



The Taftsville Chapel Current

God calls us as followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to our world.

Jan Collins, Editor

September 2006

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."
John 3:8

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As we began looking into the meaning of shalom the past few weeks, we became aware that Shalom is used both as a greeting and a farewell. Hello and Goodbye seem to have opposite meanings for us in English, yet shalom encompasses them both. As a blessing it is much richer than Hello or Goodbye.

Having lived in Botswana when I served as a volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), our current discussion about shalom brought to mind the greeting that Christians in Botswana use. In the church setting they set aside their normal greeting, equivalent to our Good Morning, and always greet each other with the Setswana word Kagiso which means peace. The usual farewell would consist of the Setswana words for "Go well" and the reply "Stay well". These goodbye phrases are also set aside and Kagiso is used again at the time of parting.

As we have discussed the varied meanings of shalom, I thought of another Setswana word. That word is pula. Pula is the word for money and is the name for the paper currency of Botswana. It is also the word for rain as well as the word for blessing. On the surface these meanings seem to be unrelated. However, the greater part of Botswana is semi-arid and the western portion of the country contains the Kgalagadi desert. Botswana often experiences ten-year cycles of drought. In this setting rain takes on huge significance. Pula (rain) is all-important for cattle and crops. When the pula (rain) falls, the people experience pula (blessing). When pula (rain) falls, the cattle and crops prosper and people have more pula (money). So the three meanings are inextricably linked.

Now consider again some of the meanings for shalom and how they may be linked together in our lives:

Hello, Goodbye, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, health, wholeness, nothing broken, nothing missing, completeness, perfect-ness, fullness, rest, harmony, tranquility, victory.

Imagine a ball with a string wrapped around and around and around. Shalom is all of these things wrapped into a ball. This is what the Hebrews bless each other with when they greet each other and when they say goodbye. This is what God wants to bless his people with – the whole ball.

In the Old Testament God told Moses to tell Aaron and his sons, who were the priests, that this is how they were to bless his people, the Israelites. This is often called the Aaronic benediction or blessing:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you
Shalom.**

In the book of Romans we are told that through Christ we have been "grafted in" to the people of God. As Christians we have become part of God's people. In Colossians 3: 12 we are even addressed as "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved". God longs to bless you (and me) with the full meaning of shalom.

Shalom Aleichem. (*Peace – and so much more--be with you*) ~ Elinor Shattuck

Gather 'Round for Second Hour

"For where two or three are gathered in his name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Sunday, September 3rd, is the start of the fall term of our Second Hour and the beginning of the new curriculum, *Gather 'Round*. This curriculum is the project of the Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church Canada and USA. As one of its goals, it has tried to strengthen and support the bond of the congregation and home life. The Adults will study the same text/story as the children's classes. **We hope everyone will enjoy the new curriculum and use this as an added tool to open communication through out the entire church family.**

Second Hour meets from 11 to 11:45am

Kids begin with group singing led by Janet North 11 to 11:10.

From 11:10 to 11:45 kids will break into their age group class with Bible stories, activities and much more.

This Quarter's Teachers

Kerry Beck
Carmeleta Beidler
Jan Collins
Virginia Schlabach
Carol Whitney & Nancy Pejouhy

Age Group:

Adult
Ages 2, 3, 4
Grades K, 1, 2, 3
Grades 5, 6, 7
Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Annual Bethany Birches Camp Auction

Come and Support Our Camp!

The 4th Annual Auction to benefit Bethany Birches Camp will be held on September 23rd. It will take place at the same location as last year, Quechee Gorge Village. Please consider supporting the camp with your donations, volunteer time for the sale, and of course, coming to the sale!

Sept 18 6pm - drop off donations at the Chapel
Sept 23 6:30 am - transport items and set up for auction
 9am - preview
 10-12 - sale
 End of sale - clean up

Update on Youth Group Penny Challenge - as of August 27

Let's just say that the **Everyone Else** team has had better days. With a score of -7,426 they are over 2,000 points behind the **Youth Team**, who has a score of -5,248! The Youth Team is severely outnumbered, but they still managed to claim and maintain the lead!

I know the **Everyone Else** team has more dislike of cleaning than they are showing. So far only one lucky person gets out of cleaning! *Each week that the Everyone Else team is ahead, one person will be relieved of church cleaning duties.*

Hopefully the **Everyone Else** team shows more interest in coming weeks!

Just as a reminder, all of the money we raise will be used to help pay for the Youth Group's trip to San Jose, CA for the Mennonite Youth Convention. (www.sanjose2007.org)

Laura, Captain of the Youth Team

<p>For the rules and better understanding of the Penny Challenge, see the August issue of the Taftsville Chapel Current.</p>

Groton Camp-out



Snuggling to keep warm:
Kristen Aloisio
Victoria Dandurand
Seth Dandurand

“Chilling out” took on new meaning for those who camped at Groton during the second weekend in August. Most of the Taftsville campers found themselves unprepared for the cool, windy days and temperatures plummeting into the low forties at night. Our Saturday night hot dog roast and potluck found us all huddled as close to the fire as we could get.

In spite of cool temperatures, Taftsville campers enjoyed the opportunity to be neighbors for a few days – the kind of neighbors who borrow sugar or matches, the kind of neighbors who share firewood and the use of kayaks and canoes. The weekend also provided time to get together in the afternoon for cheese and crackers, share a campfire at night or blueberry pancakes cooked over the fire for breakfast. Some campers were even known to spend a whole afternoon together sitting on a rock at the edge of the lake. Kids and adults even had the opportunity to learn how to pan for gold – and came away a few gold flakes richer.

Our spirits were renewed and re-created

- as we experienced the utter quietness of early morning and watched the mist rising off the lake
- as we paddled (or sailed and dunked) on Groton Lake
- as we took time for an afternoon nap or went on a hike
- as we stared into the fire and listened to the loon song drifting across the lake
- and as we drank in the beauty from Owl’s Head Peak during our Sunday morning worship service.

Our thanks to Ruth Ann for organizing the weekend even though she and Richard were not able to be there this year.

Join us next year the second weekend in August – or perhaps just for the day on Saturday or Sunday. (It is not usually as cool as it was this year!) Ruth Ann will be making reservations at the beginning of September for next year’s camp-out. Talk to her if you are interested in reserving a spot. See you there.

Elinor Shattuck



Ben Beidler enjoying a S’more

Soul-stirring hymns have filled my life in a special way this month. It all began the morning of music Sunday when I saw a new book displayed in our church library; the title, *Then Sings My Soul: 250 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories*, immediately invited me to sign it out. During the worship service, as John Lutz shared stories of many of the hymns he led, I was reminded again that knowing the background of a hymn enriches the singing experience. And so, when I got home, I began paging through *Then Sings My Soul* to learn about many familiar - and a few unfamiliar - hymns. (The book is back in the library. Who will check it out next? What hymn stories will inspire you?)

Choosing music for the August 27 worship service led to a spate of e-mails between Ted Shattuck and me. Ted suggested "Standing on the Promises" and, sure enough, there it was in *Then Sings My Soul* with a fascinating faith story about the hymn writer/composer, R. Kelso Carter. The words to the hymn reflect his testimony of God's healing power in his life. (p. 215) But the remaining hymns Ted and I picked were not among the 250 chosen by *Then Sings My Soul* compiler Robert Morgan - thus began a treasure hunt of sorts to learn about three more hymns.

Ted chose "I Owe the Lord a Morning Song" by Amos Herr, which we sang twice in August to open our worship services. In *The Earth Is the Lord's: A Narrative History of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference* (also available in our church library), John Ruth devotes almost two pages to this hymn. Amos Herr, an elderly minister, wrote his prayer poem "of gratitude and praise" on a Sunday morning in the 1880s when a blizzard kept him from attending worship services. John Ruth says: "As simple as a robin's song before milking time, this Mennonite matins is about... 'the quietude of our soul' or 'the sweet repose in the Christian life.'" (p. 654) Amos Herr's hymn - he also wrote the music - has been included in every Mennonite hymnal in English since 1890. I remember singing it at breakfast every morning at Laurelville Camp in the 1950s. Joan Alderfer recalls her father-in-law, John Landis Alderfer,

a song leader at Line Lexington Mennonite Church, often singing this hymn early in the morning - in fact, even awakening the family not long after midnight with "the morning song"!

Ted's sermon theme of Shalom led me to two hymns of peace by John Greenleaf Whittier, the New England Quaker poet and abolitionist. One of them, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," has been a favorite hymn of mine ever since my childhood when my mother played it often on our parlor organ. For several winters when I was a schoolgirl, my mother shared beloved hymns and Christian paintings at a girls' club at an inner city mission in Lancaster. I enjoyed helping her choose paintings to complement the hymns; she would order one large reproduction and enough small copies to give to each girl. I still have an old book, *Famous Hymns with Stories and Pictures*, which we used for inspiration; it includes "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" and an etching of Jesus by the sea to illustrate the line, "O Sabbath rest by Galilee..." Also in our home library is a biography of Whittier by Elizabeth Vining, which I've just re-read to help me understand the man who wrote such powerful poems. I am grateful to the composers who set his words to music, thus adding them to Christian hymnody.

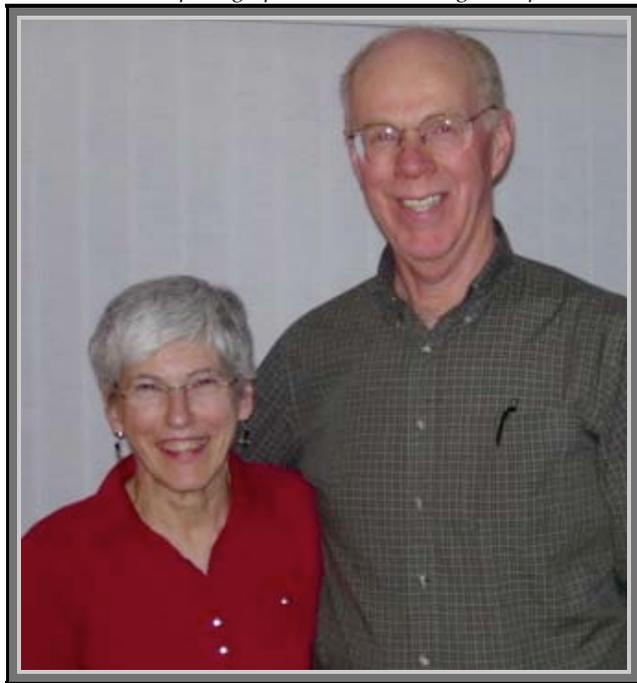
In this world, which seems so full of hatred and violence, these hymns of hope and peace reinforce God's presence and power. Amos Herr's gentle prayer reminds us that we owe gratitude and praise for God's mercy, safety, and direction. R. Kelso Carter affirms: "Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail..." The final verse of "Dear Lord and Father" prays for God's coolness and balm amidst turmoil: "Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!" Whittier's second hymn, "O Brother Man, Fold to Thy Heart Thy Brother," ends with these words of hope: "Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, and in its ashes plant the tree of peace."

Virginia G. Schlabach

Family of the Month

Each month we will feature a family/individual along with some of their favorite Bible verses/passages.

Richard Glick is the photographer and is collecting these photos to compile into a pictorial directory – coming in the future.



Allen & Mary Guntz

Favorite Verses

Allen:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6-7*

Mary:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” *Isaiah 40:31*

In Memory of Thelma Johnson

Thelma Johnson (Deborah Kidwell’s mother) passed away on August 11, 2006 after having a stroke four days earlier. The memorial service held in Andover, Massachusetts was a celebration of her life and what she meant to her family.

The church bell tolled 87 times, counting out the number of her years. As the bell tolled, I imagined her life: a baby – born in 1919, as a child growing up during the depression, as a teenager and then a young woman with beautiful blue eyes, falling in love with Bob, getting married and raising a family of four children, the children growing up and getting married, her beloved grandchildren arriving one by one, then Thelma and Bob retiring to Florida, followed by giving up independence and moving into assisted living with the onset of Alzheimer’s for Bob, then moving again to live with Chuck and Deb prior to Bob’s passing and finally living with her daughter, Linda. And now she has moved on to the best place of all.

Just before Thelma’s stroke, Deborah spent two weeks with her mother at Hodge-Podge Lodge, the family cottage in Maine. Deborah shared this story during the memorial service. During the week prior to Bob’s death, Thelma had held his hand and repeated frequently, “Hand in hand with Jesus we’ll be alright.” At the end when she was ready to let him go she said, “Hand in hand with Jesus I’ll be alright.” During the time that Thelma and Bob had lived with Chuck and Deb, they had bought a small waterfall for Bob to enjoy. When Thelma moved to Massachusetts, Deborah gave her a small stone from the waterfall. While Deborah and Thelma were in Maine, Deb was surprised to learn that Thelma had kept that stone and slept with it under her pillow every night. One morning she called Deborah into her bedroom. Her humor shone through when she said, “Jesus is under the bed and I can’t reach him! He’s my Rock.”

Chuck and Deb recently bought a house in Newnan, Georgia near members of Chuck’s family. See their new address on the September Schedule – Page #7.

"I am so excited to be able to tell you ... we think we have found the place! *(To settle & build hospital)* I just got back from a fabulous trip to West Kalimantan. It feels quite miraculous and strange that we have actually been brought back to the place where we first started. I came to Indonesia for the first time 13 years ago to study orangutans in an amazing National Park called Gunung Palung. Now I can say with confidence after traveling throughout Indonesia, that it is the most beautiful forest in Indonesia. It was also there that I first decided to become a doctor because of my horror at seeing how often people died of diseases and conditions that are so easy to treat like diarrhea, malaria and even just a cut on the hand. However, when we arrived 10 months ago in Indonesia I did not think Gunung Palung would be the appropriate place for our plan to start a combined human and environmental health project.

It seemed that everywhere we turned we ran into people who remembered us well and were so excited to see us and hoped we would come back long-term. I think it will be more of a benefit than we could have realized to already have friends and trust in this community. One man also told us that he loves living in this area despite the poverty because there has never been any religious or ethnic conflict in the area. Muslims, Protestants, Catholics and Buddhists all live closely and without any apparent tensions (this is a particular plus in Indonesia where religious and ethnic strife is sadly common).

While staying with our friend, Morni, we also got to do one of my favorite things; pass out the eyeglasses that people so generously donated while I was in California. Antonia captured the moment when she wrote, 'Village ladies and wiry old men squatted on Morni's floor and tried on pair after pair until they found the right one...and Eureka, I can see everything so clearly now! Men with horn-rimmed granny glasses, ladies with Calvin Klein prescription shades, old grandfathers with gigantic round bottle-bottoms — everyone was happy.'

I won't tell you now about all the wonderful other possibilities that came to light for fear they might not happen but suffice it to say that we really think this could work and we hope so much the Bupati (Regency head) will agree. Your prayers and kind thoughts would so much be appreciated now. My husband Cam

Note in parenthesis added by editor

is also excited and feels this might be the right place. We are still unsure how it will work out with the larger scale research that Harvard would like to do but we will continue to work on this.

We are just overjoyed that we have found a place where we feel strongly we can make a big impact by working together with an amazingly supportive and innovative local government. Beautiful but very poor villages that are in dire need of health care surround an incredible National Park that is one of the last refuges for orangutans and many other rare species. We are excited to work together with the National Park Office to continue to protect this global treasure, to work with the Department of Health to provide high quality health care to people in great need, and to work with our friends in the villages towards a sustainable better livelihood for them. However, I am well aware that we can accomplish nothing without your help. There are so many ways to contribute and I know together we can do wonderful work."

Check out the web site to see how you can help and to view Kinari's letter in detail with pictures at <http://www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html>

The mission of Health In Harmony is to join with rural Indonesian communities in improving the health of people and the natural environment by providing improved access to medical care, sharing empowering knowledge, and advocating for the inherent value of all life.

Health In Harmony
351 Pleasant Street, Suite B #117
Northampton, MA 01060, USA
www.healthinharmony.org

Kinari Webb
Kotak Pos 223
Bogor 16002
Indonesia

One of the ways Kinari lists to help:
"Keep collecting your old eyeglasses. Think about what life would be like without ever having been able to see well. It is so much fun to give people the gift of sight and they are overjoyed to be able to see. Also glasses are lightweight and easy to send so consider padding them well and sticking them in an envelope to the Bogor address above. Unfortunately many people came to try on glasses who didn't find the right match so I would be very happy to have more options for people."

Editor's Note:
Check if you have old prescription or reading glasses laying around that you could send. This is such a simple and easy way to help.

Schedule for September

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service
 10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship
 11:00 am – Second Hour / Sunday School

September 2 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / Dana’s
 2 7:00 pm - Kristen Aloisio sharing pictures of Italy / Church
 9 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / Dana’s
 23 10:00 am – Bethany Birches Camp Auction – *Quechee Gorge Village (preview @ 9am)*
 25 Deadline for October issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

September Birthdays

1st Joan Alderfer 17th Dave Lutz
 11th Beth Sargent 20th Ruth Lutz
 12th Mara Beck 22nd Richard Glick
 13th Ben Beidler 28th Russell Pejouhy
 14th Mary Fullerton 29th Dale Snader
 14th Abner Schlabach

September Anniversaries

7th John & Ruth Lutz
 18th Brent & Regina Beidler

Taftsville Tally	
	Attendance Offering
July 30 th	-----50-----\$?
Aug 6 th	-----36-----1,395.00
13 th	<i>Camping at Groton</i>
20 th	-----26-----2,740.00
27 th	-----44-----710.00
	- Birthday / Library Offering - 20.90

September Song Leaders

3rd Rebekah Deitrich
 10th Carmeleta Beidler
 17th Richard Glick
 24th Jan Zook

September Childcare Schedule

3rd Emily Glick
 10th Carmeleta Beidler
 17th Nancy Pejouhy
 24th Janet North

September Cleaning Schedule

3rd A & V Schlabach
 10th Shattuck
 17th Shattuck
 24th Shaw

September Coffee Duty

3rd Ken Glick
 10th Jenny Shaw (Bug)
 17th Abner Schlabach
 24th Nancy Pejouhy

Preaching Schedule for August through October 1st:

Sept 3rd What has God not said about Shalom?
 10th Shalom with God
 17th *Ekklesia*
 24th Shalom with our neighbor
 Oct 1st Shalom with our enemy???

Address Changes

Chuck and Deborah Kidwell
 21 Hawthorne Dr.
 Newnan, GA 30256

Homer Welch
 5812 Evergreen Ave.
 Las Vegas NV 89107

"I appreciate each issue of the *Taftsville Chapel Current* and enjoy the news of the growing population of the Chapel, both old names and new. Times are changing and me with them.
 God bless you all. *Homer*

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

40 Years Ago This Month

September 25, 1966

Winter Sunday evening Bible study begins, using the guide "God's Answers for Life's Problems"

35 Years Ago This Month

September 20, 1971

The birthday song will only be sung once a month instead of every Sunday morning. A motion was made that the librarian use the birthday funds to buy materials for children's church.

30 Years Ago This Month

September 15, 1976

At the first Bible Study meeting for the year, the Beidlers and the Iotts are recognized for their contributions to Taftsville Church.

25 Years Ago This Month

September 15, 1981

John Lutz will be ordering a new hand-carved sign for the church. Contact him for more details.

20 Years Ago This Month

September 30, 1986

Murray offered, as part of his role as Outreach Minister, to organize some work efforts in our congregation or community. Members are urged to let such needs be known, including their own. Don't assume that others always recognize when you could use help.

10 Years Ago This Month

September 1, 1996

Randy Good begins as full-time pastor at Taftsville.

Send your contributions for

"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:

Janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR 802-295-5123

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

is located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Route 4 on Happy Valley Road.

<http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/>

Randy Good, pastor
(802) 457-1516