

# 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.

"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

## Fulfilling the law of Christ

If someone were to ask, what would you say is "the law of Christ"? Peace? Justice? Forgiveness? Sacrifice? Love?

We know that when He was asked which was the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Later, among his final words to his disciples, Jesus said again, "This is my commandment, that you love one another." The word used here for "commandment" is sometimes translated "law", and suggests an authoritative injunction: something we are *supposed* to do. We are *supposed* to love one another. Yet we can choose not to.

But I am intrigued by another word; a word that is also translated "law", but is closer to the idea of an intrinsic principle, such as the "law of gravity". Obviously, gravity isn't something we *do*, and we obey its nature every time we take a step, whether we are aware of it or not. In the same way, there is a nature that becomes our own when once we have yielded our hearts to Jesus Christ; a new nature that becomes who we are, whether we are aware of it or not. In this sense, our new nature is the "law" of Christ. How might this law be manifested in our daily living as Christians? I have been thinking about this idea recently because I have had much opportunity to feel the effects of this law. Randy and I have been blessed and encouraged by the outworking of this law among the members of Taftsville Chapel.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry each other's burdens (bear one another's weaknesses) and thus you will fulfill the law of Christ". Isn't that what Jesus did on the cross? He took the burden of sin off our shoulders, and carried it on his own. And he did it because it was his very nature to do so. Isn't that what you have been doing for me and for Randy? Our burdens have been the complications of daily living with a broken arm. The simple tasks of preparing food, cleaning the house, raking the yard, ironing clothes have become a burden to us in our weakness. And you have been quietly, gracefully, joyfully going about fulfilling Christ's law, fulfilling the nature within you, without giving it much thought, just like gravity. Because it is the very nature of Jesus Christ who is alive in you. To God be the glory, as we offer our deepest praise and thanksgiving. We are truly grateful for such a wonderful family, and we love you all.

- Carie Good

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## Upcoming Events

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### **1-W (Alternate Service) Reunion - Weekend of May 10 & 11**

A reunion of men and their wives who served 2 years of alternate service at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital will be held in our area on the weekend of May 10th. Over a hundred men have served their term of service in the public good at the hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire over several decades. This reunion is of the group who served in the time period of the late 1950s and the early 1960s. Many of these young couples were involved in the beginning of the congregation at Taftsville. In addition to their regular jobs, which they performed at the hospital, they were involved in teaching Summer Bible school, Sunday school, singing in area nursing homes, as well as holding services in the Woodstock jail. Some of these young people were involved in the fellowship of the Bethany Mennonite Church at Bridgewater Corners, Vermont. A few of these couples and single men decided to make Vermont and New Hampshire their homes following their terms of service. Those who are presently a part of the Taftsville church body are Dennis and Marie Hackman, Omar and Janice Zook, Allen and Mary Guntz, Dale and Darlene Snader, Bob Rosenberger, and Richard and Ruth Ann Glick. Among those coming to this reunion are Arden and Evelyn Godshall. Arden served his alternate service in the 1950s. He was the

first pastor of the Taftsville church as well as being a well driller. The Godshalls were neighbors to the Homer Welch family and were instrumental in introducing Homer and Catherine to Jesus and the church of which they became a part. Many of the 14 couples coming for this reunion will be staying at the Quality Inn in Quechee. Some of the activities planned for them are a tour of the site of the old hospital in Hanover as well as the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center campus in Lebanon. A catered meal will be served in the Taftsville Chapel basement on Saturday evening. Many will be attending Taftsville for the Sunday service.

- Richard Glick



**Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital facilities during the time this 1-W group worked there**



↑ Photo above was taken by Allen Guntz.

← Photo at left is scanned from an old post card.

## **Esther Harder - MCC Guest Speaker - May 14**

From time to time we hear about “MCC projects” or about someone “serving with MCC”. In fact, folks connected with our congregation, past and present, have worked with MCC and we have heard some of their stories. If you’ve wondered what MCC is about, we have an excellent opportunity to come and find out! On Wednesday evening, May 14 at 7p.m., we will have as guest speaker Esther Harder of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, who is returning from a Mennonite Central Committee service term in Uganda where she served for the past four years.

Esther served in Soroti, the District Center in the Teso Sub-Region of Northeastern Uganda. This Sub-Region, similar to a state in the US, has faced several major conflicts in the past. For going on thirty years, the Iteso people have been living in conflict with their Northern neighbors and cousin tribe, the Karimojong. The Karimojong are nomadic herders who seek as many cattle as possible in order to survive in their harsh, desert-like climate; some of the Karimojong who have accessed illegal weapons cross into Teso in order to raid cows and steal any other foodstuffs or household materials that are available. This leaves the communities along the border with Karamoja in fear of impending attacks at any time; they have been living in Internally Displaced People’s (IDP) Camps ever since the Karimojong acquired modern weapons around 1979.

In addition, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, entered Teso in June 2003, abducting children, killing and terrorizing a large percentage of the population. Now, thousands of Iteso are in the process of rebuilding their lives back in their home villages after running to IDP camps near town centers like Soroti for much of 2003-2005.

MCC entered the Teso Sub-Region in 2001, focusing on salary support for the peace worker, Pastor Sam Eibu, with whom Esther worked. At that time, Pastor Sam was involved with cross-border Teso-Karamoja peace work, but his role greatly expanded

in 2003, as a result of the LRA incursion. Currently, he works with returned communities in peace-building and trauma healing in LRA-affected areas. In the border communities, he continues to struggle with the on-going Karimojong inter-clan and cross-border raids in order to find peaceful solutions. MCC Uganda is increasingly concentrating on peace work, trauma healing, counseling, and resettlement in the belief that peace is the foundation for sustainable development. Out of its seven service workers in 2007, MCC placed five of them in North and Northeastern Uganda, with plans for additional expansion within the same region in the coming years.

Esther served as Pastor Sam Eibu’s capacity builder, though her formal title was Information, Education, and Communication Officer for Soroti Diocese (Church of Uganda, the Ugandan Anglican Church). With Pastor Sam Eibu, she planned peace-training curricula, designed a database to track human rights abuses, assisted in field work such as collecting data on traditional peace building practices of the Iteso people and educated communities on the importance of embodying various peace practices. The greatest amount of their work was with a group of volunteer Peace Promoters, community members they had trained in basic peace-building and mediation skills. Through the Peace Promoters, they spread the message of peace and reconciliation to households across Teso, especially in the insecure areas near the border with Karamoja.

Some of the stories we may hear from Esther might include

- Stories of war-affected Ugandan friends
- Her own experiences of peace work in the midst of conflict
- Personal reflection on growth in a cross-cultural setting

We are looking forward to an interesting evening of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there!

- *Carie Good*

## **HAHNA Concert**

We are all invited to Bethany Mennonite Church on Wednesday May 21, at 7pm for a special concert of the group *Hahna*. Four EMU students (Lena Risser, Eojin Lee, Benjamin Bergey, and Joshua Dean), will be performing a concert of varied music around the theme of being united in love – of God, others, and music. *Hahna*, in Korean, means united, an all-encompassing unity in God. Come enjoy an evening of music including hymns, a cappella music, classical, Broadway, and instrumental music. If you enjoy beautiful music, you won’t want to miss this! - *Carie Good*

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## Household of the Month for May and June

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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.



**Rosalind and Carl Andreas**

### **Favorite Verses:**

#### **Carl:**

*Proverbs 15:1*

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

#### **Rosalind:**

*Romans 12:1-2*

I appeal therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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## Soup Swap Recipe

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The following soup recipe is from Carie Good who brought this to our Candlelighters Soup Swap in February.

### **Filled Chicken and Chickpea Soup**

#### **Place in a heavy 4-quart stockpot:**

- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 slice bacon, finely diced

#### **Heat until the bacon begins to sizzle. Add:**

- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 large stalks celery (including leaves), finely chopped
- 2 large carrots, peeled and finely chopped

#### **Cook, covered, until the vegetables are moderately softened (about 15 minutes). Then add:**

- 2 level tablespoons flour
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup white wine

#### **Bring to a simmer, uncovered. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring often. Remove the bay leaf.**

#### **Add to the soup pot, mixing well:**

- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

#### **Place in the blender the entire contents of:**

- 1 20-ounce can chickpeas

**Puree well. Add the puree to the soup pot and bring to a good boil. Taste, and if necessary add:**  
salt  
pepper

#### **Mix into the soup:**

- 1 cup cooked chicken, cut into thin strips
- 3/4 cup fresh dill, finely cut

#### **Heat for a couple minutes more, and serve.**

The soup looks fairly fussy to make, but really goes pretty smoothly. Enjoy!

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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



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## **Why did you choose your favorite hymn?**

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Whenever there's opportunity to request a hymn during an Ekklesia service or on Music Sunday, we can count on Denny asking for "Praise the Lord, Sing Alleluia", George choosing "Praise, I Will Praise You Lord", Abner choosing "My Life Flows On", and someone from the Cox family requesting "Guide My Feet". These folks were asked: "Why is this hymn so special to you? The whole congregation knows this is your favorite, but we haven't heard the story behind the choice. Please tell us in a few sentences, a paragraph (or a whole treatise!)" The sentences, paragraphs, and, yes, even a treatise or two, follow. Added to these are the favorites of a few other Taftsville folks. Unfortunately, Denny Hackman was out of town and unable to respond so we'll wait till the next issue to hear from him. –Virginia Schlabach

### **Je L'Ouerai L'Eternel (Praise, I Will Praise You Lord):**

How thoughtful of you to ask this question – especially in the context of my prolonged work-travel absences. I love "Je L'Ouerai L'Eternel" for several reasons – and will probably cry a little writing this e-mail delineating why.

First –Taftsville, ever since the "Years of Walking to the Edge of Hell and Back", has always been an oasis in the desert, a sanctuary in the midst of battle, and a place to find peace. Nowhere is that more sensually and experientially felt than when I hear the congregation sing – and specifically harmonize – this song in particular, lavishing my soul with marvelous harmonies.

Second – it refreshes my long-standing connection to France where I lived when in my teens and learned to appreciate many facets of life that otherwise would have eluded me. My Italian/French European upbringing has been a major component of my life that has only been strengthened and solidified as I have grown older.

Last – I love the song because it is eminently simple in its message – praise, love, and serve you Lord with all my heart – what could be more true, more basic, and more essential for our walk with God? It brings me back to where I always need to be – rather than worrying about so many things in the often frantic and overwhelming pace of my life...wrapped in the loving harmonies of my church family and friends. The song is already wonderful – but you – we – bring it to life where it penetrates and lifts our hearts. - George Abetti

### **My Life Flows On:**

I have a strong recollection of one of the first times I heard this song when a friend with a strong bass voice sang it as a solo. It made such an impression on me that when we sing it today my mind often takes me back to that time a number of years ago. The music really resonates with me, which is a bit ironic, as I am one of the least gifted singers among us. Fortunately what I lack in skills doesn't prevent me from enjoying our group singing.

The words, of course, are what make this a powerful song. For me the key phrase, which I think should be the title, is "How can I keep from singing?" I see the song as a statement of a strong faith and hope. A number of dire situations are mentioned: "through all the tumult and the strife...what though my joys and comforts die.... what though the darkness gather round?" But then they're always followed up with a comforting positive: "I hear the music ringing...the peace of Christ makes fresh my heart...no storm can shake my inmost calm." How can I keep from singing? Because "the Lord my savior liveth!" –Abner Schlabach

### **Jesus, Lover of My Soul:**

Handel's Messiah has to be my favorite music. It has such a wonderful praise component to our great God and is the type of music I believe we will be experiencing in heaven. I will say that at this stage of my life "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" by Charles Wesley is my favorite hymn. A storm either on or near water is portrayed in the first verse. The rest of the hymn has many meaningful thoughts, which speak of my unworthiness and God's grace extended through Christ. Since this is such an old hymn I feel a connection with believers who have sung it for two and a half centuries. – Richard Glick

### **Guide My Feet:**

Our reasons for choosing this spiritual are:

It's a fast song.

It's easy to understand the meaning.

It's about the basics.

It's easy to sing and follow. – Hayley, Hunter, Hudson, Hayden, Hannah Cox



Hunter and Kevin Cox help Carmeleta Beidler lead the Cox family's favorite spiritual, "Guide My Feet", during the March song service.

### **It Is Well With My Soul, Victory in Jesus:**

How do you choose your favorite hymn? There are so many "favorites" of mine (It Is Well With My Soul, Victory in Jesus, Because He Lives, Wonderful Grace of Jesus, Amazing Grace, Sweet Hour of Prayer, etc., etc., etc.), but I guess when pressed to share my favorite, it has to be a tie between "It Is Well With My Soul" and "Victory in Jesus".

"It Is Well With My Soul" – because it describes great peace (like a river), great sorrow (like sea billows rolling), Jesus' forgiveness and grace for me (my sin is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more), and how wonderful it will be when Jesus comes back (the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend).

"Victory in Jesus" – because it reminds me that no matter what happens, Jesus is victorious! As told by the hymn, I first "heard an old, old story...heard about His healing...cried dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit...and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory"!

Both of these hymns have been incredibly meaningful in my life. "It Is Well With My Soul" is comforting in times of trial. "Victory In Jesus" is filled with such praise when I just can't contain my love for Him! Ah! It is well with my soul, and some sweet day I'll sing up there. Alleluia!!

– Mary Fullerton

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## **Congratulations to Our 2008 Graduates**

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**Heather Gerety** graduating **May 18th** from Marlboro College with a B.A. in Literature/Writing  
Future Plans: Likely be staying in Brattleboro for the summer; uncertain for fall

**Hayley Bolin** graduating from Dartmouth College on **June 8th** with a Geography & Philosophy Double Major.  
Future Plans: From July 2008 to July 2009, I will be living in Cebu, Philippines, working for International Justice Mission, a Christian human rights organization. I'll also be applying to law school, which I hope to enter in the fall of 2009.

**Laura Beidler** graduating from Hartford High School on **June 12th** at 7 pm  
Future Plans: Attending EMU in the fall majoring in biology/pre-med

## Schedule for May & June

**Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service**

**10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship**

**11:00 am – Second Hour/Sunday School** *May 18 – Last 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour until September*

### May

- 3 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast
- 4 9:30 am – Ski Chalker Preaching
- 11 1-W Guests at Taftsville
- 14 7:00 pm – MCC Guest Speaker
- 17 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 18 9:30 am – Ekklesia – *Last 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour until September*
- 21 7:00 pm – Music group *Hahna* /  
*Bethany Mennonite Church*

#### May Birthdays

- 2 Lynda Knisley
- 5 Deb duPlessis
- 9 Karen Cox
- 28 Phare Margaret Deitrich

#### May Anniversaries

- 11 Mary & Allen Guntz
- 25 Mary & Glenn Fullerton
- 28 Janet North & Fred  
Schlabach

#### May Song Leaders

- 4 Janet North
- 11 Omar Zook
- 18 Carmeleta Beidler
- 25 Janice Zook

#### May Childcare

- 4 Nancy Pejouhy
- 11 Janet North
- 18 Mary Guntz
- 25 Laura Beidler

#### May Coffee

- 4 Richard & Ruth Ann
- 11 Mary Guntz
- 18 Abner Schlabach
- 25 Ken Glick

#### May Cleaning

- 4 Zook
- 11 Abetti
- 18 Aloisio
- 25 Ayers/Knisley

### Taftsville Tally

|         | Attendance | Offering   |
|---------|------------|------------|
| April 6 | 47         | \$2,027.00 |
| 13      | 50         | 1,604.00   |
| 20      | 42         | 1,841.00   |
| 27      | 44         | 3,348.10   |

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

### June

- 4 7:00 pm – Church Council Meeting / *Church*
- 7 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 14 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 24 Deadline for July/August issue of  
*The Taftsville Chapel Current*

#### June Birthdays

- 4 Heather Wolfe
- 5 Kevin Cox
- 6 John Lutz
- 7 Seth Eisenberg
- 8 Roy Aloisio
- 9 Mike McCrory
- 16 Ken Glick
- 18 Bekah Deitrich
- 27 Vickie Eisenberg

#### June Anniversaries

- 2 Vera & Lewis Fogg
- 3 Janice & Omar Zook
- 9 Carl & Rosalind Andreas
- 16 Abner & Virginia Schlabach
- 24 Ross & Jessica Reitz

#### June Song Leaders

- 1 Richard Glick
- 8 Virginia Schlabach
- 15 Carmeleta Beidler
- 22 Janet North
- 29 Allison Fletcher

#### June Childcare

- 1 Hayley Bolin
- 8 Carie Good
- 15 Nancy Pejouhy
- 22 Janet North
- 29 Mary Guntz

#### June Coffee

- 1 Nancy Pejouhy
- 8 Janet North
- 15 Karen Cox
- 22 Mary Guntz
- 29 Richard & Ruth Ann

#### June Cleaning

- 1 Ayers/Knisley
- 8 Collins
- 15 Collins
- 22 Cox
- 29 Cox

**\*Watch for a sign-up list for mowing the church lawn and choose your weeks.**

## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

### *Do you remember when...*

#### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MAY

*May 11, 1968*

Congratulations go to Allen Guntz and Mary Mast who were united in Holy Matrimony.

*May 26, 1968*

The premiere issue of "News Notes" includes this item: "On Wednesday evening of this past week, the members of Taftsville Mennonite Church met at John Lutz's home to discuss the formation of a Church Council to plan the overall program of our congregation. A Council consisting of James Millen, Murray Beidler, Omar Zook, Ken Lind, Richard Glick and John Lutz were elected. The first meeting will be held May 30th."

#### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MAY

*May 19, 1973*

It was requested that we have more special singing in our morning worship services.

#### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MAY

*May 30, 1978*

Those interested in spending time in prayer for each Sunday morning service, please meet in the Millen Room, 5-10 minutes prior to the morning service.

#### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MAY

*May 1, 1983*

Henry Paul Yoder is with us to share at the Installation Service for Nelson Kraybill.

*May 12, 1983*

Council discussed the possible involvement of Taftsville members in a new soup kitchen project in White River Junction.

Send your contributions for

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

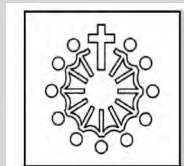
rdjgcollins@mac.com

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/>

### *Do you remember when...*

#### 40 YEARS AGO THIS JUNE

*June 9, 1968*

The new church council considered limited remodeling of the building, including improving the restroom facilities. "Due to the difficulty in obtaining water, and the constant threat of freezing during the coldest weather, no immediate solution was reached."

*June 15, 1968*

The first scheduled event of the All-Youth "Summer of Discovery" for young people of the Quechee-Wilder-Hartland-Hartford area got off to a "wet" start. We spent the evening playing indoor games, and re-scheduled the hike up Mt. Tom for next Saturday.

#### 35 YEARS AGO THIS JUNE

*June 3, 1973*

Fellowship and Installation Service for Abram Landis as overseer of the Vermont churches to be held at Bethany Birches Camp, starting late afternoon and evening with potluck supper.

*June 18, 1973*

A two-week evening Bible School is again planned for this summer. "Only eternity will reveal all the results of the seed sown at our Bible School".

#### 25 YEARS AGO THIS JUNE

*June 16, 1983*

The church council met at the home of Omar and Janice Zook. The report of the treasurer was interrupted by thunder, which brought the neighbor's dog straight into the house and under the bed. Considerable commotion ensued as the entire Zook family tried to evict the elusive cowardly canine. When order was finally restored, the somewhat out of breath treasurer reported a balance of \$2885.98.

*June 25, 1983*

Family Music Festival at Bethany Birches Camp. A group from Woodstock Baptist Fellowship sharing original gospel bluegrass consists of John Waldo, Nancy Pejouhy, and Randy Good.

*June 26, 1983*

A special congregational meeting was held to consider plans for the basement project. It will require more money than expected to tear up the old concrete. A motion was made to complete the entire basement project. After much discussion, the motion was withdrawn in the interest of harmony. The matter will be taken up again at the next meeting.