

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

July/August 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

Justice and Mercy

It is a real joy to watch our young grandchildren grow and develop. We find them already showing their human nature. Even at their tender age we note signs of possessiveness and a desire for fairness, as perceived from their individual viewpoints. Fairness, justice and equality are all positive adjectives that we all understand and appreciate. It has been said that, "Life is not fair, so get used to it." We may also have felt at times, that life is not always fair, and there are times when we just need to accept that and move on.

In the Old Testament, God demanded that the children of Israel treat each other with respect, fairness and justice. He realized that one of the basic rules for harmony and good relationships was to be aware of the need to treat everyone fairly, just as we also want to be treated with fairness. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses to instruct the Israelites how to think about what was really important in life and to build good solid relationships. The first four dealt with their relationship with God and the last six dealt with their relationships with their fellow human beings. The Old Testament prophets elaborated in detail about how justice withheld would bring severe consequences. God loves justice, (Ps.11:7 & Isaiah 61:8) but he does not love demanding it! In Isaiah 30 when the prophet is reprimanding Israel for being obstinate and rebellious he reveals God's real desire, Is. 30:18 "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion." Perhaps the Prophet Micah says it best, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Mercy, a step beyond justice! We need to treat others justly but where our neighbor sees justice differently than we do, we then need to show mercy.

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Webster has several definitions for mercy but I especially like two of them, 1. "Kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness". 2. "A disposition to forgive". Both struck me as qualities of God that are precious to me. They do not necessarily always come naturally to me, however.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy!" If I want to receive mercy, I need to practice showing it as well. Titus 3:5 says "He saved us not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy!" God loves justice but He has a heart for mercy! I am thankful that at the cross, mercy triumphed over justice. The challenge for me is to extend God's mercy to those people that I meet in my daily life.

-Omar and Janice Zook

## The Hungry in Haiti

**HUNGER.** It was a look in the eyes of a little girl and the eyes of the puppy and chicken at her feet...all eyes glued to a tiny tin plate of rice, each grain meant life. This memory from my time in Haiti still haunts and humbles me.

**FACT:** Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere - 80% of the population lives in poverty and more than half its inhabitants survive on less than \$1 per day.

**FACT:** One of every seven Haitian children is malnourished. Of those that survive many are permanently stunted and have physical and mental impairment due to protein and vitamin deficiencies.

After graduating a semester early from UVM, I was searching for an experience to combine my nutrition degree and French language skills with being immersed in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. The church I was attending at the time was sending a work group to Haiti for a week. I joined them for the week at Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and then stayed for another two months as a public health nutrition volunteer at Hôpital Sainte Croix in Leogane. I was involved with the Hearth Program, or "Ti Foye" which means Little Kitchen in Creole (the common language of Haitian people). Hearth is a low-cost nutritional model used in many resource-poor countries designed to rehabilitate the moderately-to-severely malnourished child.

A typical day for me would be spent hiking into a remote Haitian village where I would help trained "Monitrices" (female health monitors) weigh every child under the age of five. Mothers of children we identified as malnourished were then invited with their child to participate in a two week long Ti Foye. Every day for the next two weeks the mothers and children would gather, sharing a meal together and receiving child health education- information about good nutrition and hygiene. Everyone brings an ingredient



for the meal, which often gets cooked into a nutritious soup. Many of the tips and tricks shared in the group come from poor mothers within the community who manage to keep their children healthy. We would sing spirited choruses about vitamins found in local foods or about the importance of hand washing to prevent diarrhea and subsequent dehydration. Most Haitians are illiterate and the memory of many mothers limited by their

own childhood malnutrition- thus repetition of health messages through song was a most effective teaching strategy. After the two-week intervention, you could see positive changes - happier and heavier children. Mothers were motivated to continue what they had learned. Ongoing support and encouragement was provided after the program by regular visits from the monitrices.

Returning to the U.S. after nine weeks in Haiti, I experienced culture shock as I realized how much we have, how easy our access is to food and safe water. I'm grateful for the perspective gained from my experiences in Haiti. I'm grateful for the many hands and hearts, including Taftsville Chapel and MCC, which are helping. Haiti needs our help desperately in its fight against hunger, its fight for life.

- Heather Wolfe

## Food for Haiti

Our summer loose change offering project is for food aid to Haiti through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Each Sunday till the end of August, in addition to the regular church offering, the children will pass globe banks to collect money for this project. The first offering on June 22 was \$53.53, a very good beginning. Hunger is a long-standing, ever-growing problem in Haiti. This spring the Valley News showed pictures of Haitian people making and eating dirt cookies, and in the June 9 & 16, 2008, New Yorker, writer Edwidge Danticat described the situation in graphic terms: "These days, those who suffer from the dire hunger situation in Haiti refer to their condition as 'Clorox' or 'battery-acid' hunger, for the way it seems to erode their insides." MCC provides food aid to orphanages and schools to help some of the most vulnerable families. Rather than sending food into Haiti, MCC is beginning instead to send funds to buy food directly from Haitian farmers. A recent article quotes Marylynn Steckley, MCC service worker in Port-au-Prince, who says: "It's always helpful to buy local food. Buying locally encourages farmers to plant again the next year to maintain their farms, and assists in their ability to continue living in the Haitian countryside, rather than migrating to a city and face unemployment." Read on to discover a first-hand look at life in Haiti from our own Heather Wolfe. And as you dig out your change each Sunday, remember that folded paper money also fits into the slots in the banks!  
- Virginia Schlabach

## Household of the Month for July and August

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.



**Nick & Heather Wolfe**

### **Favorite Verses:**

#### **Nick**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

*John 3:16*

*"For me, this verse sums it all up in one sentence."*

#### **Heather**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13**

*"I love the imagery in this verse. My instructions are to simply trust in Jesus. God will do the work with the help of the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful blessing to receive!"*

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## Library News.

A library work evening was attended by Mary Guntz, Virginia, Melissa and myself. We were able to get a lot of work done and enjoyed sharing some desserts in the process. A few sections were reorganized and moved and a new Education section was added. A number of new books were added (or are in the process of being added) in. Please feel free to give suggestions or reading recommendations. Thanks, Monica

### New Books for the Library:

#### Nonfiction

Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know and Doesn't by Stephen Prothero

With Open Hands by Henri Nouwen

I Am Not a Social Activist: Making Jesus the Agenda by Ronald Sider

What We Believe Together: Exploring the Shared Convictions of Anabaptist-Related Churches

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? by Philip Yancey

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey

Knowing the Heart of God: Where Obedience is the One Path to Drawing Intimately Close to Our Father by George MacDonald

The Seven laws of the Learner: How to Teach Almost Anything to Practically Anyone by Bruce Wilkinson

Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul by John and Stasi Eldredge

Compassionate Caring for the Sick and Dying by Sara Arline Thras

The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding: A Vision and Framework for Peace and Justice by Lisa Schirch

The Little Book of Restorative Justice: A Bestselling Book by One of the Founders of the Movement by Howard Zehr

The Little Book of Conflict Transformation: Clear Articulation of the Guiding Principles by a Pioneer in the Field by John Paul Lederach

Interpretation Bible Studies Series: Psalms by Jerome F. D. Creach

When God Whispers Your Name by Max Lucado

A Woman's Journey to the Heart of God by Cynthia Heald

The Mystery of God's Will by Charles Swindoll

The Body Broken: Answering God's Call to Love One Another by Robert Benson

#### Fiction

Wild Harvest by Elaenor Gustafson

Saint Julian by Walter Wangerin Jr.

Also books by Karen Kingsbury and Gary Smalley: Redemption, Remember, Rejoice, Reunion, Return

#### Children's

Sidney and Norman: A Tale of Two Pigs

-2 pigs receive an invitation and a special message from God

The Ballad of Matthew's Begats

-an unlikely family tree with a sing along CD



#### Video

Amazing Grace: 5 Hymns That Changed the World

#### Books On Order

Money Mania: Mastering the Allure of Excess from MMA's Living Stewardship Series

Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching by June Alliman Yoder, Marlene Kropf and Rebecca Slough

Proclamation by Design: The Visual Arts in Worship by Karmen Krahn and Leslie James

**Annual Slate of Volunteers for 2008-2009**

*\*Those with asterisk are Church Council Members*

- \*Administrator (2 yr) ————— David Beidler  
\*Treasurer (2 yr) ————— Amena Reess  
\*Christian Education (2 yr) ——— Virginia Schlabach  
Usher ————— Ben Beidler  
\*Trustee (1 yr) ————— Richard Glick  
Trustee (2 yr) ————— Fred Schlabach  
Trustee (3 yr) ————— Dale Snader  
Music Coordinator ————— Allison Fletcher  
Librarian ————— Melissa Ayers &  
————— Lynda Knisley  
Calendar Keeper ————— Amena Reess  
Hospitality Team ————— Abner & Virginia  
Schlabach  
————— Mary Fullerton,  
————— Judy McCrory,  
————— Heather Wolfe  
\*Outreach / MDS ————— *You ?*  
Franconia Conf Rep (1 yr) ——— Carie Good  
BBC Rep (3 yr) ————— Kevin Cox  
MMA Rep (3 yr) ————— Allen Guntz  
\*Member-at-large (1 yr) ——— Ray Aloisio

**Annual Bethany Birches Camp Benefit Auction**

The date for this years benefit auction is fast approaching. The date is **September 27, 2008**, Preview 9am, Auction 10am. **Mark the date on your calendar now** and plan to join in on this fun day held at Quechee Gorge Village.

Hopefully you have given some thought to what you could contribute to the success of this fundraiser. We will need about 150 quality items, value of at least \$25 to be auctioned off. 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.

—Allen Guntz

**Needed: Persons interested in helping with childcare during worship services at Taftsville.**

Please let Mary Guntz know if you can help with this service. New schedule will be set for the beginning of September. The more persons that sign up the better. Good way to get to know the little people in our church family. Thanks.

—Mary Guntz

**Health In Harmony - Letter from Kinari**

Dear friends and supporters of Health In Harmony,

A thank you to the whole congregation. I am so, so touched by the huge donation you all just sent. That money will go so far in making a huge difference out here! The fun thing is that every single day, we get to say, "yep, another life saved!" Thank you for helping save their lives. We have two patients in the clinic right now whose life we can't claim exactly to have saved but we did save their limbs. One man came in with a horribly infected hand after having been stung by a poisonous fish and the other woman came in with a foot that was dripping pus and had very good tissue left on it. With good wound care and antibiotics though both of them are doing wonderfully and both no longer have to worry about losing their ability to work and feed their families. Thank you for helping make these stories possible.

Best wishes from Indonesia, *Kinari Webb*

See [www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html) for pictures and more reports of HIH's mission

**Taftsville Chapel Current—Paper Copy or Website?**

Some members have expressed that they do not need a paper copy of this newsletter, but rather, they would read it on our website. This could save us a few dollars over the year. Others have expressed to me that they DO want a paper copy of this newsletter. It has been said that if it's not in print, it most likely won't get as much attention or read. I should also note that it is not always posted on the website immediately. Please notify me of your intentions. Otherwise, I will plan on printing a paper copy for you and placing it in your church mailbox. Thanks. —Jan Collins, Editor

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## Mystery Envelopes

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*A few weeks ago many of us found an envelope in our mailbox with \$100 enclosed. No name was listed as to whom it was from or what it was for. Listed below are some folk's reactions and decisions on what they did or will do with the unexpected extra money.*

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**My first thought** was, "Wow, what a gift! I guess someone realizes what a tight spot we're in just now." Then, when I noticed others received a gift as well, I thought WOW! Maybe someone is using their 'economic stimulus check' to bless others. We realized we could do the same. We decided to keep half the money in a pocket, and stay aware at the gas station. Some day soon, we'll pass along the unexpected gift to help a family at the gas pump as the Lord stirs our hearts.

**I have asked** my nephew to give this gift some thought. I would like for him to participate in the opportunity of giving. He is not so familiar with our community's areas of needs. As I educate him, I am hoping he has some ideas as to a good choice.

**Our unexpected blessing** went to the Vermont Food Bank to help feed needy Vermonters.

**God is always generous**, sharing things we need via His children. Prior to the mysterious \$100. in my mailbox, I had gritted my teeth and spent the "stimulus" money from President Bush on various car repairs and maintenance issues which came due all at the same time. I planned to write the check and quickly get on with more pleasant aspects of life. However, my car required one more part as time went on...an unanticipated expense...and you can guess the final cost of this part, plus labor: one hundred dollars.

**The mystery gift came** as a real blessing because we had just signed a contract for new housing and had to put down a hefty security deposit that almost had me feeling like an involuntary fast was on the horizon.

**We have a friend** in Florida who has been in financial trouble and recently suffered a stroke. She was the first person we thought of when we saw that \$100 bill. Thank you, "mystery person", for enabling us to help out.

**We used our gift** to buy food for the Haven. They were very appreciative.

**We decided to give** it to a senior at the high school this year. This senior in particular has had some hard knocks in her life; some of her choosing but mostly events and situations are out of her control. Due to these conditions she has had a difficult time with her high school studies and has had to earn money to live. When the going got really tough she stuck with school even though it was very difficult to juggle everything in her life. I got to know her as a senior when she was thinking about applying to college. I tried to be encouraging and helpful as much as possible. It can be very daunting to apply to college even with support of your family, but without support it feels impossible. She got through the process and was accepted! She was so proud and so were we in the Counseling Services office. I debated how to give the money: anonymously or in person. In the end I decided that I wanted to be able to tell her why I was giving her the money. I wanted her to know that I was so very proud of her decision to attend college, her strength in sticking it out (school and the application process), and most importantly that she's a beautiful person and that she matters to me and to others. It's one thing to be able to say these things to someone but it's another thing to be able to accompany that compliment with \$100. I encouraged her to use the money for books at college. She was very touched by the gift and thanked me for everything I had done to help her through the process. A teacher came up to me later that day to let me know that this student let them know about the gift and how much it meant to her. I want to thank the anonymous donor for the \$100. What a gift to me to be able to let someone know how much I believed in them and encourage them in their future endeavors.

**Thank you wholeheartedly** to whoever thought to give the monetary gift. For us it came just when we needed to figure out our budget for the summer and moving. That quiet envelope sitting on the table was a tangible and necessary reminder that God provides in all situations what we need. Thank you for being part of that testimony to us.

**We're still waiting** for direction on what to do with the money.

## Schedule for July & August

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am - Worship Service

10:45 am - Coffee and Fellowship

Second Hour/Sunday School will resume after Labor Day

### July

- 5 7:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Dana's
- 6 10:00 am - Church and BBQ / BBCamp
- 12 7:30 am - Women's Breakfast / Dana's
- 13 9:30 am - Ekklesia

### August

- 2 7:00 pm - Men's Breakfast / Dana's
- 3 9:30 am - Christi-Lynn Brown at church
- 9 7:30 am - Women's Breakfast / Dana's
- 8-10 Groton Camping Weekend
- 24 9:30 am - Ekklesia
- 30 9:30 am - Song Service
- 26 Deadline for September issue of  
*The Taftsville Chapel Current*

#### July Birthdays

- 4 Hudson Cox
- 15 David Beidler
- 20 Allen Guntz
- 23 Carol Whitney
- 24 Elinor Shattuck
- 25 Carie Good
- 29 Hayden Cox

#### July Anniversaries

- 16 Bob & Amelia Cormier

#### July Mowing

- 6 Ben & Laura Beidler
- 13 Fred Schlabach
- 20 Skip Chalker
- 27 Nick Wolf

#### July Song Leaders

- 6 BBC
- 13 Janice Zook
- 20 Omar Zook
- 27 Richard Glick

#### July Childcare

- 6 BBC
- 13
- 20 Carie Good
- 27 Nancy Pejouhy

#### July Coffee

- 6 BBC
- 13 Nancy Pejouhy
- 20 Janet North
- 27 Karen Cox

#### July Cleaning

- 6 Deitrich
- 13 Deitrich
- 20 Esch
- 27 Esch

#### August Birthdays

- 4 Nancy Iott
- 20 Nancy Pejouhy
- 22 Noah Wilson

#### August Anniversaries

- 2 Brett & Marilyn Landis-Wanner
- 4 Randy & Carie Good
- 6 Nicholas & Heather Wolfe
- 12 Dale & Darlene Snader

#### August Song Leaders

- 3 Janet North
- 10 Virginia Schlabach
- 17 Carmeleta Beidler
- 24 Allison Fletcher
- 31 Omar Zook

#### August Childcare

- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24
- 31

#### August Coffee

- 3 Mary Guntz
- 10 Abner Schlabach
- 17 R & R Glick
- 24 Ken Glick
- 31 Nancy Pejouhy

#### August Cleaning

- 3 Fullerton
- 10 Richard & Ken Glick
- 17 Richard & Ken Glick
- 24 Randy & Carie Good
- 31 Randy & Carie Good

August Mowing - Please consider signing up

## Taftsville Tally

|     | Attendance     | Offering   |      | Attendance     | Offering   |
|-----|----------------|------------|------|----------------|------------|
| May | 4-----56-----  | \$1,622.00 | June | 1-----61-----  | \$2,810.00 |
|     | 11-----73----- | ?          |      | 8-----52-----  | 2,410.00   |
|     | 18-----58----- | 910.00     |      | 15-----58----- | 1,651.00   |
|     | 25-----49----- | 1,098.00   |      | 22-----46----- | 1,342.00   |
|     |                |            |      | 29-----        |            |

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

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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

#### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*July 21, 1968*

The memory selection for the coming weeks for the adult Sunday school class will be taken from Isaiah 55, beginning verse 6 to the end of the chapter. As in the past, a new verse will be added each Sunday until the entire passage is memorized.

*July 21, 1968*

If you have not returned your Offering Plan Opinion Coupon, please do so today.

*July 22, 1968*

Work night at the church. Sanding the walls will be the major project. Painting will start next week.

#### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*July 1, 1978*

Marie Moyer, Secretary of Christian Education for the Conference is visiting and hopes to meet with each Sunday School teacher on an individual basis.

#### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*July 13, 1983*

Youth group members are invited to a "Mystery Supper" at Karla Glick's home

*July 17, 1983*

A letter is sent, requesting the Conference Mission Board to transfer the deed for the property to the trustees at Taftsville. Three trustees had been appointed for this purpose; Brian Alderfer, Ken Glick, and Homer Welch.

*July 17, 1983*

The congregation voted to complete the basement project.

#### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*July 14, 1993*

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to increase our giving to charitable causes in the coming year by 8%.

#### 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*July 15, 1998*

Using jars of colored water, Randy illustrated effects of mixing different faith heritages. The congregation affirmed the desire to be welcoming to all, and affirmed the richness of our Mennonite heritage as a gift to be shared.

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

#### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*August 11, 1968*

We want to extend a hearty welcome to Darlene & Dale Zeigler to our congregation. They were formerly from Vernville, Penna.

#### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*August 26, 1973*

The Team Ministry was evaluated and voted to be continued. Ministers are: John Lutz, Teaching Minister; Richard and Ruth Ann Glick, Visiting Ministers; Wesley Lapp, Singing Minister; Murray Beidler, Jail Minister.

#### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*August 4, 1978*

Brian Alderfer submitted an estimate for possible work on the entryway. Some discussion followed.

#### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*August 12, 1983*

Pledges were received for the completion of the work on the basement.

*August 14, 1983*

Jeff Hackman and Rose Nussbaum are married at Bethany Birches Camp.

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### **New Address for Heather and Silver Gerety:**

119 E. Harvard St.

Fort Collins, CO 80525

*Their phone # & E-mail address will stay the same as is listed on the Taftsville address list.*

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Send your contributions for

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

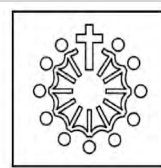
rdjcollins@mac.com

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/>