

# 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

**"And as they went, they were made clean."** Luke 17:14b

Real healing is most often real slow. Most illnesses that we deal with, whether physical, emotional or relational, develop slowly over time and at some point finally become so evident that we are unable to ignore them for what they are. When we finally go to the doctor, or a friend, or a trusted advisor, what we often hope will happen is a quick fix; a speedy return to "normal" that will relieve or manage the immediate discomfort. But that's usually a reprieve, not a release. It's like taking an aspirin to relieve a headache caused by hunger. We've made the symptoms better for ourselves by numbing the signals that something is wrong, but the aspirin has no nutritive value to address the real cause of the problem. All we have done is postpone the real need to sit down and take the time to eat a healthy meal. Only then is the hunger headache healed, and even then we only gradually become aware of its absence.

Quite understandably, we can bring "quick fix" urgency to prayer for healing. We joke with each other by quoting the obvious "Lord, give me patience, and give it now!" Scripture does indeed record events where immediate healing occurred, and it's my belief that the Lord can and does sometimes do that still. These are signs of His power and authority as well as His mercy, and they should stir up in us a sense of awe and wonder and renewed faith in His sheer bigness.

More often though, both in the Bible and in our real life, healing in all its forms seems to move at a slow pace far outside our control. We become aware of it dimly, slowly, and often cautiously. That healing has occurred is sometimes only noticed in the smallest hints that something is different somehow. But we know in our heart of hearts: Real change has happened, and it's change that is better than the application of principles, distractions, effort or self-deception. It's a change that is solid and trustworthy, and it has occurred "as we went." It's a change that reveals the reality that Jesus has moved in deeper with us, and has occupied the space we used to stubbornly reserve for our most highly prized coping strategies. These are signs of His relentless love and kindness, and stir up in us a sense of awe and wonder and renewed faith in His sheer closeness.

I'm talking about myself, of course, and something of what it has been like over the last number of months as the Lord has helped me let go of some of the "aspirins" (idols) in my deep heart and has replaced them with Himself. Something has shifted, something deep and needed, and it has been happening "as I went." All this has occurred in the context of the incredible community of faith at Taftsville that does not put its broken members "outside the camp" until they are "better", but continues to walk along the way during times of uncertainty, brokenness and silence. I'm far from done, but the direction is good.

So, I'd like to "return and give thanks." (Luke 17:15) Thanks to you all for allowing God so deeply in to your hearts and lives that you could so graciously and generously extend to me the spacious place needed

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for slow, but real, healing to begin. Thank you for not settling for better coping skills, but holding out for God to work in His way and time. We all agreed to call the last few months a “leave of absence”, but I sure experienced it as an ongoing atmosphere of grace extended through your constant presence. God has, and is, using you to bring healing and hope that is real.

And so also, please join me in joyous praise and thanks to God who is “faithful to complete what He has begun” and who will “perfect that which concerns us.” Praise and thanks to Him who is able to do “immeasurably more than we could ask or think.” By His wounds we are healed.

In joyful gratitude, *Randy Good*

Ps: Psalm 31 & 32, Isa. 53, and Psalm 40 have been close friends lately.

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## “What is This Place?”

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### Call to worship – Sunday Oct. 12

by *Fred Schlabach*

#### What is this place that we come to every Sunday?

As I was thinking about this, two words came to mind. Sanctuary and refuge.

#### *sanc.tu.ar.y* *n*

1. A safe place, especially for people being persecuted.

#### *ref.uge* *n*

1. A sheltered or protected state safe from something threatening, harmful or unpleasant.
2. A place, or sometimes a person, offering protection or safe shelter from something.

Even though we live in a place where persecution is scarce, I believe that our church is both a sanctuary and a refuge from the distractions of everyday life.

Here there is no TV bombarding us with sound bites, telling us what to think and do and what products we need to buy to be popular.

Here is a place of quiet rest if that’s what we need.

Here is a place of human contact if we need that.

Here is a place where our children can learn and play in a safe environment.

Here is a place where we can learn and exchange ideas and grow spiritually.

Here is a place where we can celebrate and share our gifts.

Here is a place where we can break bread together.

Here is a place where we can heal.

Here is a place where we can gather together as a family of believers to worship God.

We all need different things in our Christian journeys. My hope is that you will find sanctuary and refuge and whatever else you need here.



Pastor Randy Good shares a dialogue sermon with the congregation.

### BOUNDARIES

by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend

I tend to place a confidence in authors who are also counselors; such a variety of human "stories" have come their way. And so it is with Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend who invite Christians to protect the love in our relationships with the spiritual discipline of boundaries. Their book is organized and easy to follow. However, as counselors, they are savvy about the motivations behind some of our habits, which look so generous and loving. Some of our "gifts" of time and energy simply drain us, or create anger, or bring old resentments to the surface...and this is the EASY part! The universally hard work of setting limits, especially for Christians, takes planning and practice (and at this point, we would rather pick up a simpler story).

The authors define the concept of "stewardship" for us again; we own nothing. The hours, abilities, resources in our lives are on loan and it is our biblical responsibility to protect these treasures until the Owner returns. When people make demands on the resources in our care, our urge to give can be motivated by love, rather than a fear of judgment, or a bid for approval (not that we have anything remotely like these reactions ourselves!) BOUNDARIES is not just "helpful", allowing us to post pone our realignment until a more convenient day. Rather, it insists that we become honest and practical, willing to carefully straighten what has become limp, or distorted over time.

**Carol Whitney accepts a book for the church library from Ray Hacker as a "thank you" to our congregation from Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania. The book, *This Teaching I Present* by Mary Jane Lederach Hershey, features Mennonite folk art called fraktur.**



### WAKING THE DEAD

by John Eldredge

After reading anything by John Eldredge, you may be hooked on his insight, enthusiasm, depth, humor; it's hard to select just one attribute, which makes his writing so complete and memorable. His premise here is that Christians do not recognize earthly life as a battle to maintain our freedom and heart. God said, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you", but Eldredge explains that we can live this out in oblivion. We either wake up to the vigorous life of love, which God plans for us, or we muddle around in a fog of sadness and confusion, "dead" to spiritual vitality, asleep when the enemy attacks.

With portions of Romans and II Corinthians as background music, Eldredge arranges his fervent either / or dialogue to include both stories of victorious living in spite of our dangerous world, and stories of "spiritual amnesia" in spite of God's provision for His world. Reading Eldredge becomes a deeply personal experience. The prayers included at the end of all the metaphors are compelling. A published author, a friend of mine, said pointedly "this is an important book", and I agree.

- Lynda Knisley, *Librarian*

## **THIS TEACHING I PRESENT**

by Mary Jane Lederach Hershey

**THE PHOTO of Carol Whitney accepting the MHEP Tour Group's thank you gift** (shown on previous page) is a wonderful book, which includes full-color photographs of more than 100 pieces of **fraktur**.

"**Fraktur**, an exquisite script formed with ornate letters and highly decorated borders, was created for nearly 90 consecutive years (1747-1836) by a series of teachers in the Mennonite schools in communities northwest of Philadelphia, PA."<sup>1</sup> "Because Mennonites were not known for producing paintings and other two-dimensional art, this well-developed practice of making quill-lettered bookplates, certificates, and rewards is particularly outstanding."<sup>2</sup> As most of these frakturs were in German, having the English translation of the text available in this book allows us to appreciate them even more.

Also included in this book is a section on **Christopher Dock**, an outstanding teacher during this time, which created many frakturs for his students. **Christopher Dock Mennonite High School** in Lansdale, PA was named after him. Quite a few of us at Taftsville Chapel were either a student or teacher at Christopher Dock H. S., so we have a definite interest in this history.

### **Correction to October issue of Taftsville Current**

*My sincere apologies to Virginia Schlabach for cutting short the ending of a paragraph in her article entitled **Taftsville hosts MHEP tour**. Below you will find the corrected, complete paragraph. The area in gray was deleted in error. - Jan, editor*

#### **Corrected Paragraph:**

On Wednesday afternoon the Mennonite connection continued as the group ate lunch and spent several hours at Bethany Birches Camp. The lunch was catered by Bethany Mennonite Church and afterwards Brandon and Amber Bergey showed a video and talked about the camp and Gwen Groff shared about the history and present ministries of the Bethany congregation. Some folks did an easy walking tour around the camp and a few others went by gator to see the tree houses. The coach also made a brief stop at Bethany Church afterwards before going to Sugarbush Farm where Mary Guntz was waiting with maple syrup samples to taste.

I received permission from Mary Jane Lederach Hershey, the author to include one of the fractures, Plate 98, in this newsletter. Since the text is in German, I am including here the English text from the book.

- Jan Collins

### **Plate 98 Translation (H416)**

**Dear child use the time well, and guard yourself  
against unsuitable matters. Sirach 4:23**

**Time leads us to eternity,  
And no one is exempt.  
We must all wander  
From one day to the next.**

**Happy is he who lives his life  
In godliness  
For he who wastes valuable time  
And dreams it away in the sleep of sin**

**And does not awake before his end,  
He has spent his time poorly.  
Because there is nothing more precious than time.  
So, yes, one should strive**

**Especially, earnestly  
To live in the fear of God.  
For we must give an account,  
Of our deeds on the last day,  
Which no one will escape.**

**Whatever we have done in time  
Will determine the reward given  
by the Judge in eternity.  
Death and life depend on it.**

**God wants to prepare us.  
And escort us by his Spirit  
So that we live our life  
In godliness.**

(alphabet)

**Written the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 1818**

<sup>1,2</sup> Quotes from "This Teaching I Present"



Plate 98

**Vorschrift**

December 18, 1818

[Salford]

By an unidentified schoolmaster

**Health in Harmony** October 25<sup>th</sup> email

Our system of healthcare incentives for conservation efforts is now fully implemented! **This past month we provided rewards in the form of mobile clinic visits to “green” communities around Gunung Palung National Park**, or those communities that kept the park forests next to their villages free of illegal logging. Life in remote Borneo is usually a bumpy ride, but we’re amazed and happy to report that the launch of ASRI’s incentive program was a smooth one (see [www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html) for this newsletter with pictures).

Best of all, we saw an unprecedented success in the village of Tanjung Gunung, an illegal logging hotspot for the last 20 years on the border of Gunung Palung National Park. When reminded that his village would not receive a mobile clinic visit if it were not “green”, the village chief reacted strongly and said, “I have been hiking around the forest myself and I know there isn't any illegal logging going on in our borders with the park. We promised you we would stop, and we did!” The National Park office confirmed Pak Zubir’s claim that Tanjung Gunung, for the first time in a very long time, was “green.” So, Tanjung Gunung received a first mobile clinic visit in mid-September that included medical treatment and free eyeglasses distribution. We saw 63 patients during a full day of work in a makeshift clinic staged in the village chief’s living room and front yard. When our newly-ordered 4WD ambulance arrives in December, green villages will also get ambulance service for just the cost of the gas.

Your support has allowed us to do this work - thank you all for making this possible!

There are many things to work out in the incentive system and I imagine it will go through multiple changes and improvements, but we are very pleased at its initial success. Most of the villages around Gunung Palung are still “red”, or participating in illegal logging, but most tell us they are eager to be green. **We are confident that our community outreach efforts and continued improvements of the incentive system will enable the ratio of green to red villages to increase over time.**

As another aspect of our work to protect planetary health by protecting the rainforest, and to help illegal loggers find alternative livelihoods, we are now embarking on a study of the potential for obtaining carbon finance to pay for reforestation activities. Our hope is that this mechanism could sustain our healthcare program, which links the clinic to reforestation work as a means for patients to cover their healthcare costs. Such a funding strategy would represent a way for wealthy businesses and individuals of the world to help the less fortunate. **Carbon credits could be a means for polluters to pay for the healthcare of poor communities, and, in return, these communities would help protect and restore the rich forests that benefit us all.**

Best wishes from Indonesia,  
Kinari Webb

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## AMBS president announces resignation

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By Mary E. Klassen, *Director of Communications*, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

*Published in the 9-22-08 issue of the Mennonite Weekly Review – Used by permission*



Elkhart, Ind. (AMBS) - **Nelson Kraybill**, president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, has announced his intent to step down as president of the seminary in summer 2009.

Kraybill explained that he hopes to move into another assignment, although he has no specific plans at this time. "If God grants me health, I hope to take on a new assignment in the church to which I can dedicate a decade of my life," he said.

Ray Friesen, chair of the AMBS board and co-pastor of Emmaus Mennonite Church, Wymark, Sask., said, "Nelson has given strong, visionary leadership to AMBS over the 12 years that he has served as president, positioning the institution well for the future. His legacy includes excellent relations with the Mennonite Church in the USA and Canada as well as the wider church, a new library on campus, and a new strategic plan for programs characterized by academic excellence, practical soundness, and responsiveness to the changing faces of society, church and ministry. Nelson is leaving at a time when his relationships on and off campus, including with the board, are very strong. This makes saying "Good-bye" more difficult but also means that the seminary, its administration, the board and the relationship among all three are very healthy."

Kraybill has served as president of AMBS since January 1997. "The past twelve years for me at AMBS have been hard-working, rich and rewarding," he said. "There is no negative factor that has precipitated my decision for vocational change. I believe AMBS is on a trajectory of productive partnership with the church and of stable or growing enrollment with the kind of students the church needs."

Friesen reports the AMBS board will establish a timetable and process for a presidential search when it meets October 16-18.

When Kraybill began as president of AMBS, he brought a valuable combination of experience as a pastor, scholar and mission worker. He served as director of the London (England) Mennonite Centre for six years immediately before coming to AMBS. **Earlier, from 1983 to 1987, he served as pastor of Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship, Taftsville, Vermont.** He earned a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., in 1992, and has written and spoken extensively on two primary areas of study, the early church and the book of Revelation.

Kraybill and Ellen, his wife, are the parents of two young adult daughters. They are members of Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart.

### Poem by Wendell Berry:

*What stood will stand, though all be fallen,  
The good return that time has stolen.  
Though creatures groan in misery,  
Their flesh prefigures liberty  
To end travail and bring to birth  
Their new perfection in new earth.  
At word of that enlivening  
Let the trees of the woods all sing  
And every field rejoice, let praise  
Rise up out of the ground like grass.  
What stood, whole in every piecemeal  
Thing that stood, will stand though all  
Fall -- field and woods and all in them  
Rejoin the primal Sabbath's hymn.*

- Submitted by Carie Good

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## Schedule for November

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**Each Sunday morning:** 9:30 am – Worship Service  
10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship  
11:00 am – Sunday School

### November

- 1 7:00 pm – Men’s Breakfast / Sugar House
- 7 & 8 Franconia Conference Assembly in PA
- 8 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / Mountain Creamery-Woodstock
- 23 9:30 am – Thanksgiving service / Communion
- 24 Deadline for December issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
- 30 9:30 am – Song Service

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### November Birthdays

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 8 Toby Deitrich   | 17 Rosalind Andreas |
| 9 Emily Glick     | 22 Allison Fletcher |
| 15 Amelia Cormier | 23 Gabrielle Webber |
| 16 Bob Collins    |                     |

### November Childcare

- 2 Carmeleta Beidler
- 9 Mary Guntz
- 16 Nancy Pejouhy
- 23 Janet North
- 30 Carie Good

### November Coffee

- 2 Karen Cox
- 9 Mary Guntz
- 16 Abner Schlabach
- 23 R & R Glick
- 30 Ken Glick

### November Cleaning

- 2 Pejouhy
- 9 North/Schlabach
- 16 North/Schlabach
- 23 Shattuck
- 30 Shattuck

### November Song Leaders

- 2 Virginia Schlabach
- 9 Janet North
- 16 Omar Zook
- 23 Richard Glick
- 30 Allison Fletcher

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## Household of the Month for October

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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.



**Caren, Dave & Clara Swanson**

### Favorite Verses & Story

**DAVE:** Philippians 2:5-7a

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.*

**CAREN:** Matthew 5:3-10

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**CLARA:** Story of Jesus calming the storm

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 3, 1968*

It was a consensus that the insect problem in our auditorium is bothersome and distracting enough to warrant action. Proper steps are to be taken to install some type of insect catcher.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 8, 1973*

Since the church sign is being repainted, now would be the time to change the name from Taftsville Mennonite Church, as discussed a number of times previously. The church council seems to keep coming back to the name 'Taftsville Chapel'.

*November 17, 1973*

Reminder: We still have Candlelighters Cookbooks for sale. Please see Ruth Ann.

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 24, 1978*

A new Educational Fund account is started at Marble Savings Bank, with interest money to be given each year for scholarships for our young people going to Christian school.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 1, 1983*

The foundation under the porch is in poor condition due to water from the roof. An extra \$500 is needed to replace part of the old foundation and raise the level of grade.

*November 20, 1983*

Victor and Martha Glick open their home to anyone who wishes to watch the ABC drama "The Day After". Nelson will lead a discussion time after the program.

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 11, 1993*

Marty suggested a change in the plan for distributing our calendars. Instead of mailing them we will hand them out to the Self Help Store customers.

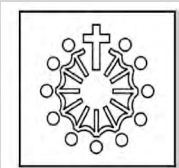
#### Taftsville Tally

|           | Attendance | Offering   |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| October 5 | 51         | \$1,230.00 |
| 12        | 56         | 1,441.13   |
| 19        | 65         | 1,405.00   |
| 26        | 31         | 891.00     |

*Birthday offering \$55.98*

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

### 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