakker



GRANDMA BAKKER

Guess it's time for the Buzzings, I've been told.

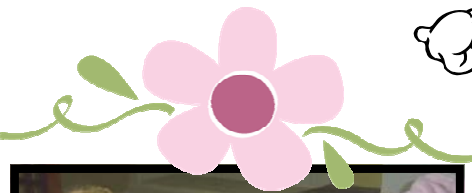
Can't believe it's August already. Where has the summer gone?

Seems like I can't get started on this letter. Somebody probably told you about the bad Sunday when I couldn't get out of bed as my head was just dizzy and I couldn't reach the telephone or the call button either. Those that pick me up for church came to my door but didn't hear me so they asked the nurse what was wrong. Found out later my blood sugar was way too high. Went to the doctor a couple days later and they increased my medicine. I feel good now.

Have a program here once in a while. Some real good and some I wouldn't go to again. This week Thursday we have a magician. Had that before and he's good. We also have what we call video church every Tuesday and Thursday nite from First Byron Center CRC and July 5 Elaine, Bob and Arla and I went to Dave and Karens cottage up north. It's a little south of where Dad and the boys used to go Deer Hunting. It was a nice day.

July 11 a man came to cut a piece out of the side of my bathtub. Now it's much easier to get in. It was too high for me.

Must get this in the mail.
God Bless you all.
Love, Grandma



THE NEWEST ADDITION!

Todd holding his baby sister's hand.
Danielle Grace Faber was born on May 27,
3 days after Todd's 1st Birthday,
which was on May 24.



New Address!

Here is a new address
for Brice and Sara

Bonnema Cap 11952
Agape Flights
100 Airport Ave
Venice, FL 34285



They said we can send anything any-
time—they love mail.

ALAN & LYNN

Events up north include cherries, cherries, and more cherries! Alan and Ben get up at 5 am every morning and get off to the harvest, and work till after 6 pm most days. It has been going well so far. Ben usually drives the forklift or half of the shaker, with Alan driving the other half.

Apricots, peaches, and the early apples are starting. We have been going to the Farm Markets in the area, with fruit and veggies from the garden.

Ben enjoyed his trip to New Mexico with the Boy Scouts. They climbed mountains, and saw lots of great scenery. They took the train on the way there, but only got half way home until getting on a bus because of the flooding.

Andrew, Josiah and I went to the local Boy Scout Camp, and Ben helped there also. Now Andrew and Josiah have swimming lessons. They enjoyed VBS at our church as well.

After harvest, we hope to get in some camping. We have planned to go to South Manitou Island with the Scout troop.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

If people from Poland are called
Poles, then why aren't people
from Holland called Holes?



GREG & BETH

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. It seems like only yesterday the kids were celebrating the end of another school year. We've been busy with the typical summer activities at our house. We've been camping, ran into Shelly at Michigan's Adventure, Greg's been to Virginia to golf with Chris, Beth and Greg are playing coed softball, Tyce had baseball, Camp Geneva, baseball tournaments, football camp and now football practice has started. Paige has been making the VBS rounds, and Dylan is tagging along. The kids are healthy and everyone is doing well. Beth is still working at Stiles Machinery in Kentwood. In her spare time, she does some office work for a non-profit (Health Development International) as well as continuing to work on t-shirts and embroidery work for our home business Imprint This. Greg is working for KIDS HOPE USA, a national non-profit mentoring program that works with Christian Churches and public elementary schools. While it is a lot different than working in a school, it still has some of the same rewards. There is some travel, but so far that hasn't been too bad.

Tyce will be entering Third Grade and Paige will be starting Kindergarten at Hudsonville Christian. Dylan will be hanging out with our wonderful day care lady, Sandy.

I'm sure there is more, but for the sake of boring everyone, we'll just forget about it. Until next time.

SCOTT & SHELLY

The Boermans have been having a very enjoyable summer so far.....we've made a trip to Michigan's Adventure (saw Greg and Beth there), and are anticipating a short vacation to Traverse City before the end of August. Through the miracle of backyard swimming lessons, Whitney learned how to swim in one week, and went from being afraid to go under water, to jumping off the diving board and swimming to the ladder !! I have to admit, my heart was in my throat the first time that the teacher "dropped" her in the deep end! Scott had been busy with yard work, and getting ready to start grad school in the fall through Davenport. Cameryn has been riding her "big wheel" bike and talking, and talking, and talking! I have been enjoying my flexible work schedule, and my trips to Traverse and Sault Ste Marie...there's nothing like crossing the Mackinac Bridge on a sunny day...gorgeous!

I think that's about all.....



DAVE & KAREN

The VanderGoots have been spending many days this summer enjoying our cabin. It is located about 15 miles west of our house in Big Rapids, so it is easy and quick to get to, yet seems like a vacation when we are there! The 20 acres of pine trees, swamp land and forest give lots of opportunity for forest creatures to enjoy it with us. We are also learning about taking care of a pond. There are abundant bluegills and frogs (and mosquitoes!) So far we have seen deer, wild turkeys, various birds and other creeping and crawling things, but no bear, although we hear they are around. We invite all relatives to come visit us there - just let us know you are coming so we can give you directions! It was fun to have Grandma, Elaine, Arla, Bob and Randy visit us there on July 5 while Mel, Rick and kids spent a few days there.

Dave has been enjoying some time off from work this summer. He did not need to go in to his office most of the summer, but school starts after Labor Day, and he begins officially back at work on August 18 at Reed City Public Schools. Meanwhile he has been the official gardener at the house which means our yard looks beautiful!

Abi is employed as a cashier at Meijers. She works about 20 hours per week, often in the evening, and sometimes very late at night. She always has stories to tell about interesting customers. Her classes at Baker College start the end of September in Muskegon.

Zac has been working "odd jobs" this summer from mowing lawns to helping someone build a deck. He went to a soccer camp at Ferris State University, and also spent several days at the Youth Unlimited Convention in Bozeman, Montana. This was also his first experience on an airplane. He starts varsity soccer practice August 11 and will soon be playing several games. He plans to take some classes at Ferris during the school year in addition to his high school classes. Now that he has his drivers license he is driving the old black van - which is almost as old as he is, but still gets him where he needs to go. It also helps keep the local gas stations in business.

Karen has been busy with real estate - helping people buy and sell homes and property. No action on the farm yet, but phone calls come in on it from time to time.

That's all from this side of the road.



CAL & LISA

We've been plenty busy this summer. Anna is moved in, just a half mile south of us, but there's still plenty of work to finish at her house. Cal's been working at building a couple of rooms in her basement for Morgan and Cody, so the new baby Braeden will have a room to himself. Also have to do things like fix leaky roofs, and have hardly begun to cut up her supply of firewood. The previous owner had a lot of trees cut down, so there's plenty available to keep them warm.

Cal and Lisa went down to Wheaton to watch Jared graduate. He got his master's degree, and now is headed to Ireland for one or two years. He will be working for Taylor University as a counselor for the men in their Ireland campus. That's in Greystones, about 20 miles south of Dublin.

Lydia and Brian came up around Memorial day. Cal, Brian, and Morgan got up early and went looking for elk in the Pigeon River country. They saw about 25 elk.

Other wildlife: A neighbor reports seeing a bear cross the road and go into Anna's woods. Also, Anna had a sick raccoon in her yard that Cal had to go and shoot and bury.

Not much time for gardening and fishing this summer. Have had the camper to the lake a few times, so Lisa can watch the sun come up over the lake. Lydia came up for a few days last week and joined Lisa at the lake. Jared also came home with all his stuff. He left with Lydia for Indiana, and she'll get him to Taylor U. for his Ireland trip.

Once a year, GFS lets drivers take a child or grandchild on the road with them. This year Cal took Jonathan along. He managed to stay awake most of the night, and Cal managed to answer most of his questions.

Lisa is busy with her new job at Breitburn oil and gas exploration and production. Her office is only about a block away from Anna's office, so they can share rides sometimes.

Morgan is coming home for 2 weeks. Hopefully he'll be here when his new brother is born. Then he is going back to North Carolina for the school year. His dad, Kenton, is back from Iraq, and will be home for a year before they ship him overseas again.

ELAINE

There have been many occasions of joy to help fill moments of sadness during the past months. The Lord is so good! I've been blessed with another grandchild, Danielle Grace Faber, born just 3 days after Todd's first birthday. He slept several days and nights at Grandma's keeping her busy with naps, snacks, more eating, and playing. He's learning to be gentle with his cute little curly dark haired sister.

Shari comes around (when she's not in CA or somewhere here and there, or at school) to help with spreading woodchips or to have a Sunday dinner. We visited the Dr. Seuss exhibit, the F.M. Gardens, Reed's Lake Clothesline Festival and went butterflying together. I've also had lunch with friends with whom I've kept in contact with over the years.

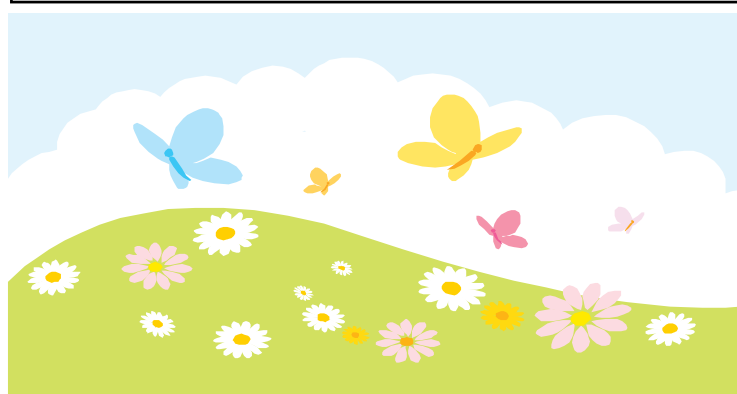
There is always something to do to keep a house up to "par" but this time it was new cement in the driveway. Two squares were replaced as one was sinking and another cracked. Large silver maples were cut down a few years ago and now the roots were rotting and we were getting a sinking problem.

Today I'm just back from a cottage vacation for a week on Pentwater Lake. Steve took his boat up the BIG lake and so we had some nice rides on it, one time seeing a complete rainbow. We sat on the deck watching beautiful sunsets and also marveled at the dark, low T-storm clouds that rolled over the lake a few times with sunshine not far behind. It was a wonderful week to spend with the whole family. It's a beautiful area.

Everything looks nice and green around here; my flowers are spectacular and today I saw my first Giant Swallowtail and Hummingbird Moth of the season. The yard is ready for cousin Alice next week, hopefully her room will be too. She is staying at my B&B and we also plan to go to T.C. for a few days the following week.

Summer is here; enjoy!

Elaine



UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Ever wonder about those people who spend \$2.00 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water?
Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE



MIKE & EMI

Mike and I have had a busy spring and summer. It seems that a large portion of the people we have met in our adult lives have finally decided to get married. From April through September, we will have attended weddings in Santa Barbara, California, Lethbridge, Alberta, Livonia and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Bloomington, Indiana. It seems appropriate though that we attend weddings this year as it is our 10th Anniversary on August 8th. For our 10th Anniversary, we're planning a trip to Europe (Paris or London....ticket price dependent) later in the year (i.e. shortly before the election).

Mike continues to work for Senator Levin's Armed Services Committee staff (don't forget to vote for Carl Levin....and Mike's job security in November). July 2nd marked Mike's seven year anniversary working for the Senator. I am currently working for the Governor of Delaware. I was recently promoted to the Deputy Director of her Washington, D.C. office. I will be looking for a new job in the New Year as the Governor is term limited.

We recently returned from visiting Mike's family in Calgary where we attended the Calgary Stampede (a.k.a. the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth). While we missed the afternoon rodeo because our flight was delayed, we did make the 9-heats of chuck wagon races -- a truly impressive sporting activity. Following the races, we were entertained by a full cadre of kids dancing and singing, an accordion player, motocross and flame-throwing dancers. This event was followed by a 20-minute fireworks display. If anyone can make it out to Western Canada for the Stampede in the future, we recommend it strongly.

If anyone decides to make the trek out to Washington, please don't forget to drop us a line. We'd be happy to host you and help arrange tours in and around Washington.

BOB & ARLA

Too many deer around here and it's a good thing we are both nature lovers otherwise we would be taking up target practice. The deer enjoy our Hosta and Hydrangea buffet and then they have bittersweet for dessert.

The summer weather has been great for walking, and Arla enjoys the long walks on the beach, the boardwalk to the lighthouse & also to the end of the pier. Bob enjoys golfing with the Keller Brass League.

Thanks to the Vander Goot's for all the food and fun when we visited at their new log cabin. We truly enjoyed the mystery adventure walking through the woods to The Hidden Creek. Elaine and Mom drove to Burlington Coat parking lot on Alpine and we car pooled the rest of the way to Paris.

We still have our pocket change jobs and are very thankful the gas prices are coming down, so we took a road trip with friends to Shipshewana, Indiana stopping for yummy Amish cinnamon rolls and coffee, got a few fleas at the Flea Market and had a wonderful Amish dinner at the Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana

The Coast Guard Festival is always a big attraction the first weekend in August & we enjoyed the celebration at the big parade & also the fireworks.

That's all from Coast Guard City USA. Time to pick more blackberries.

Blessings to all, Arla & Bob

RYAN & JAYNE



Hello, Bakkers!

We can hardly believe how quickly summer is winding down. I think kids put your life in fast-forward! Natalie turned 1 on July 12, not walking yet but definitely thinking about it. Jake will be going to kindergarten this fall, and Darcie will be going to preschool. Ryan will be starting his Masters of Public Administration at GVSU. And I will be trying to keep us all organized!

We've been having lots of fun outdoors lately. The kids are collecting all the cicada exo-skeletons they can find. And saving them. For what exactly, I don't know. Anyone have any craft idea? Yuck! I just know they're not allowed inside the house! Our most exciting project has been raising monarch butterflies all the way from egg to butterfly, and having the fun of letting them go! This project is taking a little longer than anticipated, mainly because there were some hidden eggs on a new stem of milkweed I brought in for food. This could take all summer!

God bless you all- Jayne and family



Darcie