

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BUTTERFLY!

One more year of caterpilling
Up the stems to life's cocoons:
Our slow task of wiggle-worming
Passed another dozen moons...

“Happy Birthday” is a measure
Of the leaves that we have chewed
From the bounty of God's treasure:
Daily grace has been our food.

We're not really getting older
We're just growing for our change,
When our beauty will be bolder
With great wings of awesome range.

One more year of earthly feeding
As our wintry sleep draws nigh.
Happy Birthday! while you're waiting
To become God's butterfly.

— *David L. Hatton*, 11/26/1988