

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

April 2008

"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

"I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am, you may be also" John 14:3

Sometimes something happens in our lives that give us the sense that it had been set in motion a very long time ago, and not by us. These kinds of events are often described as "having a life of their own." But, even that fails to fully capture the deep sense that there is something "other" going on that is outside our capacity to describe it. Events that *we* have planned and put in motion can feel fragile and vulnerable to disruption. Events that *God* has planned and put in motion are remarkable for their depth and thoroughness and peace (shalom). At times like these all we can do is watch and wonder and receive.

There is nothing we can do to get ready for God's visitation in our lives; nothing we can do to figure out how to be in the right place at the right time to have Him cross our paths. There is also nothing we can do to prevent His plans from unfolding: When He is determined to move in kindness, there is nothing left untouched by it.

Spring is, indeed, coming and will not be stopped. God's plan for the reemergence of visible life on the earth is a picture of His kindness and power, and we watch and wonder and receive. It is a fitting posture to have before Him.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was an event that was set in motion a very long time ago, "before the foundation of the earth." It had a life of its own, and the eyewitnesses could not find words to fully capture what happened except to say "He is alive!" The fact that no one could find the missing dead body is no proof of His resurrection, while the fact that He appeared to them alive is proof indeed.

My unshakeable belief is that He still shows up today, and when He does it is drenched in kindness. When Jesus visits us in our day-to-day life, there is no sense that we must hold our breath or say just the right things or behave just the right way or else the moment will evaporate. He is *alive*, and His presence has substance we can just *know*, even if we can't define it with words.

We celebrate Easter at so many good levels, from the physical "miracle" of the return of flowers, to the mysterious "miracle" of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The flowers will fade again next autumn; Jesus never will. Our testimony as believers is that He not only came to life so long ago, but that He is alive now, and at times of His sovereign choosing He is in the room with us in ways that we can know. Watch, wonder, and receive.

Have a blessed Spring
Randy

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## Maundy Thursday

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Maundy Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m., Laura, Nancy, Carol and Allison invited the group of us, which had gathered and were chatting away upstairs, to enter in silence the room they had prepared downstairs. We found ourselves in a quiet space; tables beautifully set and the room hushed with candlelight. We took our seats, bowed our heads for prayer, and in silence Laura served us delicious bowls of steaming soup and baskets of scrumptious breads. As we ate, the silence blanketed us, gentle words played quietly on the CD, and we were able each in our own way to reflect on the events of the night we were remembering.

When the simple meal ended, Laura, Hayley and Allison read accounts from Exodus, the Psalms and Matthew, recounting the story of the Passover meal and the last supper of Jesus and his disciples. Nancy led us in communion, and as a blessing and benediction before we separated for foot-washing Laura anointed our foreheads with oil.

It was a quiet, reflective, simple service. I left, not with the accustomed anguish of the night Jesus was betrayed and crucified, but with the gift of peace, which Jesus also promised us on that night. A quiet, simple gift of fellowship and trust. Thank you, Laura, Nancy, Carol and Allison. You served us humbly and beautifully, and allowed us to share in His presence together. -Carie Good



Breakfast and fellowship after our Cross Walk up the hill behind the church on Easter morning.

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## To Be Known (thoughts on moving)

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I sometimes speak with my neighbor about the God who knows my needs. For example, I've told her "my entire moving experience is clearly orchestrated by God." She prefers the word "universe", and says "yes, the universe has some good things for us." If I say that prayer both settles and directs me, she prefers the word "meditation" and says, "yes, meditation sometimes helps me too." Standing just this side of a **total** "yes", she resists knowing and being known.

A month ago, as the puzzle pieces of my move to Quechee shifted into place, I planned to share some of the just-right solutions the God who knows me has supplied. I felt particularly persuaded that God particularly persuades, moving and shaking us toward our "yes" to being known.

A month ago, Randy also reminded us that, like the woman at the well, we can stand just inches away from Jesus...and stall. I know I can take the set backs and frets of every day to the God who knows me, rather than "meditate" on a "universe" that might arbitrarily be kind. But I've begun to see **Jesus** at the well in a new light. Yes, He proved

that He had all the data; He knew this woman carried, with her water jug, a painful need for acceptance. And He offered still more. In fact, Jesus seemed to do all the heavy lifting. Particularly patient with her evasions, and particular in His directions, He used both tantalizing metaphor and her same old, same old dusty surroundings to reveal **Himself** – the human face of God.

I can imagine how the woman at the well moved from her amazement at His discernment and power toward s total "yes" to all He claimed to be in her life. I think I know what she said to people on her way home. I think she said, "As for me and my house, or condominium, we will serve the Lord."

*Lots and lots of my colleagues asked me how I moved my earthly belongings on the weekend of March 15-16. It was fun to explain that 15 people from my church helped in various ways before, during, after...which led to raised eyebrows, long pauses to process this picture, and always the same question: "So, WHICH CHURCH is that again?" Thanks again to all. -Lynda Knisely*

## Household of the Month for April

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.



**Ann and Skip Chalker**

### **Skip: Matthew 21:18-19**

Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

*This is the passage where Jesus is hungry and, because a fig tree has no fruit on it, he curses it and it withers immediately. If you ever questioned the dual nature of Jesus, this would put those questions to rest. This very human characteristic of grumpiness when hungry seems out of character for him, but it is very much in character for me.*

### **Bit 'n Pieces**

✓For a full report of Ted and Elinor's work and experiences in Tucson, AZ, go to our web site <http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/> and go to "Blog Threads" section and click on "Community Home Repair". They have at least four entries so far, and are VERY interesting. Please remember them in your prayers.

✓Note Address & Phone for Krysta Pratt:  
20 Mile Stream, 6 Mill St.  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
802-226-7500

### **Favorite Verses**

#### **Ann: Psalm 91**

*One passage I find myself returning to over and over again, especially when I'm going through a difficult season or someone close to me is going through a hard time, is this Psalm.*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my  
fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling –  
even the LORD, who is my refuge –

then no harm will befall you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;

they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the LORD,  
"I will rescue him; I will protect him,  
for he acknowledges my name.

He will call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."

## Schedule for April

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

11:00 am – Second Hour / Sunday School

|              |           |                                                                     |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April</b> | <b>5</b>  | 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast / <i>The Sugarhouse</i>                   |
|              | <b>6</b>  | 9:30 am – Ekklesia Service                                          |
|              | <b>12</b> | 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / <i>Place TBA</i>                      |
|              | <b>16</b> | 7:00 pm – Church Council                                            |
|              | <b>29</b> | Deadline for May/June issue of <i>The Taftsville Chapel Current</i> |

### Taftsville Tally

|        | Attendance | Offering   |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Mar. 2 | 35         | \$1,916.00 |
| 9      | 40         | 1,468.00   |
| 16     | 53         | 990.42     |
| 23     | 70         | 1,695.00   |

30 Totals will appear in May/June issue  
Please note that these totals  
do not always reflect the final tally.

## Signs of Spring



Church parking lot on Easter Morning



Melissa Ayers with children in front of blossoming lilac bush

### April Birthdays

- 9<sup>th</sup> Jake Reese
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mabel McCrory
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Homer Welch
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Melissa Ayers
- 25<sup>th</sup> Ted Shattuck
- 25<sup>th</sup> Gavin Eisenberg

### April Anniversaries

- 4<sup>th</sup> Dave & Carmeleta Beidler
- 14<sup>th</sup> Bob & Jan Collins
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Ted & Elinor Shattuck

### April Childcare Schedule

- 6<sup>th</sup> Laura Beidler
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mary Guntz
- 20<sup>th</sup> Carie Good
- 27<sup>th</sup> Hayley Bolin

### April Coffee Schedule

- 6<sup>th</sup> Ken Glick
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nancy Pejouhy
- 20<sup>th</sup> Janet North
- 27<sup>th</sup> Karen Cox

### April Cleaning Schedule

- 6<sup>th</sup> Snader
- 13<sup>th</sup> Wolfe
- 20<sup>th</sup> Wolfe
- 27<sup>th</sup> Zook

### April Song Leaders

- 6<sup>th</sup> Janice Zook
- 13<sup>th</sup> Richard Glick
- 20<sup>th</sup> Virginia Schlabach
- 27<sup>th</sup> Allison Fletcher

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## How Sweet It Is!

Inspired by our East Barnard neighbor, Bud Leavitt, I decided to venture into that quintessential Vermont activity and do some sugaring this year. I need quickly to add that mine is a very modest operation, suitable for a flatlander. Nevertheless I've had some fun and have also produced some beautiful syrup.

Last year Bud tapped several trees on his property, evaporated the sap on the woodstove he has going every day, and produced 17 pints of syrup. In our front yard we have one maple tree, which admittedly is a bit decrepit but is also quite large. And we have our wood stove going nearly every day and like to keep a teakettle on it to produce some moisture in the room. So, having borrowed several buckets from Bud, I put three taps into our old tree and have collected enough sap so that by Easter time I had over three pints of finished syrup. The wood stove produces only a gentle rate of evaporation rather than lots of steam, which could produce undesirable results such as sticky walls or loose wallpaper.

After this long and snowy winter, tapping trees and collecting sap - along with observing longer days and diminishing snow banks - gives one a keen sense that spring is finally here and summer will surely follow. -Abner Schlabach



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## MCC Kits and Quilts: From Vermont to Pennsylvania to the Wide World

Pictures in the last two issues of the *Current* showed the Candlelighters with newborn kits and a quilt to be donated to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). In early March Abner and I delivered nine newborn kits, two quilts, and a bag of soap bars to the MCC Material Resource Center near Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Although it was Saturday and the center is usually open only Monday through Thursday, we were surprised and pleased to find an open door. We were welcomed by the director, Dorothy Detweiler, who was there doing work projects with a group from her church. Dorothy immediately established a connection with Vermont Mennonites. She and her husband Dennis previously lived just across the border at Putnam Station, New York, and she was also a classmate of Mary Guntz at Christopher Dock.

Dorothy entered our donations into the computer and gave us a tour of the facility. The center, a regional satellite of the main center in Ephrata, PA, is small but well arranged with areas for cutting, sewing, quilting, and tying comforters as well as for sorting and storage of bedding and kits. There are plans for building a new, larger facility near Elroy within the next year or so. (The back page of the January-February *Intersections*, which was in our

church mailboxes recently, featured an article about the center's ministries and the plans for the new building. I have posted a copy on the bulletin board in the Millan Room.) In the past year, more than 7,906 school kits, 1,702 quilts and comforters, 214 relief kits, and 441 newborn kits were shipped from the Harleysville facility to Ephrata. Our church's contributions will help as MCC responds to needs around the world and at home "in the name of Christ."

In recent years Taftsville fellowship has also made school kits, health kits, and comforters and held loose change offerings for an MCC clean water project. On the Saturday we visited the Harleysville center, children and mothers from Perkiomenville congregation were decorating large quilt blocks to be sewn into quilts for children. Watching them sparked an idea for a new MCC project for us. I envision our children also decorating patches for a quilt or quilts, which could then be pieced by Candlelighters. This project would be similar to the designing of peace pillows, which we did in Sunday school last fall, except that this time we would be giving to someone else instead of to ourselves.

-Virginia Schlabach

## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

*Do you remember when...*

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 2, 1973

Give this some thought—shall we repaint the church sign and/or shall we rename our congregation and what would be a good name??

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 4, 1978

Henry Paul Yoder joined us to discuss church goals. The discussion ran the gamut from church leadership to tribal rituals. We identified some main goals to be: revival, verbal witnessing, and each one having a testimony for Christ.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 15, 1983

A Passover Seder will replace the usual worship hour.

## Engaged — To be wed in July



Ken Glick & Jane Dandurand

## Potluck Recipe

*A few months ago at one of our potluck meals I brought a Wild Rice & Chicken Casserole. I've had quite a few requests for the recipe. Oddly, it was a last minute decision to use leftovers from our meal the day before. I will try my best to remember what I threw together to make this dish. -Jan Collins*

### JAN'S WILD RICE & CHICKEN CASSEROLE

**Step one:** Make **Honey Baked Chicken** from the More With Less Cookbook, page 180.

**Step two:** Cook the **Wild Rice** while chicken is baking. Bring the following ingredients to a boil. Simmer on low until done, approximately 50 minutes.

4 ¼ cups water

1 T. olive oil

1 t. salt

1 t. onion powder

2 t. poultry seasoning

½ t. curry powder

¼ t. cumin

2 cups wild rice/brown rice combination

*(I get this from the bins at either the Upper Valley Co-op in WRJct. or the Co-op Food Store in Lebanon)*

*The Wild Rice is where you can get creative. I'm not sure mine is ever the same, as I throw in whatever herbs I desire at the time, or may have fresh from the garden. I sometimes sauté onions, garlic and fresh herbs in the oil before I add all the other ingredients and bring to a boil.*

**Step three:** Cut the chicken into pieces and mix into the rice mixture. Pour some of the honey juice from the chicken over rice and chicken and mix together.

ENJOY!

**If you have a favorite recipe or if there is a fabulous dish that someone brings to potluck, track it down and forward on to me so that we can share it in *The Taftsville Chapel Current*. Thanks, Jan**

Send your contributions for

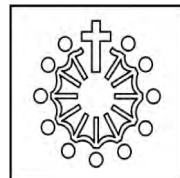
**"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:**

rdjgcollins@mac.com

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach



**Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship**

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

**Randy Good, Pastor** (802) 457-1516

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