

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

October 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

| | |
|--|---|
| Haiti..... | 1 |
| Taftsville Offerings & MCC..... | 1 |
| "How I see it" Webber editorial..... | 2 |
| Taftsville Host MHEP tour group..... | 3 |
| Appalachian Trail Hike..... | 4 |
| "One Step More"..... | 4 |
| Bits 'n Pieces..... | 5 |
| Household for September - C. Whitney..... | 5 |
| News from the Gerety's..... | 5 |
| Winefred Beth Deitrich..... | 5 |
| Bethany Birches Camp..... | 6 |
| "Out on a limb"..... | 6 |
| Benefit Auction..... | 6 |
| In this world ~ In the Kingdom of God..... | 7 |
| October Schedule..... | 8 |
| Birthdays & Anniversaries..... | 8 |
| Childcare & Coffee..... | 8 |
| Cleaning..... | 8 |
| Tally for September..... | 8 |
| Tidbit Trivia..... | 8 |

Helping the people of Haiti

Haiti offerings

During offering time throughout the summer, the children happily carried global mission banks up and down the aisles while people emptied their pockets and purses of change and, sometimes, paper money (which, folded, fit nicely into the slots) for food aid for Haiti. Heather Wolfe, who had spent time in Haiti, helped the children understand what life is like in that country and the causes of hunger there. The offerings, which totaled \$646.55, will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee. Recent hurricanes have caused extensive damage of homes and crops as the following MCC news release explains. – Virginia Schlabach

MCC responds to hurricane destruction in Haiti

AKRON, Pa. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is working with a partner organization, Sant Kreyen Developman Entegre (Christian Center for Integrated Development, known as SKDE), to provide water, food, medicines, and temporary housing for people in Haiti who are affected by the damage and flooding from the recent hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike.

Haiti, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is especially vulnerable to the effects of storms, particularly in multiple succession. And now, the earliest information from Haitian authorities reports hundreds of deaths, even as they acknowledge that they haven't reached many areas of the country. All 10 districts in Haiti were affected by the hurricanes.

People stranded on rooftops clung to one another as they watched their crops being ruined and their livestock dying. Because their homes had already washed away, others waded the flooded streets, holding their belongings on their heads, while clutching the hands of their children. With bridges collapsed and thick, muddy roads impassable, finding food and drinkable water is nearly impossible. The flooding has affected the existing water systems, making them unsafe. SKDE reports that several of its agricultural cooperatives were destroyed.

MCC's initial emergency commitment is for \$35,000. SKDE's initial assessment is that 1,000 people in their cooperatives are in desperate need. There are plans to reach these people with packages of food, water and medicine. The medicine will be used to treat 200 persons for infectious diseases. In addition, temporary housing will be found for 10 families.

David Martin, MCC material resources manager, confirmed there is a scheduled container going to Haiti with a Sept. 28 load date. This was going to be school kits and canned meat, but it will now include some health kits for flood victims. Donations to MCC should be designated, "International Hurricanes" and may be made online at mcc.org/donate or at any MCC office. - Cathryn Clinton (adapted from Sept. 12 release)



Haiti – How I see it (Editorial by Kent Webber)

Kent, Gabbi's uncle (Amelia's brother), is currently working in Haiti and has been exposed to some of the worst poverty situations in the world. His sharing of the situation there can better help us understand the severity of the poverty and how it creates a negative domino effect that seems to loom over the country. – Editor's comment

How you live in Haiti depends on which part of the economic strata you happen to belong to. For a small number, this means a life of privilege such as a big house on the hill with 24-hour hired security, maids, children who study abroad, etc. For an extremely small middle class, this means an ample and acceptable life. For the vast majority, this means life at or below the poverty level of \$2.00 per day. You may have electricity if you are cunning enough to tap into the tangled nest of wires at the pole. You most likely do not have plumbing, and you get your water from a community tap, carrying it home in buckets or some sort of water jug. Your toilet is wherever you can find it, perhaps the middle of the road.

If you are poor, you do whatever you must to survive. From dawn until dusk you try to hawk some sort of wares...Anything from lamp oil, to cell phone credits or maybe you wait at the street corner to rub the dirt off a passing vehicle with your filthy cloth hoping for some sort of hand out. There is always the temptation of criminal behavior like theft, robbery, and prostitution, whatever can bring in some currency.

The one expendable resource seems to be humanity itself. Children beg (quite persistently). Many kids are out on the streets with no place to go, and no one to fend for them or love them. Everybody wants something, and it is impossible to go anywhere without someone asking you for something.



The people are full of personality. Their persistence is endearing and you wish you could give them all something, but of course you cannot because you have your own family to worry about, your own debts, your own day-to-day tribulations.

It seems like giving things to the population is the best way to go, but the more you give, the more they want – it's never enough. Flood victims supposedly dying of starvation refuse high-energy biscuits because "that is not what we like to eat." If you prefer to teach someone to fish rather than simply give them fish, they may not stick around to learn. International aid ends up for sale in the market, along with the clothes donated by well meaning people from the developed world.

The government is dysfunctional, more concerned about obtaining /maintaining power, status and wealth than in caring for the citizenry. More energy goes into power squabbles than actually goes into running the country. You want to promote reform... You want to help establish law and order, but in a country where the police got their jobs so that they could take advantage of the population and make a few extra bucks, it is a difficult endeavor.



The Streets and Market Places of Haiti

Photos taken by Kent Webber

Taftsville hosts MHEP tour group

Taftsville Mennonite Chapel hosted a tour group of 50 people for dinner on September 9 and again for a “meet Vermont Mennos” program on September 11. The tour, sponsored by Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania (MHEP), was planned cooperatively by Ray Hacker and Abner and Virginia Schlabach. The purpose was two-fold: to learn about Mennonites in Vermont and to experience some of the beauty and history of the state. Abner and Virginia served as guides on the coach as the group toured various sites at Plymouth Notch, Barre, Montpelier, and South Royalton on Wednesday and Thursday. Blue skies, fluffy clouds, crisp autumn air, and a tinge of fall color made perfect conditions for outdoor activities.

The welcoming dinner was catered by the Hospitality Committee with contributions of food and labor by many others. A number of the guests complimented us on the attractive atmosphere for the meal with the tables set with colorful tablecloths, flowers, and individual salads. The menu of garden salads, honey baked chicken, baked ham, Vermont baked beans, steamed broccoli, homemade rolls and fruit pies, coffee and tea received high praise on the evaluation forms and the best rating of all the meals the group was served on the trip. Thanks to the people who baked pies, rolls, and beans and to Heather and Nick Wolfe, Fred Schlabach, Karen and Hannah Cox, Russell Pejouhy, and Allen and Mary Guntz for cheerfully serving and cleaning up. After dinner the group gathered in our sanctuary to hear John Lutz talk about the history of the Mennonite witness in Vermont. The chairs, still arranged in the Ekklesia circle, offered a pleasant, informal setting and Monica’s stained glass panels received many appreciative comments.

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

Three unscripted Mennonite connections happened: In Plymouth Notch some of the group met Doris Earle from Bethany, delivering mail to the post office. Betsy Luce at Sugarbush Farm told of attending Bible school at Taftsville Chapel in her childhood and said that she still keeps in touch with “the pastor with the beautiful singing voice”(Arden Godshall). The guide at Rock of Ages granite quarry said he used to live in Ludlow and knew Lloyd Moyer, the Mennonite well driller.

The final evening gathering at Taftsville Chapel included an overview of the congregation by Randy Good followed by personal sharing by Mary Fullerton, Carol Whitney, Dave Beidler, Ted and Elinor Shattuck, Omar and Janice Zook, and Randy and Carie. Some of the guests summarized their feelings with written comments on the evaluation forms: “Menos are neat people....Carol was a real trip - she reflected all the love and joy of a true saint....Menos gave stories of their faith walks - very inspirational.” Two couples also expressed their appreciation with generous checks for our church’s ministries. In addition to building goodwill and understanding, the church also realized a significant amount (after expenses) for the catered meal, and MHEP gave a “thank you” book to the church library.

– Virginia Schlabach



Mary Fullerton and Arden Godshall

Appalachian Trail Hike

The Appalachian Trail is one of the premier hiking trails in the U.S. running 2,175 from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. We in the Upper Valley are fortunate to have it crossing Vermont right on our doorstep. It crosses VT Rte.12 within one-fourth mile of Randy and Carie's house, then crosses the Stage Rd., Pomfret Rd., Cloudland Rd., and Joe Ranger Rd. in Pomfret, before going on to cross the new bridge over the White River and then Rte. 14 at West Hartford, the latter within a mile of the Guntz and Beidler family homes.



On September 3, a beautiful clear day, four men from Taftsville Chapel, - Richard Glick, Allen Guntz, Omar Zook, and I, Abner Schlabach - gathered at the West Hartford bridge to hike the next section of the AT going north. Starting at an elevation of 400 ft. at the White River, the trail crosses under I-89, then winds upward to slightly over 1600 feet on Griggs Mountain before winding on, up and down, until it reaches Norwich. Near halfway, short sides trail leads to the Happy Hill shelter, which is one of many that provide an overnight roof for long-distance hikers; we spent a short rest time there.

During the hike we met several thru hikers and also a group of about 15 first-year Dartmouth students who were on a three-day hike. The Dartmouth Outing Club maintains a large section of the trail through this area.

We thought our hike would be 5-6 miles and were wondering why it took us over six hours, but in checking AT literature after the hike, Allen discovered that we had actually hiked 8.3 miles as well as the side trek to the shelter. It was a wonderful day of exercise and fellowship, which we all enjoyed. - Abner Schlabach

Hike Photos by Allen Guntz

One Step More

Years ago I worshipped with the Old Order River Brethren in Pennsylvania, and during the Ekklesia in September I read these words to a hymn from their hymn book. It was always my favorite. Our singing style was very different from the four-part singing that we do at Taftsville. Our hymnbook had no notes, and a song leader began the hymn, which was sung similar to a chant, and very slowly. The title was simply: One Step More. - Ted Shattuck

What though before me all is dark,
Why should I long to see?
If God gives light for one step more
'Tis quite enough for me

I find each onward step I take,
The gloom clears from the next,
And though 'tis very dark beyond,
Why should I be perplexed?

If mercy veils my fate from me,
Why should I murmuring go?
My present lot might harder be
Did I the future know.

With childish faith I'll walk along
My path while here I dwell,
And trust my future lot to Him
Who doeth all things well.

Thus step by step I'll travel on,
Not looking far before;
Trusting that I shall always have
Just light for one step more.



Household of the Month for October

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.



Carol Whitney

Favorite Verse

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... *Hebrews 12:1+*

Health In Harmony Update

The last month has seen the coming together of many parts of Project ASRI's human and environmental health program in West Kalimantan, Indonesia – achievements that are only possible because of your support. To see some of the **major highlights** go to www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html

- *Antonia, Brita, and Kinari Webb*

News from Silver & Heather Gerety

- We've signed a lease on an apartment, so as of Oct 1st, we have a new address!

128 S. Mason Street # 2
Fort Collins, CO 80524

- Silver's got a job here teaching fourth grade at a charter school. He likes it a lot, but it's a lot of work (he has thirty kids in his class!), and the first year teaching is always hard.

- And, an even bigger piece of news – we're expecting! It's still very early (due date should be some time around May 13th), but we're very, very excited!

- We also found a church that we really like. It's a house church, and it's pretty small (about a dozen families), but it's a really great community of Christians who are really dedicated to their faith. It's not a Mennonite church, but in many ways it is very Anabaptist; they put a lot of emphasis on the early church.

Announcing the birth of Winifred Beth Deitrich, born at 10:31pm at DHMC. She weighed 8 lbs 13 oz and was 19 and 3/4 in. long. Toby and Rebekah state that "Overall we are doing well and really appreciate the love and support, the meals and the prayers you have sent our way. Please pray for us as this is a huge transition, with two little ones not walking!"



Bethany Birches Camp

My 2008 Summer at Bethany Birches Camp - Out on a LIMB *Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Once again I had the privilege of being the camp chef at Bethany Birches Camp in Plymouth, VT. I started the day after school ended and worked for the next eight weeks in the kitchen providing meals and snacks for hungry campers, counselors, staff, and volunteers. Some of you have helped out in the kitchen and at the camp during the camping season. You also have shared in the blessings.

Attendance at the camp has increased, and so have food costs. The heat in the kitchen can be pretty hot, but the smiles on campers' and staff's faces make all the effort worth it.

This summer I had an assistant for seven out of the eight weeks. Evan Moyer from Harleysville, PA did a great job keeping my kitchen clean and organized. He also finished each day putting out supper and snacks. Still, I found myself many days working eight to twelve hours baking bread, cookies, and putting together meal crates

for all the campers and feeding staff and volunteers. Yet knowing that a very important ministry that has impacted so many has been a blessing to me each time I entered the kitchen.

I'd like to thank all of you who have supported the camp with your prayers, deeds and finances. You help make possible this very important ministry to young people. Thank you for your abundant giving that keeps the cost for campers within reach for so many families. Taftsville has been a strong supporter of the camp for many years. I thank God for you all. I have seen the impact on children who have seen the love of God touch their lives. God can use all of us in some way to love people into His Kingdom.

Please keep the camp in your prayers and thoughts as they plan for the days to come. Great things are happening for God's Kingdom.

- Russell Pejouhy



Thanks to all who contributed to the benefit auction, especially our Auctioneers, Sandy Alderfer and his father, Sanford Alderfer.

Total Raised
\$20,346!



Allison, Ben, Gabbi, Nancy & Victoria selling baked goods & drinks. The "Happy Valley Boys" showed up to serenade Sandy. But where are the boys?!

In this world

In the Kingdom of God

| | |
|--|--|
| There are no absolutes | There is one great Absolute <i>Acts 5:29</i> |
| Seeing is believing..... | Believing is seeing <i>John 20:29</i> |
| You must appear to be wise | You are willing to appear a fool <i>1 Cor. 3:18</i> |
| You try to save your life | You must lose your life <i>Matt. 16:25</i> |
| You try to be first | The first shall be last <i>Mark 9:34-35</i> |
| You try to be great | You are willing to be least <i>Mark 10:43</i> |
| You try to become rich..... | You share so all may have enough <i>Acts 4:32-34</i> |
| You try to become the leader..... | You try to be the servant <i>Mark 10:44</i> |
| You seek to be exalted..... | You humble yourself <i>Luke 14:11</i> |
| You look to your own interests..... | You look to other's interests <i>Phil. 2:4</i> |
| You think you are most important..... | You consider others better than yourself <i>Phil 2:3</i> |
| You want to receive much..... | You seek to give much <i>Acts 20:35</i> |
| You make good deeds known..... | You keep good deeds secret <i>Matt. 6:3,4</i> |
| Love is a conditional feeling | Love is a person – unconditional <i>John 13:34</i> |
| Love grows cold | Love never fails <i>1 Cor. 13:8</i> |
| You hate your enemies | You love your enemies <i>Matt. 5:44</i> |
| You seek revenge | You forgive as you have been forgiven <i>Col. 3:13</i> |
| You cover your mistakes..... | You confess your sins <i>Prov. 28:13</i> |
| You emphasize human power | You emphasize the power of the Holy Spirit <i>Zech. 4:6</i> |
| You become divided over religion..... | You become united in Jesus Christ <i>James 1:27</i> |
| You try to change others..... | You change yourself <i>Matt. 7:1-5</i> |
| You say many things impossible | You say all things are possible <i>Mark 9:23</i> |
| You seek peace by negotiating..... | Peace is achieved by being one in the Spirit <i>Eph. 4:3</i> |
| Recognition is important..... | Anonymity is a valued goal <i>Matt. 6:1-4</i> |
| You try to convert others..... | You are concerned for your own conversion <i>Ps. 139:23</i> |
| You become defeated by suffering..... | You grow by suffering <i>James 1:2</i> |
| You depend on your own way | Your strength is perfected in weakness <i>2 Cor. 12:9</i> |
| You're a respecter of persons | You do not value one above another <i>Acts 10:34-35</i> |
| You avoid your problems & fail | You embrace your problems & succeed <i>1 Peter 1:6</i> |
| You want others to do things for you..... | You want to do things for others <i>Matt. 7:12</i> |
| You serve many gods..... | You serve only one God <i>John. 17:20-22</i> |
| You relate to people like yourself..... | Your capacity grows to relate to all people <i>Acts 1:8</i> |
| You discuss institutions, organizations..... | You talk about people & geography <i>John 3:16</i> |
| You think you know people's hearts..... | Only God knows people's hearts <i>Prov. 21:2</i> |
| You think more is better | You think Jesus is enough <i>John 15:5</i> |
| You seek to promote yourself | You seek to promote others <i>John 3:30</i> |
| You depend on yourself | You depend on God <i>Prov. 3:5,6</i> |
| Religion is man's way to God..... | Jesus is God's way to man <i>Rom. 5:8</i> |
| You look at people's appearances | God looks at the heart <i>1 Sam. 16:7</i> |
| You want to be free from pain | God says his grace is sufficient <i>2 Cor. 12:9</i> |
| You live by sight..... | You live by faith <i>2 Cor. 5:7</i> |
| You think your thoughts are right | You think God's thoughts are right <i>Isaiah 55:8</i> |
| You use people | You serve people <i>Matt. 23:11</i> |
| You seek retribution | You show mercy <i>Matt. 5:7</i> |
| If someone strikes you, you strike back..... | You do not strike back <i>Matt. 5:39</i> |
| There are many ways to eternal life..... | There is only one way to eternal life <i>John 14:6</i> |
| You judge others | You do not judge others <i>Matt. 7:1</i> |
| You love money..... | You love God <i>Matt. 6:24</i> |

Schedule for October

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

October

- 4 7:00 pm – Men’s Breakfast / Dana’s
- 5 After Sunday School – Potluck Lunch
- 11 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / Dana’s
- 26 9:30 am – Ekklesia service
- 28 Deadline for November issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

| Taftsville Tally | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| | Attendance | Offering |
| Sept 7 | 57 | \$1,921.80 |
| 14 | 58 | ? |
| 21 | 58 | 1,303.26 |
| 28 | 59 | 1,472.00 |

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

October Birthdays

- 7 Sheldon Esch
- 15 Brian Alderfer
- 16 Bob Rosenberger
- 22 Dennis Hackman
- 22 Owen Daniel Esch
- 28 Calvin McCrory
- 30 Janice Zook

October Childcare

- 5 Karen Cox
- 12 Hannah Cox
- 19 Dave or Caren Swanson
- 26 Jane Glick

October Coffee

- 5 R & R Glick
- 12 Ken Glick
- 19 Nancy Pejouhy
- 26 Janet North

October Anniversaries

- 3 Richard and Ruth Ann Glick
- 4 Jake and Amena Reess
- 14 Mike and Judy McCrory

October Cleaning

- 5 Hackman
- 12 McCrory
- 19 McCrory
- 26 Pejouhy

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 30, 1963
 Congratulations! Brent Mast Beidler is born to Joanna and Murray Beidler

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 24, 1968
 The Homemakers Club will conduct their first meeting tonight at the home of Annie Lind. The activity will be fall flowers and how to arrange them.

October 20, 1968
 A prayer request is made for Victor and Martha Glick’s family, as their two and a half year old son will undergo heart surgery this week.

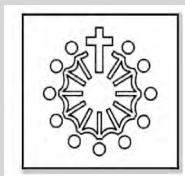
35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 10, 1973
 Winter Bible study begins. Each family will take a turn getting discussion started, beginning with the Beidlers and working down the alphabet.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 1, 1983
 “Bring Musical Instruments to Church” month. There will be two hymns each Sunday with instrumental accompaniment by anyone who plays an instrument. Bring yours, and join in making a joyful noise. Are you rusty? Practice!!

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:

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 OR slip a note in my church mailbox
 OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:
 Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach