



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; Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach, Newsletter Staff

October 2007

"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

Great Commission

"...the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him, they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God has authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in **the practice of all I have commanded you**. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20, from *The Message*)

Earlier in Matthew's gospel, Jesus is recorded as summing up "the practice of all I have commanded you" as being: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, . . .and Love you neighbor as yourself." (Matt.22:37-39) This passage is often referred to as "The great Commandment," and the Matt. 28 passage (above) as "The great Commission."

- Great Commission-----1
- After the Bible Story -----2
- New Beginning & Taftsville-----3
 - Host's Reflections -----4
 - Reflections of Love (NBCC)-----4
- October Schedule -----5
 - Birthdays -----5
 - Anniversaries-----5
 - Childcare -----5
 - Coffee-----5
 - Cleaning -----5
- 5th BBC Benefit Auction -----6
- Household of October -----7
 - Abner & Virginia Schlabach -7
- Tidbit Trivia-----8
- Tally for September -----8

Loving God and loving our neighbor are at the core of everything we are called to do - and be - as believers in Jesus Christ. Last Sunday, as Laura and Seth shared about their summer experiences in word and deed of "Going out and instructing everyone in all I have commanded", some of us may have felt the twinge of a shortfall in obedience to the great commandment (Love), as well as to the great commission (Go).

Let's say some of us are aware of "something missing" in our love for our neighbor. We're glad it seems to be someone else's call. Maybe we aren't sure what to do in the face of such massive need all around us. Perhaps when we hear of someone we know going to serve in a soup kitchen for the homeless in inner-city Miami in July (like Laura did), we feel both glad that some neighbor-loving happened, and a bit sheepish ourselves. Some of us have a hard time picturing ourselves in that setting. And yet, the command remains with no escape clause. What to do?

First, let's take guilt and pressure off the table as remedies for this dilemma. A good scolding about our lack of love for our neighbor will never produce good fruit; on the contrary, guilt-driven ministry subtly obliges the recipients to respond to *us* in some way, and can even be harmful to them. Perhaps, because loving God and loving our neighbor are so inseparable (in Jesus' view), we could simply and humbly acknowledge our discomfort with "neighbor loving" and throw ourselves fully into loving God. An interesting thing may happen: The more we freely worship God with all our heart and soul and mind, the more we are freed to love our neighbor as ourselves. We start noticing people with needs (of all sorts) around us. Without so much as a second thought, we find ourselves moved to risk loving them. When our heart and soul and mind are worshiping God, crippling self-consciousness loses its power. So, feeling a lack in loving your neighbor? Deepen your worship of God.

Others of us are pretty comfortable and gifted at loving our neighbor, but when it comes to loving God (worship), we feel ourselves withdraw somehow. We are much more drawn to fixing practical needs than offering all of our selves in worship and sharing with others the unseen aspects of God's love and grace. The thought of proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice for us, and inviting others to respond to his love (like Seth did in Costa Rica), feels awkward and perhaps intrusive. Even in our own experience of private or corporate worship, we feel oddly embarrassed and guarded, not quite sure about "risking ourselves totally." And yet, Jesus' command calls for wholeheartedness in loving God. What to do?

Again, guilt and pressure need to go. Any challenge along the lines of "Come on, worship harder! Love God more!" is the opposite of helpful in releasing wholeheartedness. A dutiful atmosphere like that, whether it's corporately implied or even self-imposed, just increases a sense of 'self', hindering real love and freedom in worship. So, again, because loving God and loving our neighbor are so inseparable (in Jesus' view), we could simply and humbly acknowledge our discomfort with "God loving" and throw ourselves fully into loving our neighbors. An interesting thing may happen: The more we unselfconsciously love and serve our neighbor in a way that brings glory to God, the more we will see and hear and experience the potency of Jesus' love and grace in the lives of others. If you spend five minutes with someone who is genuinely aware of their helplessness apart from God and who then has tasted His love (through you), don't be surprised if you are gently moved to worship too. We start noticing the presence and greatness and praise-worthiness of God all around us, and we find that the resulting love for Him reduces the power of our fears in worship. So, feeling a lack in your love for God? Find yourself a neighbor in need and love them as yourself.

The promise from our Emmanuel (God with us) remains: "I will be with you always..."

Blessings as you go,
Randy



Jhaszra and Nevaeh

After the Bible Story

*by Sheldon Esch
September 2007*

Not yet five, you look up now to ask me

What it means to be tempted by Satan.

At your age you think at my age I'm free

Of confusion, but, son... I'm still waiting

While you get impatient and again ask
What does "tempted" mean? Who is the Devil?
And I stall, not feeling up to this task,
Sighing, wondering, how does one level

With a kid about the nature of sin,
Conviction, the reasons behind a choice?
And what type of angle, what kind of spin
Might help him clearly hear the still, small voice?

I think of the ancient story he knows
Of Adam, Eve, and God broken-hearted
Trying to form how the whole story goes
From the beginning, how to get started

Picking truth and myth from the fruitful tree
That grows in the proverbial Garden.
We've learned to live in ambiguity.
As certainty softens, will hearts harden?

What evil thrives in the civilized mind?
What power twists what is virtue to vice?
Why is the soul to itself so inclined?
Why is all lost without blood sacrifice?

But these questions will wait for now, alas,
As these thoughts have outlived your attention
And you're off to play, a moment now passed
To teach of sin -or snakes, not to mention.

New Beginnings Church & Taftsville Chapel—Bonding in Christ's Love

Labor Day Weekend brought thirteen people from the New Beginnings Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania to Taftsville Chapel. Randy and Carie welcomed the group at their home. In the backyard adults and children immediately began soaking up the greenery of rural Vermont. They took a "long hike" down to the creek and the kids rolled down the steep bank. Before long some of them burst into singing as they sat on the deck.

Later a sizable group from Taftsville Chapel joined the New Beginnings group on a tour of Billings Farm in Woodstock. From cows in the milking barn and petting sheep in the pasture, to spinning wool and viewing quilts (including Ruth Ann's and Virginia's), to making and eating home made ice cream—the afternoon activities were enjoyed by all. Guests, hosts and new friends enjoyed a pizza supper together at the church before the New Beginnings group departed in twos and threes with their assigned hosts. The following day the guests marveled at how well they had been matched with their respective hosts.

Sunday morning we gathered again for a worship service blending the styles of worship of both congregations. New Beginnings members blessed us with their liveliness and spontaneity. It is probably fair to say that Taftsville had never experienced a worship service quite like this one. Did I mention there was singing? Yes, there was singing—four-part a cappella hymns as well as lively choruses.



A potluck followed the worship service. Our potlucks are usually very good, but this one was way over the top. There was an outstanding variety of contributions and more than enough food for everyone. After the meal, gift bags appeared for the kids to help entertain them on the long drive back to Bristol.



Finally, time to say good-by-and take pictures. As we gathered for a group photo, we realized two of the New Beginnings group had gone on a walk and not returned. Randy went out to scour the countryside. The rest of us sat on the church steps—singing!



Hopefully this was the beginning of new friendships and a new relationship between our churches. Perhaps a group from Taftsville will be able to make a reciprocal visit to New Beginnings.

Romans 12:13b says: Practice hospitality. Taftsville Chapel did just that.

Thank you to:

- Randy and Carie for organizing the weekend
- Karen Cox who hosted the pizza supper
- the Hospitality Committee (Abner, Virginia, Mary & Karen) who organized the potluck
- the host families: Amena & Jake, Abner & Virginia, Nancy & Russell, Randy & Carie, Allen & Mary
- Monica Esch for assembling gift bags for the kids
- Ben & Laura for helping to entertain the kids
- everyone who generously contributed to the potluck
- everyone who made our guests feel welcome
- Jon, Elva, Felicia, Troy, Lana, Adena, Gina, Jhaszra, Nevaeh, Mary, Latisha, Verid and Kathern who blessed us with their visit.

-Elinor Shattuck



Reflections from the Taftsville Hosts:

“We marvel at how God smoothed the way with all the necessary arrangements. It was clear His hand was in this from the beginning. The presence of the Holy Spirit was unmistakable!” *-Randy & Carie*

“Jake and I very much enjoyed our time with our Sisters of New Beginnings. Mary Morse, Letisha Gallop, and Falicia Moore stayed in our carriage house for the night after a wonderful time of watching the sun set and the stars come out. Jake stoked a fire in our outdoor fire pit and we all enjoyed roasting marshmallows while describing some of the wildlife visitors we’ve had in the past. We assured our guests that we were, indeed, safe. In the morning, Jake treated us to cheese omelets before sending us on our way to chapel.” *-Amena & Jake*

“Our guests were Troy and Lana White and their daughter Adena. Although their visit was much too short, we found enough time for plenty of lighthearted laughter as well as some deep spiritual sharing. A common love of fishing led Abner and Troy to the pond while Lana and Virginia and Adena talked books and art and music. Troy, who works for a company that makes metal roofing, was amazed to see standing seam roofs on so many houses here, including ours. He’s the first visitor we've had who is allergic to maple syrup! This friendly family blessed our house with their presence and we hope they will come again.” *-Abner & Virginia*

Reflections of Love—New Beginnings Community Church

Coming from different walks in life, the New Beginnings Community Church family left early Saturday morning to venture off on a journey to visit our brothers and sisters in Taftsville, Vermont. Even though the ride was longer than we were used to, we found that the scenery was breathtaking. It also gave us time to relax and talk to one another. Our first stop was at Pastor Good’s house where we were greeted at the porch and able to stretch our legs. The children had a chance to run and play in the field, which was unusual for most of us living in the city. From there we took a tour of Billings Farm to get a perspective of life in rural Vermont. It was a treat to watch the children around animals and make their own ice cream from scratch. The adults paid special attention to the spinning wheel, learning how wool is spun into yarn. Afterwards we went back to the church and fellowshiped with the members over salad and pizza before going off to our individual host families.

A few lessons that our church has learned from this trip, was to look at the positive things in life instead of letting the negative ones bring us down, for blessings may be on the other end. They showed kindness by opening up their homes and sharing their hearts with us. We are reminded that our perspective is not always the only way to be true Christians. God told us to love one another as one of the greatest commandments and by the end of the weekend we realized that there are people in the body of Christ that love us.

Since our trip, God has brought more unity to our church. Everyday He is revealing a little bit more of Himself to us. There have been many testimonies of His blessings every week! The Walker family, who just came back to us from a different church, has decided to start a youth choir. Sixteen young girls showed interest and began to learn new songs this week. Sister Gina Edwards finally found better housing for her family after searching for months. Sister Green brought her daughter and grandchildren to church with her one Sunday and they immediately, were blessed with housing after trying for the past couple of years. Sister Deborah Lyles just had two grandchildren. One child has been hospitalized for weeks and was being treated for the wrong virus. Well a miracle happened when the right doctor came and gave correct treatment to make the child better. A lot of things have been happening here lately and people are encouraged and eager to stay connected to this ministry.

Please keep our church in your prayers. Specifically, we ask for prayer requests concerning our new youth choir that they may come together in unity to glorify His name. Uphold the Lyles family and their children to hear God's word and lean on His understanding. We ask that you pray for our Pastor as he shares with us during the week and that God will keep him strong in his physical adversities. Lastly, pray for our church council as we soon plan our upcoming year. I pray that God continues to lighten your paths and be your guide as you travel on this journey in life together as a church.

-Felicia Moore

Schedule for October

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

October 6 7:00 am – Men's Breakfast
 13 7:30 am – Women's Breakfast
 17 7:15 pm – Church Council Meeting
 21 Leadership Team Meeting
 28 9:30 – Ekklesia
 30 Deadline for November issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

October Birthdays

7 th Sheldon Esch	22 nd Owen Daniel Esch
15 th Brian Alderfer	28 th Calvin McCrory
16 th Regina Beidler	28 th Burton Eisenberg
17 th Bob Rosenberger	30 th Janice Zook
22 nd Dennis Hackman	31 st Brent Beidler

October Anniversaries

3 rd Richard & Ruth Ann Glick
4 th Jake & Amena MacShea-Reess
7 th Seth & Jenny Shaw
14 th Mike & Judy McCrory

October Childcare Schedule

7 th Mary Guntz
14 th Laura Beidler
21 st Emily Glick
28 th Carie Good

October Coffee Schedule

7 th Nancy Pejouhy
14 th Janet North
21 st Karen Cox
28 th Mary Guntz

October Cleaning Schedule

7 th Mark & Karyn Belknap
14 th Bob & Jan Collins
21 st Bob & Jan Collins
28 th Cox Family

5th Annual Bethany Birches Benefit Auction



We had a beautiful day to support Bethany Birches Camp for the 5th annual benefit auction. There was a good crew of people helping to transport the goods to the auction site at Quechee Gorge Village. The tent was filled with lots of great items, good baked goods and over 100 people. Brandon Bergey, executive director of the camp, started the auction with an introduction.



Sandy Alderfer then took the stage and was in prime form. He got the auction rolling and kept everyone laughing and remembering why we were together. The auction moved along with a break in the middle to have a camper testimony and add in the items that came in that day.

Some of the items auctioned were the world's largest Shoo Fly Pie, smaller Shoo Fly pies and Funny cakes, beautiful handmade quilts and table runners, tools, framed photographs and art work, creative baskets, many gift certificates to local businesses, furniture, and much more.

A big thanks goes to all of you who gave items to be auctioned and those who bought the goods and services. Thanks also go to Dave Beidler, Ken Glick, Allen Guntz, and Fred and Micah Schlabach for moving all the auction items. Mary Guntz, Julie Derksen, Richard Glick, and Virginia Schlabach set up the items under the tent. Nancy Pejouhy took charge of the baked goods table with the help of Allison Fletcher and Laura Beidler. Runners for the auction were Gabrielle Webber, Ben Beidler, Dimitri Eisenberg, Chris Chapman, Dave Beidler, and Ken Glick. Althea and Larry Derstine wrote up the bids as they came in and Fred and Abner Schlabach were the cashiers.



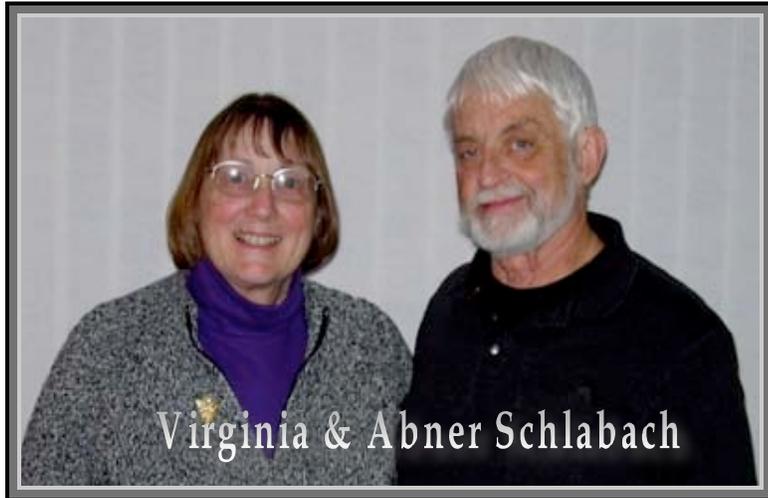
It was a great auction! When all was totaled, it came out to about \$17,700. With our \$3000 match that makes almost \$21k!

-Janet Schlabach



Household of the Month for September

Each month we will feature a family/person along with some of their favorite Bible verses/passages or stories.
Richard Glick is the photographer and is collecting these photos to compile into a pictorial directory – coming in the future.



Virginia—

The verses I've chosen, without knowing what Abner was choosing, follow a similar theme. I have underlined many verses in the book of Ephesians in my Bible; those that follow are especially meaningful to me as I think of God's saving grace through Christ and its meaning for me and my faith family, in this church and scattered around the world.

"...You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. ...I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:19-22 and 4:14-19 (NRSV)

Change of Email for:
Jane Dandurand and family
jane.kids@hotmail.com

Abner—

When I think of a favorite Bible verse, the one that most quickly comes to my mind is Evangelium S. Johannis 3:16 taken from Martin Luther's translation:

"Also hat Gott die Welt geliebet, dass er seinen eingebornen Sohn gab, auf dass alle, die an ihn glauben, nicht verloren werden, sondern das ewige Leben haben."

Yes, I did first learn it in German. However, I appreciate equally the English translation that, although slightly different, has the same meaning:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

I especially like this verse because it emphasizes God's love, which I believe is what grace is all about.

A close second for me is the verse that is generally considered to have been Menno Simons' favorite, I Cor. 3:11:

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (KJV) The KJV of course uses "no man" but the meaning is obviously inclusive, and again I site Luther's translation which, incidentally, preceded KJV:

"kann niemand legen" = "can no one lay".

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 9, 1972

The group felt it was good to allow time in our morning worship service for testimonies and sharing, at least periodically.

October 29, 1972

A combined song service will be held at Bartonsville starting at 7:30 pm.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 11, 1977

Church council continues to consider the cost of improvements to the building. There is an estimate for putting in a suspended ceiling, new wiring and lighting, and carpet. We are happy to report that the drain seems to be working perfectly!

15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 24, 1992

First ever Self-Help Sale at Taftsville. With 53 transactions, net sales are \$1,334.53

10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 5, 1997

Join us for a Fall hike to Oliver's Cave in East Barnard, VT

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Sep. 2	80	\$2,246.81
	<i>Youth Fund - \$20.00</i>	
9	63	1,800.00
16	50	735.00
23	68	1,768.01
	<i>Youth Fund - \$399.93</i>	
30	Tally will be in November issue	
<i>Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.</i>		

Send your contributions for "The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:

Janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

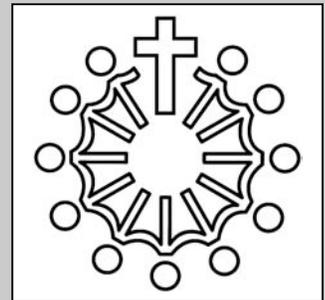
Carie Good, Janet North, Virginia Schlabach

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

Located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Rte. 4 on Happy Valley Rd.

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

(802) 457-1516



Randy Good, Pastor