



After all the hard work of compiling the 350-page cookbook, from left, Loretta Wahl, Margaret Eyer, Shirley Bowers, and Sharon Engle find delight in trying recipes from the cookbook, which is dedicated in memory of Ginger Groff, a former 4-H Woolies Club leader.

Church Cookbook Stirs Memories Of 4-H Leader And Good Tastes

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Ginger Groff was a young mother — 43 years old — when she died from cancer last year.

For four years, Ginger and her husband served as 4-H leaders of the 4-H Woolies Club. She was an active participant of Elizabethtown Brethren In Christ Church and a super cook.

For friends, family, and 4-H'ers, her memory lives on. A wonderful cookbook has been dedicated in memory of Ginger. In addition to several of Ginger's recipes, hundreds of recipes from members of the Elizabethtown Brethren In Christ Church appear in the tab-indexed cookbook that has about 350 pages.

The spiral-bound cookbook, released two weeks before Christmas last year, has been ordered by people as far away as California and Canada.

"Many people have said that it's a tremendous cookbook, and we think so too," said Sharon Engle of the committee that put together the cookbook.

It is the result of many women using their individual skills to work together.

The church cookbook was Shirley Bower's idea. She said, "We have lots of fellowship meals and lots of good cooks in our congregation so I thought why don't we share this with others?"

At first, people were not too interested in her idea. Sharon Engle and Margaret Eyer had been on the committee for a previous cookbook and knew the hard work involved and everything that could go wrong. Although they had a realistic assessment of the project, Sharon and Margaret eventually decided that the hard work would be worthwhile.

By word-of-mouth a committee soon formed with these three women and Loretta Wahl, Carolyn Bair, and Rae Ann Boozer.

One of the biggest decisions the committee made that is different from most church and community groups that put out a cookbook was

deciding not to have it printed by a cookbook publishing company but by an independent local printer.

"It enabled us to have more control over the finished product," Sharon said.

Interspersed among the hundreds of delectable recipes are spiritual tidbits that range from short little sayings to instructions on how to get to heaven, from a dishwasher's prayer to a friendship recipe.

An introduction by Dr. David Hall, senior pastor of the church, states that the word "food" occurs in the Bible 305 times.

"That's enough to assure us that food must be important, even from God's perspective," he writes. "Food has been a medium of celebration for thousands of years. God has chosen food as a symbol of His great love and gift. . . . Food is a physical reminder that we need to be fed spiritually."

For anyone flipping through the pages of the cookbook, the recipes reflect the creativity of the contributors and the abundant variety of food for every taste.

In addition to an assortment of recipes for meats, soups, sandwiches, casseroles, desserts, breads, and beverages, there are also categories for vegetarian dishes, heart healthy recipes, international specialties, marinades, sauces, dressings, candies, and canning recipes.

Since the committee decided to self publish, it required endless typing and proofing.

One committee member worked in a printers' office and took responsibility for the layout. Jane Dows, a church member and freelance commercial artist, drew the cover design.

Another member took the computer discs in which other committee members had typed in recipes. When she attempted to format that, she found that many of the discs were not compatible with the software used. It took weeks to correct the glitches involved in reformatting.

Several other complications that the committee is hesitant to mention surfaced. But despite the prob-

lems, the committee agreed that if they had to do it all over again, they would again self publish.

The cookbook is available for purchase from church members and will be sold at a booth set up at the upcoming Elizabethtown Fair. To order through the mail, send \$15.25, which includes postage and handling, to Elizabethtown Brethren In Christ Church, 996 E. High St., Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Here are some recipes in memory of Ginger and of those pictured.

4-H WOOLIES LAMB STEW

- 2 pounds lamb pieces
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 4 potatoes, diced
- 4 carrots, diced
- ½ cup celery diced
- 16-ounces tomatoes, undrained
- 1½ cups water
- 1½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- ½ teaspoon basil

Place all ingredients in a slow-cooking crock pot for 8 hours. Or, bake in a 325-degree oven for 1½ hours.

Ginger Groff

CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI CAKE

- ½ cup soft butter
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup sour milk
- 2½ cups flour
- 4 tablespoon cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- Chocolate chips

Cream butter, oil, and sugar. Add eggs, vanilla, and sour milk. Mix together all dry ingredients, add to creamed mixture and mix well with mixer. Stir in zucchini. Sprinkle with chocolate chips before baking. Bake in 9x13-inch pan at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Needs no frosting.

Nancy Rosenberry

(Turn to Page B18)

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