

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

Practicing Nonresistance

Elinor and I had finally arrived at the Community Home Repair (CHRP) office in Tucson, Arizona in the first week of January. After being on the road for over two weeks, we were tired of driving and were ready to settle in and get to work. We were preparing to work in "voluntary service" (VS) with the low-income home repair program for our fifth winter term. We would live for three months in our RV that we drove down, and I had packed the RV full of tools for the electrical jobs that we anticipated. We were assigned an old Ford Ranger pickup truck that was rarely used when we weren't there. It didn't like to start and never ran very well, but with a utility body and lots of storage compartments it served our purposes well. Since it hadn't been run much in the past few months it needed some work. We spent two solid days cleaning up the truck, loading all of my personal tools and CHRP tools and all the wire, cable and various electrical parts on the truck and by Saturday evening we - and the truck - were ready to get to work.

During our travels to Tucson I had been reading the Sunday School quarterly as a study and devotional time, and the week that we arrived in Tucson the lesson was the words of Jesus in Luke 6:27-36. "But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." That was a very familiar Scripture, and one which reminds us Mennonites of our historic peace tradition, specifically Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount: "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person." the text from which we get the term nonresistance".

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The uniquely biblical term "nonresistance" has largely been replaced by the more secular "pacifism", and with it has come the risk of forgetting that Jesus' words were speaking to a lot more than just opposition to war. And I was about to be abruptly reminded about that.

On Monday morning, our first day on the job we discovered that the Ford Ranger, and all my tools had been stolen - right out of the church parking lot - and as we later learned, right past us, as we sat in our RV. The truck had been parked less than 50 feet from where our RV was parked.

After the wave of disbelief passed, my human response was one of anger and resentment, that the tools of our "ministry" - what one person called our "tools of grace" - were stolen. We had been "violated". My initial thought was "We came three thousand miles at considerable expense to offer our time and gifts to the community and now the community has stolen my tools." How difficult it was in the midst of deep woundedness to distinguish between those in the community that CHRP serves, and the one person who stole our truck. "Bless those who curse you..." bah!

Applying the word “pacifism” had come to be a convenient way for me to compartmentalize my Christian responsibility as a disciple into a political, or anti-war place, while neglecting the other, often more difficult expressions of nonresistance that we all face every day. I could lament the injustices and violence of war, even as I seethed with anger toward the scoundrel who stole my tools, and violated my space. I found it relatively painless to explain the “peace position” of the Mennonite Church, – even to teach the much broader concept of nonresistance, but I bristled at the notion that Jesus calls me to forgive, and even pray for, the person who stole my tools. “*Pray for those who mistreat you...*” Harumph! I was relieved that the week was over, and I didn’t have to read that annoying Scripture any more. Now I could move on to a more “comfortable” lesson. But “Many are the plans in a man’s heart...” the psalm says, and the Lord’s purpose was about to prevail instead.

During the winter months the number of older, “winter VSers” (like us) swells. During the week we have always met together for a mid-week bible study, and this year those who organized the study decided to use the *International Sunday School* lessons – the same curriculum that I had been reading. They had decided however, that since most of us had just arrived, we would begin with the previous week’s Scripture lesson so that everyone could catch up. Yep, I had another week of: “*But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*” In the Lord’s plan I needed to do some remedial reading – and work on my “practical application”.

If that didn’t make it clear enough, I got a call from Randy the same day saying: “At Taftsville on Sunday morning we talked about what happened to you. We prayed for you and Elinor and then we decided that we would *pray for the person who stole your tools.*”

I recalled how the Taftsville congregation had responded a few years back when a contractor chose to use our parking lot as a dumping ground for his excess gravel. In typical Taftsville fashion you responded with grace and modeled nonresistance by planting our “old rugged cross” in the center of the gravel pile with a subtle gospel message attached. The very body of believers who asks me to explain nonresistance (expressed in love) to them, once again demonstrated to me what that looked like, even while I found it difficult to do the same. Well done, good and faithful servants!

*“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)*

-Ted Shattuck

## **Gather Round! for Sunday School**

*Beginning September 7, the fall quarter Sunday school classes for children will use the Gather Round curriculum from Mennonite Publishing Network. The theme is “Judgment and Hope” with Bible stories from I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, Amos, Isaiah, and Micah. Janet North will lead music for all the children at the beginning of the second hour; then they will “gather round” in two age groups - pre-schoolers in the nursery room with Victoria Danderund and Mary Guntz, and grades K-6 downstairs with Fred Schlabach, Virginia Schlabach, and Elinor Shattuck.*

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

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*Scattered far and wide in Vermont and New Hampshire and as far away as Virginia, 39 students, teachers and school staff from our church have begun a new school year. Please save this page as a reminder to pray for them now and throughout the school year. Those marked with an asterisk are in new situations.*

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### STUDENTS

**Hunter Cox** - Hartford High School - 12  
**Emily Glick** - Hartford High School - 12  
**Seth Danderund\*** - Hartford High School - 11  
**Hudson Cox** - Sharon Academy - 10  
**Dimitri Eisenberg\*** - Kearsarge Regional High School - 9  
**Gabrielle Webber\*** - Hartford High School - 9  
**Ben Beidler** - Hartford Memorial Middle School - 8  
**Victoria Danderund\*** - Hartford Memorial Middle School - 8  
**Hayden Cox** - Hartland Elementary - 8  
**Noah Wilson** - Hartland Elementary - 7  
**Hannah Cox** - Hartland Elementary - 4  
**Addison Wanner** - Crossroads Academy - 4  
**Seth Eisenberg\*** - Kearsarge Regional Elementary - 4  
**Gavin Eisenberg\*** - Kearsarge Regional Elementary - 2  
**Micah Schlabach** - Barnard Academy - 2  
**Lena Wanner** - Crossroads Academy - 1  
**Josiah Esch\*** - Brookfield Elementary School - K  
**Calvin McCrory\*** - Dothan Brook Elementary - K

### *College:*

**Laura Beidler\*** - Eastern Mennonite University  
- 1<sup>st</sup> year- Biology/Pre-Med  
**Ruth Ellen Danderund** - Eastern Mennonite University - 3<sup>rd</sup> year - nursing (BS)  
**Jane Glick\*** - Vermont Technical College  
- 1<sup>st</sup> year - nursing (RN)  
**Ross Reitz\*** - Vermont Technical College  
- 1<sup>st</sup> year - nursing (RN)

### TEACHERS

**Kristen Aloisio** - Dartmouth College  
- teaching assistant, public health dept.  
**Melissa Ayers\*** - Windsor Southeast (preschool and elementary) - speech and language  
**Skip Chalker** - Mascoma Valley Regional High School - English  
**Allison Fletcher** - Black River High School/Middle School & Ludlow Elementary School - instrumental music  
**Lynda Knisley** - Albert Bridge School - art, K-6; Mid-Vermont Christian School - art, gr. 5-12; art history  
**Nancy Pejouhy** - Woodstock Union Middle School - math, gr. 8  
**Marilyn Landis Wanner** - Crossroads Academy - gr. 1  
**Brett Wanner** - Oliverian School - music  
**Carol Whitney** - Hartford High School - math (mostly geometry this year)  
**Nick Wolfe** - Hartland Elementary - social studies, gr. 7-8

### SCHOOL STAFF

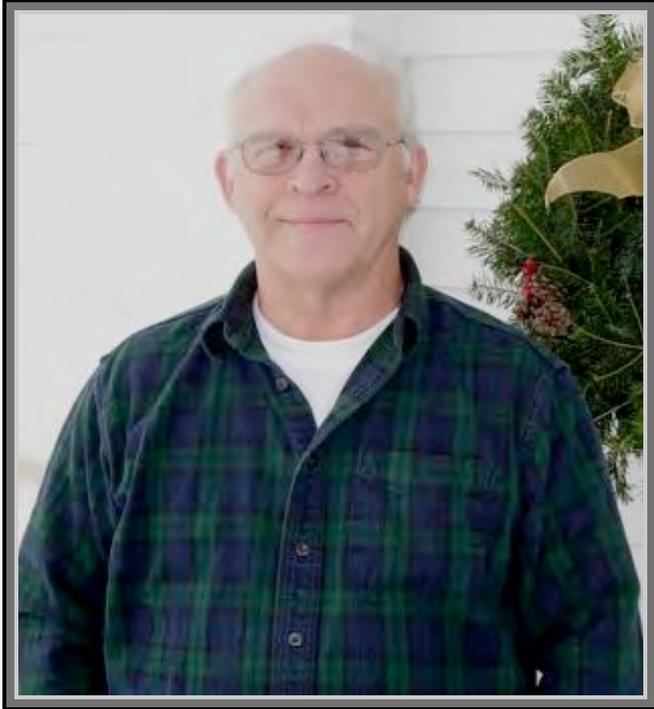
**Ann Chalker\*** - Hartford High School - coordinator, special education program  
**Jan Collins** - Upper Valley Music Center (music school) - office manager  
**Tim Good** - Dartmouth Medical School - web architect  
**Janet North** - Woodstock Union High School - counseling secretary  
**Russell Pejouhy** - Woodstock Union High School and Middle School - para-educator  
**Bob Rosenberger** - Woodstock Union High School - day custodian  
**Janice Zook** - Hartford School District - nurse

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## Household of the Month for September

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Each month we 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.



**Bob Rosenberger**

### **Favorite Verse**

The Lord said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you". *Hebrews 13:5*

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

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Be sure the date of September 27 is on your calendar as that will be the 6<sup>th</sup> annual auction to benefit Bethany Birches Camp held at Quechee Gorge Village. The preview of items will be at 9 AM with the auction beginning at 10 AM. Sanford Alderfer from Alderfer Auction Company, Hatfield, PA will again be the auctioneer.

Up for bid will be quality items gathered and produced by many local volunteers. These include Quilts, furniture, jewelry, artwork, gift certificates for local restaurant and businesses, and much more. Snacks & drinks will also be available for purchase.

There are several ways in which you can be involved in this important event.

1. Donate an item to be auctioned. We are looking for quality handmade items (artwork, furniture, quilts, toys) or new or antique items with a value of at least \$25. Notify Allen as soon as you can if you are planning on providing a donation. Donated items will be collected on Monday evening September 22 at Taftsville Chapel.
2. Volunteer your time helping to set up or take down the auction.
3. Come to the auction, bid enthusiastically, eat some great food and support Bethany Birches Camp.
4. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to attend.

Raising money in this way helps Bethany Birches keep summer camp affordable for the children of this community.

To donate your items, time or talent please contact Allen Guntz.

Dear Friends and Family,

The Philippines are beautiful and the people here have overwhelmed me with welcome. I have sweat a lot and discovered that cold showers are actually a blessing. I have been snorkeling, seen tarsier monkeys, and explored caves with boat coffins and human bones from before the Spanish colonial era.

And all of this has been wedged into my first three weeks working full-time at International Justice Mission. I love my job. Although I spend most of my time sitting in my cubicle and working on my computer, I've discovered many benefits to this arrangement. First, the air conditioning unit is in my cubicle, so I am never hot at work and sometimes even have to wear a sweater. Second, the cubicles were made for someone much shorter than me so I actually have a nice view of the whole office from my corner and can see out the window on the other side. Third, the people I work with are amazing. I feel incredibly privileged to spend an entire year with them. Finally, as I mentioned before, I really enjoy the work I am doing and find the research and information I'm putting together quite interesting.

I'm also learning a lot about the shocking and depraved world of sex trafficking. It is often hard to believe so much evil can be real, and yet I see faces every day reminding me that it is.

I was surprised at first that some of the girls rescued by IJM are initially resistant to the love, care, and opportunities provided by our amazingly kind and patient aftercare team. After being deceived, coerced, and abused for months or even years by their oppressors, I assumed all of the trafficking victims would be overflowing with gratitude upon rescue. One of our social workers told me about one girl she had been working with who would yell and scream obscenities every time they met because the police had arrested the girl's pimp. Why would this girl care about her pimp? Why was she angry that she had been brought out of the darkest of darkness into a new life of hope and promise? How can she not see that behind the 'care' of the pimp or madam in the form of basic food and shelter, she is simply an object to be sold and raped for others' profit?

I realized after thinking about it that I am actually not so very different. Huge areas of my life are still trapped in darkness and I'm generally very content to leave them there. I have convinced myself that the minimal benefits accompanying my bondage actually mean that it is a

good place for me to be, that someone is caring for me. In reality I am accepting lies about myself, seeing the world upside down.

God, the God of justice, sees my oppression and comes to rescue me into freedom, but I respond with anger. I don't want the rescue. I'd often rather stay in the dark, convinced that I am being loved because I have forgotten what love is supposed to look like. I have changed my standards for love, justice, and goodness because I am afraid that the real thing is not out there. Like many of the girls rescued by IJM, I look at my rescuer and think, if even you are not good, what next?

When it comes down to it, I am just not that good at believing God is good. If I were, my life would probably look very different. If I truly believed God is good and God is sovereign, why would I want any part of my life to stay in darkness? And yet I struggle. If it is hard for me to truly believe God is good when I have been given every blessing and opportunity imaginable, how much more difficult for someone who has nearly been given every abuse and obstacle?

Last week I went to one of the aftercare centers and heard stories from some of the girls who had been most resistant to the care of IJM. Time and time again they shared that they pushed and pushed and pushed the social workers away until they realized that they were truly being cared for, that they were not going to be abandoned, and that someone was really on their side. I'd never seen so much joy and gratitude in my life. Not only had these girls been rescued, they had come to believe they were loved. Praise the good God of love and rescue.

Thank you for all of your support. Grace and peace from the Philippines, *Haley*

**Prayer Requests:**

- 1) That I would find a church in which to fellowship that both encourages and challenges me.
- 2) That I would continue to do my work well and effectively that it may contribute to IJM's mission of seeking justice for the poorest.
- 3) For one of the social workers in our office who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

*I would love to hear from each of you!*  
**E-mails welcome: [haley.bolin@gmail.com](mailto:haley.bolin@gmail.com)**

We have just achieved a huge one-year milestone for the Health In Harmony supported clinic in Borneo-- we having started our **mobile clinic visits** that thank communities for protecting Gunung Palung National Park. I (Kinari) just got back from our first visit to two of the most remote villages we will serve. It took us more than six hours to get to the first village. As this is the dry season, we could not do the last leg by boat and had to take the 4WD truck. I have to say that "road" is really the wrong word for what we drove on - "trail" with intermittent mud pits and precarious logs to get across streams is more correct. Twice we were stuck for over an hour in huge mud bogs and by the time we got to the first village the entire team and the truck were completely splattered in mud. However, our team of two doctors and three nurses were still smiling and got right to work seeing all the patients who had eagerly gathered (for some great pictures see [www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html)).

It was awful to see just how bad the health care in these villages is. We saw over 140 patients. In the second village of Pangkalan Jihing, we treated many people who had had diarrhea for years or malaria for months and months with no treatment at all. One 20-year-old beautiful woman had had epilepsy since childhood but never received anti-seizure medication although she was now having seizures daily. She told us that her greatest desire was to be able to learn to read since she had never been able to go to school because of the seizures. She says she will still go to school if it is safe for her to leave the house.

Our lab-in-a-box truly came into its own on this trip and we diagnosed people with TB and malaria left and right. You should have seen people's smiles when we sent them to the "lab" for blood tests. Our nurse Wil, who had been trained by one of our Yale Johnson&Johnson volunteers, Julie Kiehlbach, did a wonderful job.

We came home with an entire truck full of beautiful baskets and mats that people used to pay for their health care. People were so happy with this option since many people had no money at all to pay for care. I will bring many of these back with me to the US in October and hopefully sell them to pay for people's medicines (see pictures on our website).

Everyone enthusiastically told us that they were intent on making sure there would be no more illegal logging so that we would come every month. They also said they were so grateful that this program might help them protect their watersheds. One woman said, "It is mostly people from outside who come in and log. They get all the benefit and we get all the negative effects. For health care we are willing to tell them to stop."

We are delighted to announce that we have received two grants from **Conservation Food and Health** and **Sea World Busch Gardens** and that we are in the final approval stage for a grant from Fish and Wildlife and will hopefully get it.

Even with these grants, Health In Harmony raises the majority of the funds from individual donations. Without your help, our unique human and environmental health program would not be possible. On average it costs us \$7.00 in total to see a patient (medicines, staff, supplies, building maintenance, etc). This is incredibly cheap for world standards but out-of-reach for most local people. Currently we charge on average \$2.50 for people from "green" villages. In other words, with every \$4.50 you can subsidize someone's life-saving treatment and provide them with an incentive that encourages them to stop illegal logging a critical stronghold for orangutans.

Summer is the hardest time of year for fundraising. Please contribute and help us save people while also saving orangutans!

Best wishes from Kalimantan, *Kinari Webb*

P.S. See below for what your donation could help support:

- twelve cents buys a toothbrush and teeth brushing lessons for a child
- \$4.50 subsidizes a patient's care in return for rainforest protection.
- \$5 provides birth control for a woman for one year.
- \$30 purchases the medicines for curative Tuberculosis treatment for six months.
- \$150 a month for one nurse's salary
- \$3400 a doctor's salary for one year
- \$6000 remaining to raise on a wonderful new 4WD ambulance

*Gifts to Health In Harmony can be sent to:  
Health In Harmony  
6114 La Salle Ave. Suite 752  
Oakland, CA 94611*

## Schedule for September

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

**10:45 am - Coffee and Fellowship**

**11:00 am - Sunday School - Beginning September 7**

### September

- 6 7:00 pm - Men's Breakfast / *Dana's*
- 7 9:30 am - Ekklesia
- 9 6:00 pm - MHEP bus group dinner (dinner served by Taftsville Chapel)
- 11 7:00 pm - MHEP bus group meeting (group use of chapel)
- 13 7:30 am - Women's Breakfast / *Dana's*
- 17 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting
- 27 9:00 am - Bethany Birches Camp Auction Preview
- 10:00 am - Bethany Birches Camp Auction Begins } *Quechee Gorge Village*
- 30 Deadline for October issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

#### September Birthdays

- 4 Monica Esch
- 6 Lena Wanner
- 11 Marilyn Landis-Wanner
- 13 Ben Beidler
- 14 Mary Fullerton
- 14 Abner Schlabach
- 19 Brett Wanner
- 22 Richard Glick
- 22 Haley Bolin
- 25 Bob Cormier
- 28 Russell Pejouhy
- 29 Dale Snader

#### September Anniversaries

- 28 Monica & Sheldon Esch

#### For Song Leaders & Coffee Schedules

- Check bulletin board in Millen Room

#### September Childcare

- 7 Mary Guntz
- 14 Carie Good
- 21 Janet North
- 28 Nancy Pejouhy

#### September Cleaning

- 7 Beidler
- 14 Guntz
- 21 Guntz
- 28 Hackman

#### September Mowing

- 7 Nancy Pejouhy
- 14 Richard Glick
- 21 Bob Collins
- 28 You?

### Taftsville Tally

|             | Attendance                                                  | Offering  |             | Attendance                 | Offering   |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>July</b> | 6 -----BBCamp-----                                          |           | <b>Aug.</b> | 3 -----46-----             | \$1,317.00 |
|             | 13 -----60-----                                             | \$2,52.00 |             | 10 -----Groton Camping---- |            |
|             | 20 -----63-----                                             | 1,302.00  |             | 17 -----36-----            | 2,313.00   |
|             | 27 -----48-----                                             | 1,454.00  |             | 24 -----43-----            | 1,692.00   |
|             | <i>Birthday Song/Offering for July &amp; August \$83.00</i> |           |             | 31 -----63-----            | 2,585.00   |

*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

*September 8, 1968*

Today everyone is invited to help sing praises of our Lord at the Guthrie Home and Woodstock jail. Your presence will certainly bring joy to their hearts.

*September 15, 1968*

Carol Fisher and Ruth Lutz are chosen to organize a women's activity group.

*September 26, 1968*

The ladies of the church will meet at the home of Mrs. John Lutz to discuss the starting of a Homemakers Club.

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 10, 1978*

The congregation voted to have Dan Bartlett stay on for another year as full-time minister.

*September 19, 1978*

The council discussed the pros and cons concerning the frequency of Congregational Meetings. It is thought that quarterly meetings would be best. And what can we do about the neighborhood youth? How can we attract them?

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 1983*

Candlelighters quilted the baby quilt we had embroidered with squares of animals, and sewed strips between the blocks. Mary finished the quilting and bound it. Ruth Ann delivered it to Glenda.

*September 11, 1983*

Please sign up today if you are able to be part of a sponsoring group from our church for Cambodian Refugees.

*September 14, 1983*

If the exterminator is successful in ridding the church attic of bats, there will be a \$100 bill from the batman.

*September 14, 1983*

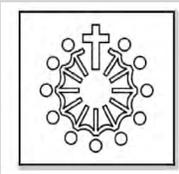
There is much conversation concerning a piano being available for church services. The council is emphatic that piano should not accompany regular singing, for fear of losing the acapella gift. The month of October will be seen as a trial month.

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 23, 1993*

Council approved the purchase of calendars with our church name on them. The calendars will be mailed to Taftsville residents as well as distributed to families in our congregation.

## 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/>

Send your contributions for

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

[rdjgcollins@mac.com](mailto:rdjgcollins@mac.com)

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach