

Summertime and the eating is yummy.....

Cooking—a fact of life—we eat, so we must cook or get someone else to do it for us. If, like me, you've not had much luck getting others to cook for you, you might feel the need for new ideas. Bartholomew County Public Library has a large selection of cookbooks to help jump start your daily cooking.

There is still some summertime left, so what could be better than ideas for easy meals using summer's bounty: try *Summer Gatherings* by Rick Rogers who includes a recipe for giant zucchini with lamb stuffing. Anna Pump in *Summer on a Plate* has a quick easy strawberry pie followed by a blueberry crumble that begs for a scoop of ice cream.

Did you get a really good barbecue grill this summer? Tried all your usual favorites and ready to cap the summer cookouts with some really great meals? Then look to Adam Perry Lang in *Serious Barbecue*. Honey-glazed spatchcocked chicken, bourbon-glazed turkey legs or maybe just apricot compote. Who knew a grill could do all those? What's a spatchcocked chicken, anyway? It is all in the way you cut the bird.

Never mind all those fancy dishes. You have a family that wants simple foods that taste good. The library has many cookbooks for those eaters. Try *Extraordinary Meals from Ordinary Ingredients* from Reader's Digest. I'm looking forward to perking up my next chicken dinner with golden rice pilaf which uses celery and orange juice and maybe even some ginger and cinnamon. Don't want my chicken to get boring!!

Maybe your household has a new member, a baby with needs and tastes like nobody else in the house. Sure grocery stores have shelf after shelf of pureed food in little jars but you really like to cook and don't mind if the results are frequently finger paints. Lisa Barnes' *Cooking for Baby* has some quick easy ideas and I promise I won't tell if you decide you like to eat some of those nifty combinations while you coax the baby to eat new food.

What about lunches for the school crowd? PBJ five days a week may suit the kids and the budget but a little variety in their lunch box will boost your self esteem as a nutritionally conscious mom or dad. *Lunch Boxes and Snacks* by Annabel Karmel is full of good food and good tips for getting your school age child to eat what you fix for lunch. You may find yourself filling your own lunch bag at the same time—just so efficient.

There's more! I could tell you about cookbooks for weight loss, diabetes, cancer recovery or gourmet breakfasts, brunches, meals from all over the world and parties, parties, parties. I could, but it is time I fix supper. Bon appetite!

Elizabeth Monette is a Reference Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library