

January 2025

# THE HERALD

Newsletter of the Orrville Grace Brethren Church

## Who's Who at OGBC?

Jodi Robinson

Jen Comito (46) was born in Lexington, Kentucky where her father was in seminary studying to be a minister. She has 1 older brother and 1 younger sister, a husband Chris, a son Daniel (18), a son Kenny (15) and a daughter Sophia (11).

Jen grew up in Chardon, Ohio in the same house her parents still live in. Her Dad's mother was an orphan who might have been related to President Harding.

Jen liked studying the sciences, math and art in school. She wanted to be an Interior Designer when she grew up. She speaks some French from when she took the classes in school. She attended the College of Wooster where she met her husband Chris. While there, she was saved and became a part of the local College Youth Group. Later on she attained her Masters in Education from the University of Akron and currently homeschools her children (who are very intelligent like her, my words not hers). Her son Daniel is taking College Credit Plus at Wayne College along with his homeschool classes. Jen teaches chemistry and physics at the High School Co-op. She

completes courses to keep her teaching license up to date.

Her family has a dog named Bella and 2 cats. Her favorite color is blue. She likes tulips. Her favorite food is Italian, especially chicken parmigiana and she also likes Oreo milkshakes. She enjoys playing board games. As a child her favorite game was The Peanut Butter & Jelly Game.

Jen likes to make things. She enjoys painting with acrylics, playing flute and cooking—"lots of cooking" for her family. When asked what she was good at doing, Jen hesitated and her daughter Sophia said: "Being a Mom." That comment touched my heart as it says a lot about who Jen is. Jen said she was good at organizing things.

Jen and her family have attended OGBC since 2007. She was baptized in 2009 here at OGBC when she was expecting Kenny, "getting into the baptistry was a challenge."

Her favorite verse is: *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:15-17

Jen is involved in the ministry through teaching at the Co-op, the Handbell Choir and the Ensemble at church. When asked ‘what was the best thing you ever did for someone else’, she said, “Praying my father-in-law into Heaven during his last days.”

When asked what she would like to say to God when she meets Him in Heaven someday, she said: “Thank you.”

## APPRECIATING OUR YOUTH

By: Jodi Robinson

Sophia Comito (11) was born at Wooster Hospital and has lived in Orrville her entire life. She has 2 older brothers, Daniel and Kenny. Her famous ancestry includes a possible link to President Harding from her mother Jen’s side and she is related to Johnny Appleseed on her father Chris’ side. Also, Chris’ Dad was a Pearl Harbor survivor.

She likes hiking and camping and playing games with her family. Her favorite family tradition is spending every-other Thanksgiving with her extended family.

Sophia has a parakeet, and is responsible for providing food and water and cleaning the cage. The family also has a dog named Bella and 2 cats.

She is in 6th grade and is homeschooled and attends Co-op, which she likes. She speaks a “little Japanese” and is self-taught from a book.

Sophia’s favorite color is dark teal. She likes snapdragons and her favorite food is Italian pizza.

When asked what she is good at, she said: “Drawing and Being Creative.” Sophia has a lot of talents. She loves to make things. She crochets, which she learned from Grace Steiner. She draws and does watercolor painting, which her Mom and Tina taught her how to do. She sews both by hand and with a machine, which her Grandma and Betty Steiner taught her. She made a costume and won a prize.

She likes being in plays and has been in 3 productions including “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” with Bright Life Players; “Willy Wonka” with the Wayne County Performing Arts and “Light in the Library with the Orrville Community Players.” She enjoys playing soccer with Orrville Soccer and with Wooster Striker Soccer. She enjoys the Goalie and the Striker positions.

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## Words of Wisdom

In the life of everyone there comes a time of decision. It is impossible to spend a lifetime wavering from position to position, never taking a definite stand. Men have tried it, and in so doing have, in effect, made a decision. Matthew 12:30 says: *He who is not with me is against me;* There is no middle ground, no neutral position, and notice here, that with decision comes responsibility to follow, to obey. Christians must bear fruit. A decision for or against Christ is the most momentous, the supreme decision of life. ~ Al Bryant

# Why Didn't You Tell Me?

By: Jodi Robinson

When my granddaughter, Ashleigh was 4 years old, she came to my house all excited and said, "Grandma, guess what! I asked Jesus into my heart."

I said, "That's wonderful, Honey."

She replied, "Did you ever ask Jesus into your heart?" I was very glad to be able to respond happily with, "Yes, I did."

She put both little hands on her little hips and said something I will never forget, "Grandma, why didn't you tell me?"

Even now the profoundness of those words sticks in my heart and brings tears. Like many, sharing what Christ has done for me is hard to do. It is such a deep personal thing.

But what does the Bible teach us about witnessing to others?

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, I Peter 3:15

Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. Psalm 66:16

Preparing to overcome obstacles to witnessing: This begins with revering Christ as Lord, thinking about why you have the hope that you have, praying as you practice what you might want to say and remember-

ing the Bible's admonishment to do this with gentleness and respect.

Speaking has never been my forte. I'm more of a writer. When I speak about something important to me, like my relationship with God, I tend to get emotional and cry. But you know what—God is ok with my tears. He will just gather them up and put them in a bottle. Thinking of that helps me to speak.

How do I decide who to witness to: Are they too young, too hardened, will I hurt their feelings, will I say it right? Amazingly—I don't have to be perfect to be a witness for Jesus. The person I am witnessing to isn't perfect either. Only the one I am witnessing about is perfect. I just have to be available. Thinking of that helps me to move forward gently and respectfully.

No matter where you are on the adventure trail to being prepared to give an answer, you can benefit from a simple prayer asking the Holy Spirit to increase your readiness for sharing the reason for your hope with believers and non-believers.

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## Kid's Corner

**What do you call an old snowman?**

Water

**Say this fast 10 times:** Tie twine to three tree twigs.

**Did you know?** Gorillas can't swim. The average person eats 35,000 cookies in their lifetime, and produces 1 liter of spit per day.

# FUNNIES

If you're being chased by a pack of taxidermists, do not play dead.

The most embarrassing thing about Wordle is that when I don't get it in three, I am convinced that I am about to learn a brand new word, and then it's like . . . THOSE.

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

A police officer calls the station. "Sarge, I have a problem. A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she'd just mopped." The sergeant asks, "Have you arrested her?" "No," says the cop, "The floor's still wet."

Upset wife to husband, "Will you please stop referring to my failed diet as 'Donutgate!'"

Husband confesses: "Don't be mad at me, but I accidentally spilled grease all over the oven." Wife: "Here's the deal, I won't be mad at you, but you have to clean it up." Husband: "I'd rather you be mad at me."

My New Year's resolution for this next year is to get in shape. I choose round.

A state trooper pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car,

he was astounded to see that the elderly woman behind the wheel was knitting. The trooper cranked down his window and yelled to the driver, "Pull over!" The elderly woman yelled back, "Nope, it's a cardigan."

My housekeeping style is best described as "There appears to have been a struggle."

What's Up with 'Up'? We seem to be mixed up about 'up'. Look up 'up' in a dictionary and you'll find about 30 definitions. It's easy to understand 'up' meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake up? At a meeting, why does a topic come up? Why do we speak up, and why is it up to the assistant to write up a report? We call up our friends, brighten up a room, polish up the silver, warm up the leftovers, and clean up the kitchen. We lock up the house and fix up the old car. At other times people stir up trouble, line up for tickets, and think up excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed up is special. And 'up' is contradictory: When it threatens to rain, we say it's clouding up. When the sun comes out, we say it's clearing up. If it rains, no worries since the earth will soak it up. Of course, if it doesn't rain for a while, things will dry up. One could go on and on, but I think I will just shut up.

I can't do small talk. I just asked the lady cutting my hair what she does for a living.

My six-year-old: "I figured out the password to the tablet and bypassed the parental controls to download all my shows." Also my six-year-old: "Help! I put both my legs in the same pant hole and now I am stuck."