

# We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 19, March 2009

[WWW.WEREFAMILY.ORG](http://WWW.WEREFAMILY.ORG)

We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 25 & 26, 2009

## A Road to Heaven

by Scott Shaver

There is a road to Heaven  
We can follow if we choose  
If we use the Bible for a map  
Our way we cannot lose.

It was planned by God the Father  
It was built by Christ the Son  
It was finished on Mt. Calvary  
When Christ died for everyone.

There are no detours we have to take  
To reach that land of day  
We cannot take a side road  
And climb up some other way.

And if we get discouraged  
And feel our strength is gone  
Lets not depend upon ourselves  
But say, Lord lead me on.

This road to Heaven was finished  
On Calvarys Mountain side  
For Jesus said it's finished  
Then bowed his head and died.



## Deklan Vaughn Meadows

Melinda (10-8-3) and Justin Meadows are the proud Parents. He was born on January 12th, 2009 in Charleston, WV. He came into the this world weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20 1/2" tall.

## Thirty Years of Memories

by Garywayne

Ro and I do not consider ourselves to be very creative when it comes to things like celebrating birthdays. Our daughter, Sarah, turned 30 in November. With a desire to make the day a little more special, Ro adapted a plan from one of her friends whose daughter recently turned 30 as well.

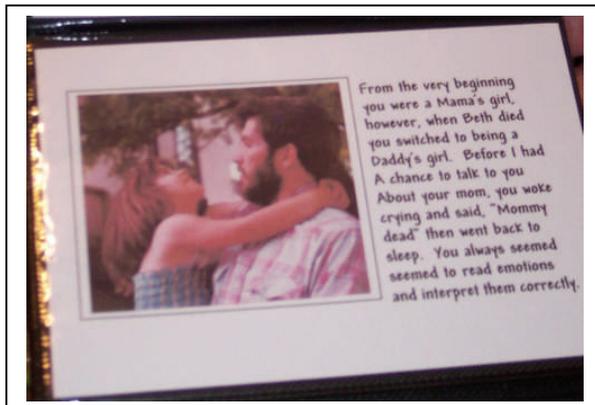
Instead of giving Sarah items such as 30 leaves to remind her of how she enjoyed playing in the leaf piles that I raked up when she was a child, Ro thought it would be better to record the memory along with a picture of a leaf pile. Instead of giving her 30 Skittles to symbolize her favorite Halloween candy, Ro thought it would be a better treat to record the memory along with a Halloween picture.

Ro bought an inexpensive album for 4x6 prints, and then cut some 4x6 cards to write on. We gave Sarah a book of 30 memories concerning her, along with pictures. The memories were mostly from the immediate family, but other significant people in her life also took part. Ro had three days by the time she thought of the idea

until it had to be done. Once the learning curve was factored in, it was questionable whether she could do a quality job in such a short amount of time without interfering with her other responsibilities.

Since Sarah likes movies, the plan was to take her out to eat and then see a movie. It was while at the restaurant, after ordering our food, that the special book was presented to her. She read it aloud while making comments as she did. Ro's quality concerns were promptly addressed when upon finishing the reading of the book Sarah said,

**"This is very, very cute. I really like it."**





They say home is where the heart is. My mom was the heart of our home. She did not need worldly possessions, for her happiness came from keeping her sights on Heavenly things. In trying times she sang her favorite song "How Great Thou Art".

When the family met to discuss the future funeral arrangements, I will never forget the statement my sister Anita made. "We don't have to have a lengthy sermon at her funeral, she has already preached hers." And that she did! What a list of memories and testimonies she has left with us. Anyone who needed spiritual help and prayer could go to her, and as busy as she was would take time and pray with them. If they needed physical or material help, she gave all that she had. No one was a stranger.

Mom loved the Lord Jesus with all her heart and soul. The love she showed for my Dad, Vaughn, before he went home to be with Jesus was solid. She loved all thirteen of her children; showing no partiality and making us each feel like we were the only child. After I married Janice and brought her home to meet the family, Mom treated and loved her like one of her own too.

While growing up, she gathered us together every night before bedtime and prayed with us. Even after we were grown and came to visit, she would offer a bedtime prayer for us. When we departed to go to our own homes she would pray for our safety and well being, giving the Lord thanks for HIS blessings upon us. I brought this up to my children while we were attending her funeral, and they remembered this too. My brothers and sisters talked about this also, and no one can remember when these prayers stopped. The testimonies given at Mom's funeral recalled her prayers with them and how much it meant to everyone.

In addition to her spiritual concern for everyone, when you dropped in for a visit, she always asked if you had anything to eat. It was nothing for her to feed twenty to twenty-five people on any given Sunday. Mom was known for her good food. A few years ago when she was in the hospital with a heart problem, I went to Morgantown to be with her. When I got there, she was sleeping. After she woke up and saw me, she asked, "How long have you been here"? I replied, "Not long." She asked, "Have you had anything to eat? I feel so bad I can't cook for you."

While we were building the "We're Family Park", I spent quite a bit of time with her. I would get up in the morning and cook her breakfast, and she would always say that she should be cooking for me instead. Of course maybe it was because my cooking could not compare to her biscuits and gravy.

As her disease progressed she became disoriented and always wanted to go home. The family made trips to Perkins Fork and took her up the holler thinking that was where she wanted to be, but our day trips never satisfied her. The family had to put bolts on the doors of her home to keep her from wandering at night, looking for home. I am saddened by her death, but I can honestly say with what she has gone through these last few years, I am relieved she is at peace and has finally gone home to the place she was longing for – her real home with her Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Mom was a wonderful person to be around. We will remember and miss her but will not forget her. On January 28, 1920 God gave a gift to the world in the form of a baby who became a very special person to so many in the form of my mother. On her birthday this year, our most precious gift was returned to God for safe-keeping.

One of Virginia's Quilt tops



**From the Newspaper Obituary Column**

She was married on February 8, 1936, to James Vaughn Shaver and together they had 13 children.

She will be greatly missed by the 174 family members who called her "Mom" and "Grandma."

## Park Projects Completed in 2008

by Robert Shaver

The memorial walkway and fountain were completed with flowers, shrubs, and mulch, making this a breathtaking sight. Those who contributed to this project are: Jerry, Sharon, J.D., Ryan, Melinda, Dennis, and Brandon Shaver; Tim, Reta and Shane Cogar; "Cookie," and Anita Cook; Eric Davis, and Karen Mowery. Clifford Dennison was the largest contributor of funds with some park funding. Thank you one and all for the hard work and many hours of labor.

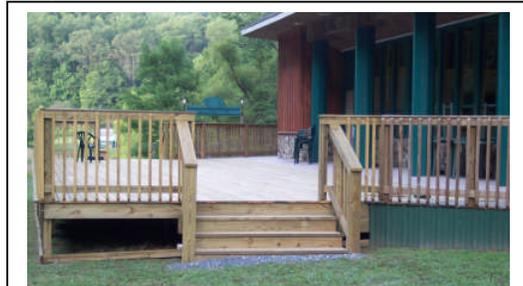
A 20 x 54 foot wooden deck and railings were added to the existing porch along with two sets of steps. Dale Dennison brought in his power auger to drill the holes for the supporting posts. Once this was done the deck got underway. The families that worked on the Memorial Walkway also helped with the deck - thanks to them as well as Dale, Martin, and Marlin Dennison, Doug Mowery, Wilma and Darrell Foster, along with my son Keith and me. This deck is a big enhancement for the family gatherings. We enjoyed listening to our family entertainment sitting out in the open air on Saturday evening, as well as using it for our mealtime overflows.

The Chapel had a green metal roof installed by Dale, Donald, and Garywayne Dennison. Wanda and Pearl Coen's family painted the Chapel white. These two projects compliment one another and we want to thank those who worked on it.

Two exterior lights were installed - one on the volleyball court and the other on the horseshoe court by Dale Dennison. Thanks to Dale we can now see where to park.

Dale Dennison has built a road in the woods behind the Chapel and Gazebo for future cabin plans. The road will be dedicated and named for his Mother, "Jesse Dennison. A cabin is in the planning for the Lena and Virginia Branch in 2009.

Thanks to those I might have missed who came out and helped. Every year we have a workweek before our Family Reunion, which is held the last full weekend of July. If you have never participated, come out and join in the fellowship. Besides work we do have fun. We hope to see more family members take an interest in the "We're Family Park" projects. See you in July.



### Letter from the Editor

Once again I had numerous things that I wanted to accomplish during our reunion last summer. However, I only achieved one thing that I didn't want to do – gain weight.

I believe everyone has at least one natural ability. However, the inner desire to use it is optional. Since I do not have a gift of organization, I often fail to achieve my goals. On the other hand, I do have a passion for putting together the newsletter. I need to learn not to waste my time and energy on making plans for my ideas that are not supported, because negative comments so easily derail my intentions. I need to limit myself to my passions where external forces have very limited control on my inner drive.

There are many opportunities within our family to experiment to find a need that matches your uniqueness. Both the family and you will be greatly blessed when that match occurs. What are you good at, or have a strong desire to see happen for the benefit of the entire family? As I said earlier, mine is publishing the newsletter. Could yours be taking pictures, making sure everyone at the reunion gets represented in the registration book, or could you be the person from your branch that funnels news on to the newsletter's editor? Even doing the smallest of things helps to build up the family.

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**The Entertainment for Reunion 2008** was a huge success. I have not talked with anyone who didn't enjoy it. It was a beautiful sight looking across the lawn at everyone's smiling faces as you sat on the Pavilion deck enjoying the talent show. Many of the neighbors and friends living on Exchange Road told me how they sat on their porches and enjoyed the music and singing as well.

It was not only the performers on the gazebo stage that enchanted our thoughts for the evening, but also those who did such a wonderful job working on building the pavilion deck. The extra room was a real plus; added to that was not having the distraction of the echoing ceiling. A special thanks needs to be given to Tim, Robert, and their helpers for setting up the sound system across the creek. Thank you from all of us.

### **Memories of Imogene**

by Janet Oliver

It truly was a trip around the world. That was the name of the quilt, and as we talked, laughed, and reminisced about the places we had been and the places we wanted to go, we took our imaginary trip around the world. Learning to quilt was a wonderful experience. I'm so grateful to Imogene for her patience and help. I had begged Imogene for several years to make a quilt for me. She made such beautiful ones and had made them for each of her children and for many of her grandchildren as well.

While living in New Mexico, she finally told me to come home and stay for about a month and she would help me make one. After discussing it with my husband, I planned a long vacation and took off to the beautiful hills of wild and wonderful West Virginia. I had already purchased the quilt top from Aunt Virginia and was anxiously waiting to get started on it.

After arriving at Imogene's, Ray set up the quilting frame and we began. My poor fingers were soon so sore that they began bleeding and I nearly gave up. I began to understand why I needed to be in on the action, and why Imogene didn't want to just hand me a quilt already made. I could often see Imogene grinning when I'd stab one of my already bleeding fingers. Oh, how I'd try to make those tiny stitches that she made look so easy.

Ray showed his kindness by always having a fresh pot of coffee ready. One day we had a Quilting Bee. We invited everyone in the community, and I got to see and visit with relatives and friends I hadn't seen in so long. Church people I had known since I was a baby came. Everyone stitched and we ate delicious food and visited and praised God as we witnessed to one another about how wonderful our Lord is. It was a blessed event and I was so happy my quilt was getting made while saving my sore fingers some stitches. As I persevered under Imogene's gracious instruction I saw the loving humor she possessed and I came to know her better as a sister. (In my growing up years, Imogene had been more like a mom to me than a sister.) Imogene was so kind and gentle as well as stern and disciplined. I loved her dearly and appreciate the time, energy, and the knowledge she devoted to me, and my quilt. I miss her.



### **Computer Answers Revealed Systematically**

navigating the technical highway with Jason Maloney

Question: When I send an e-mail attachment to numerous people, some can open it without any problem while others cannot or it is distorted if they do. Why?

Answer: This depends on the file type of the attachment. If you are sending a PDF anyone should be able to read it by downloading and installing Adobe PDF viewer from adobe.com. If you are sending a Word document they would need to have Microsoft Office (or one of the free alternatives like OpenOffice). So essentially the people receiving the attachment must have the same program that the attachment was created/saved in. This is one of the reasons PDFs are commonly used as universally readable documents.