

# 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

February 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

## A Lenten Journey

Did you ever go away on a trip and come home with lots of pictures? Looking back at the photographs we took of a particularly memorable place or event can help us remember what it was like to be there - what we saw, felt, experienced. This year, for Lent, we are using the metaphor of a journey, and will be seeing photographs taken along the way.

In the Christian liturgical calendar, Lent is a forty-day season of preparation, readying hearts and minds for the celebration of God's wonderful redemption on Resurrection morning. Although Lent has not been traditionally observed in much of the Mennonite Church, largely because it is reminiscent of "high church" formality and liturgy, many are discovering simple and meaningful ways to connect with this season of prayer and preparation.

Forty days is considered the traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28), the spies were in the land for forty days (Numbers 13:25), Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4), and most importantly, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness praying and fasting prior to undertaking his ministry (Matthew 4:2). So, we mark Lent by counting backwards 40 days from Easter, excepting Sundays, which makes the beginning of Lent fall on a Wednesday. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, but are referred to as the Sundays in Lent.

Our English word 'Lent' actually comes from an Old English word for spring, suggesting that this spiritual season was identified with the annual climactic season of transformation from the dark of winter to the newness of springtime. Churches often use this idea to help us focus on our own, inner spiritual transitions. We often use the metaphor of Journeying to help us prepare for Easter morning. This Lenten season the focus is entering into a journey with Jesus; from the lonely wilderness

to the depths of relationship and discipleship with Him; not a journey from failure to success, but a journey from frailty to grace. Each worship service centers around an old testament story of God's journey with His people and a gospel story from Jesus' own earthly journey; and also a Psalm, which is evocative of our personal inner journey.

For a visual focus for Lent this year, Allen Guntz is sharing some of his beautiful photographs. As we hear the Bible stories, and listen to the Psalms, these images can help us identify with the reality of the journey -- an inner spiritual one, unique to each individual, and also one experienced in community together. Our hope is that the photographs that emerge from suggested images in the Bible stories and Psalms will stir our imaginations as we connect to the transitions that are all a part of our journey in faith.

-Carie Good

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## Covenant, Communion & Potatoes

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On Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, during worship we had our annual renewal (or affirmation for the first timers among us) of our statement of faith and our membership covenant. This is always a meaningful time of coming together as one in Christ, accepting each other just as we are, and remembering Jesus' love for us with communion.

During the second hour the children's classes were treated to the reading and acting out a storybook entitled "Potatoes, Potatoes" by Anita Lobel. The story emphasizes the importance of peace, and shows how foolish fighting can be. Potatoes have an important roll in this story and help the two conflicting sides come together. If you haven't read it, you might like to check it out at the library or purchase one. This was a good story to lead into our fellowship meal of potatoes and many yummy toppings, and some fabulous desserts!



### Remembering our friends at New Beginnings in prayer:

#### Praises

- Jon's mom is recovering well from a successful surgery.
- Jon was able to get his transmission successfully replaced under warranty.
- New Beginnings has launched a Breakfast Program for the community and it is going well.
- 30 kids came out for Movie Night - it's off to a great start.

#### Petitions

- Continued prayer for the out-reach in the community.
- Verid Green is caring for a friend with cancer.
- Adena White, daughter of Troy and Lana, is scheduled for phase one of a two-part surgery on Feb. 20. The second one is March 3rd.

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## Friends from Afar

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### New Year E-mail from Health in Harmony

The following is only the first sentence in each paragraph of the email that was sent. To read the entire letter, go to <http://www.healthinharmony.org/> and click on News.

**Dear Friends of Health In Harmony,  
Happy New Year!**

With your support, 2007 was a fantastic year in the development of our human health and conservation program in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. We are thrilled to share with you a review of the accomplishments you helped create this year.

- By early 2007, we had selected Gunung Palung National Park and the surrounding villages as the site on which Health In Harmony would focus its efforts.
- In February, we began our activities with a baseline survey of health problems and environmental attitudes in the 40 communities around the park.
- By June we had obtained the necessary permits and government support, found a small building suitable for a clinic, made needed renovations to the building, obtained donations of and purchased medicines and equipment, and set up a clinic in the beautiful village of Sukadana.
- During the first few months of the clinic's operation, Kinari's husband Cam devoted much time to creating

an excellent computer system for tracking patient medical histories and care.

- In early 2007, we put a serious effort into fund-raising for our conservation agenda through grant writing, and the work paid off with generous grants from the Sea World-Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and the US Fish & Wildlife Service Great Apes Conservation Fund.
- In September, we implemented a DOTS program to combat drug-resistant tuberculosis in the Gunung Palung area, where the disease is frighteningly common.
- Most important of all, we created a strong staff of medical and conservation people who enabled the accomplishments above. The group is now 13, including three doctors, three nurses, a pharmacist, an organic farm manager, two administrative folks, and two conservationists.

There is much, much more to tell, but we'll save some stories for upcoming events (to be announced soon) on both the West and East coasts of the US, where we hope to see you in person. Many thanks for your generous support and best wishes for a healthy, happy 2008!

Salam hangat, *Kinari Webb & Antonia Goro*

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## Friends from Afar (continued)

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### Letter from the Beck Family in Ohio

#### Taftsville Family:

Please forgive our lack of communication! You have been on our minds often during this transition. We have found the perfect place for our new wall hanging. It hangs above our piano in the Living Room; it is a beautiful piece of art. Thank you!

Everyone is starting to find some normalcy in our new surroundings. The kids are enjoying new friends, sports, living so close to cousins and to the church. Kerry and I are happy with the increase in family time. Even with his job in Toledo (50 min) he is home for suppertime, evenings and weekends. He has also found time to play basketball for Zion Mennonite and work one evening a week at a counseling center in town that is supported by the area Mennonite Churches. Needless to say, the move has been good.

We miss you all and look forward to visiting this July. Thank you for your support during our move.

Blessings, *The Becks*



### Shattuck Letter from Arizona

We just received a sizable check from Taftsville Chapel to help cover the loss of our tools. We are awestruck by the generosity of our church family as well as our relatives and friends. In fact, we really don't know how to say thank you. (For the first time in recent memory Ted is at a loss for words.) We are truly blessed and feel very supported in our work here. You are all very much a part of it. We are just the "tools" that carry out the work.

Today we worked for an 82-year old man named Elber, who lives alone. He doesn't clean his home at all – the kind of place that we say has "crunchy carpet". He is also a hoarder. God has to give us special grace to work in places like this. We worked the entire day trouble-shooting and then peeling back the siding on half of the mobile home in order to run a new circuit to restore power to two receptacles in the kitchen and living room. It does not seem like we accomplished much for a whole day's work yet it was greatly appreciated. People sometimes refer to what we do as "doing good". I prefer to think of it as loving people – in whatever circumstances they are in – that's what we are called to do.

Just a note to let you know that we are attempting to blog on the Taftsville website. Since it is on the Internet we want to be careful to respect the privacy of our clients and will most likely only refer to them by first names.

Thank you and Blessings to all of you.

*Elinor (and Ted)*

**For a full report of Ted and Elinor's work and experiences, 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 three entries so far, and are VERY interesting.

**Please remember them in your prayers.**

**Three Resolutions for a Healthier 2008**

On Saturday, January 12, members of Candlelighters met at Ruth Ann Glick's home and had the privilege to have Heather Wolfe share ways to work at living a healthier lifestyle. Heather is a dietician at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Each one of us was encouraged to think about why we wanted to eat healthier and change our behavior patterns/habits. We were challenged to think of ways we could set goals in three areas: Food, Fluid and Exercise. A few of my goals – Food: include color and watch proportions; Fluid: drink more water, perhaps cut back on cream in coffee (hmm!); Exercise: Weekly – 3 aerobic, 2 strength training, include s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g. Heather's positive approach, colorful "plate" charts, nutritional knowledge and experience were appreciated by all of us there. Because it was such a rich time of learning and sharing together, I have asked each one that was there to share a few highlights from our session. -Jan

**Thinking about health goals is usually a drag,** but Heather made it fun! She presented useful information in easily understandable bites, and her visuals certainly help me keep it in mind. As she showed us how to interpret food labels, I was surprised to learn how much sugar actually is in the yogurt I enjoy eating. Best of all, the goals I set don't even seem entirely daunting! -Carie

**I found this time very helpful.** It was good to be reminded of the importance of drinking water, knowing where our food comes from and reading labels. Even if we already knew lots of what was said, it was good to be reminded again. Heather covered so much in the short amount of time and I could see she really enjoys her work. One thing I remember was that we should make small changes, don't try and change all our old ways at once. It was a very encouraging time together. -Mary G.

**I appreciate Heather's gentle and positive approach** to healthy eating and exercising. This just naturally encourages me to do better. She reminded us that any improvement we can make is good. We don't need to set a goal of having the pendulum swing to its full extent. The exercise goal that I set is to walk 3 times a week knowing that is where I fall short the most in a healthy lifestyle. -Ruth Ann

**I was reminded how much sugar we consume** – 10 tsp. in a 12 oz. soda?! Water, Water, Water! I was impressed by Heather's caring attitude – she encouraged us, while reminding us about healthy living. I was encouraged to keep trying – to lose weight and eat healthy. -Mary F.

**I was impressed with her recommendations** to cut back on the quantity of what had always been considered "bad" foods (like the soda) but you can still have them in small quantities. I believe in small quantities of dessert,

but I wouldn't have included soda in that! I really liked her Balanced Plate approach as opposed to the Food Pyramid. I also need to be more aware of how much water I am drinking. Heather said, "Dieticians are no longer the food police." I thought it was an interesting approach to dietetics. When I worked in the hospital, we always thought of them as the food police! -Janice

**I appreciated all the visuals Heather passed around** to help us get a handle on food values and comparisons. The "How to Make a Balanced Plate" graphic has a prominent place on our refrigerator door; it's a helpful reminder to keep those bright colorful healthful foods in the forefront. (And if that doesn't work, all I need to do is conjure up the look and feel of that ugly one-pound blob of fat!) I liked Heather's practical approach to making small, workable changes in lifestyle. And I liked discussing goals in the safety of a small group of friends who will support each other. -Virginia



**After our time with Heather, we gathered together the Baby Layette items** that were collected under our Jesse Tree during lent and put them together into bundles for MCC. **We have nine complete kits.** Thanks to all of you for buying the nice baby items. The kits are ready to go to MCC in Pa. whenever someone is going.

**Next Meeting of Candlelighters — February 23 at 1:00PM.**

We will meet at Mary Guntz's house to tie (or knot) a quilt top that was pieced with many scraps by her mother. This quilt will then be given to MCC to be used where needed.

Another project of the day is to have a "Soup Swap". It is modeled after holiday cookie exchange but healthier. For more information on how it works go to [soupswap.com](http://soupswap.com). -Mary Guntz

## Schedule for February

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

11:00 am – Second Hour / Sunday School

- February**
- 2 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Eaton’s Sugar House*
  - 9 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Farmer’s Diner*
  - 10 *First Sunday in Lent*
  - 23 1:00 pm – Candlelighters / *Mary Guntz’ home*
  - 24 9:30 am – Worship Service will include  
the Birthday Song for the past 6 months
  - 26 Deadline for March issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Jan. 6	54	\$2,110.00
13	52	1,430.00
20	51	805.00
27	44	2,068.00

*Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.*

### February Birthdays

- 6<sup>th</sup> Marie Hackman
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ruben Dandurand
- 12<sup>th</sup> Tim Good
- 15<sup>th</sup> Seth Dandurand
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dimitri Eisenberg
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mary Beth Beck
- 18<sup>th</sup> Skip Chalker
- 21<sup>st</sup> Victoria Dandurand
- 26<sup>th</sup> Kerry Beck

### February Anniversaries

- 11<sup>th</sup> Marie & Dennis Hackman

### February Childcare Schedule

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carie Good
- 10<sup>th</sup> Nancy Pejouhy
- 20<sup>th</sup> Janet North
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mary Guntz

### February Coffee Schedule

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Guntz
- 10<sup>th</sup> R & R Glick
- 17<sup>th</sup> Abner Schlabach
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ken Glick

### February Cleaning Schedule

- 3<sup>rd</sup> McCrory
- 10<sup>th</sup> Reess/Fullerton
- 17<sup>th</sup> Pejouhy
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pejouhy

### February Song Leaders

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Janet North
- 10<sup>th</sup> Carmeleta Beidler
- 17<sup>th</sup> Omar Zook
- 24<sup>th</sup> Richard Glick

## Individual of the Month for February

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.



### Haley Bolin

#### Favorite Verse:

#### Isaiah 43:1-3

*But now, this is what the LORD says--  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the LORD, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;”*

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## How You Can Help

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### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bethany Birches Camp Benefit Auction

Even though it is over 6 months away it is time to be thinking about how you can contribute to the success of this important fund raising event for the Camp. Last years auction generated \$21,000 for the Camp.

We will need about 150 quality items, value of at least \$25 to be auctioned off on September 28. **Mark the date on your calendar now.**

Be thinking and planning for what you could contribute. It could be a handmade craft item, gift certificate, tickets to an event, theme basket, or some service you could provide. We are also seeking donations of merchandise or services from local businesses. *Contact Allen Guntz, auction committee member, for questions or ideas on something you could contribute. Notify Allen as soon as you know what you are contributing as the 2008 list has been started.*

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*February 4, 1968*

The treasurer's report at the semi-annual meeting for the year ending Dec. 31 shows that after regular expenses, including building maintenance and summer Bible school, there is a balance of \$5,546.15. There is a decision to support the Ivan Ramers at Northern Light Missions.

*February 18, 1968*

At the business meeting, it was mentioned how cold the church is on a windy day. Nothing can be done with the present heating unit.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*February 5, 1973*

A number of subjects were discussed: youth activities, women's role in the church, small table and chairs for the kindergarten class. Also, perhaps we could be a little more aware of our children after church so as to cut down on the commotion at times.

### Appeal for childcare helpers.

We are renewing the annual schedule for childcare helpers, and would love to include you on the list! Spending time with the youngest children in the nursery during Sunday morning sermon time is a wonderful way to bless our young families. With a few more helpers, we would each take our turn about once every two months. Please let Carrie know if you would like to be added to the rotation schedule. Thanks!

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*February 9, 1978*

Council reviewed the entries for naming "the other side", narrowing it down to three possibilities upon which the congregation will vote. They are "the Library", "the Fellowship Center" and "The Millen Room". Winner of the contest gets a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Provident Bookstore.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*February 6, 1983*

Candlelighters met at Mary Guntz' house to cut squares for a quilt. We decided to make and give quilts to the young people who will be getting married.

*February 25, 1983*

New pastor Nelson and Ellen Kraybill move into their new apartment in Taftsville.

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*February 9, 1993*

Council would like to make scholarships available for attending the General Assembly in Philadelphia. This would be for people who did not grow up in the Mennonite Church and would like to experience the larger Mennonite church.

Send your contributions for

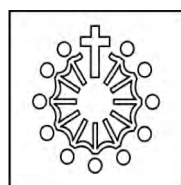
**"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:**

janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, 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/>